Community Changemakers
Alumni Who Make It Their Business to Make a Difference

CARLY BAD HEART BULL '11
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIVE WAYS FEDERATION

FEATURED PROFILE
NASCAR Corporate Counsel Hakeem Onafowokan '15

ALUMNI Q&A
SEC Commissioner Caroline Crenshaw '09

THEORY AT WORK
Professor Paul Vaaler on Migrant Remittances
FROM THE ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC to the civil unrest that followed the police killing of another unarmed Black man in the Twin Cities area last May, it would have been impossible to predict at the start of the year where 2020 would take us. Yet the people of Minnesota Law have not only risen to the challenges brought by these events, they have found new opportunities to support each other and to contribute to communities and people in need.

Even in the midst of crisis, our strength is our strong community and our commitment to our values. Our students, faculty, staff, and alumni have come together to face the many challenges of these times head-on and to work toward solutions to position us well and make us better.

In addressing the public health crisis, we worked hard to keep our community safe while continuing to provide our world-class legal education. By using virtual events and new technologies, we found ways to bring our students together and continue our classes both in person and remotely. We also sought opportunities to help communities most impacted by the pandemic. These included contributions by our expert faculty (for example, Professor Susan Wolf’s work co-leading a statewide COVID ethics collaborative) and our Law School clinics in representing individuals and families in need (for example, Professor JaneAnne Murray’s Clemency Practicum advocating for compassionate release for prisoners).

The effects of the pandemic on the economy have also impacted Minnesota Law. Budget constraints and hiring uncertainty continue to affect our students and graduates, making the support of alumni more important than ever. Our Career Center is working tirelessly with students and employers (including many alumni employers) as they reimagine how job searches, recruitment, training, and mentorships might work in a virtual environment. By way of illustration, in this issue you will read about several students who had successful summer experiences working remotely for law firms, companies, and government agencies (see story on page 42).

The civil unrest following the death of George Floyd presented a very different challenge. Yet our students rushed to put their skills to work, with more than 100 of them volunteering to staff a hotline for legal needs following the protests. Over the summer, our faculty found new ways to incorporate racial equity and justice issues more deeply into our traditional course offerings, and we added four new classes to our fall schedule (see story on page 10).

Our alumni community also showed their commitment to racial justice, establishing a new scholarship fund at the Law School within weeks of Mr. Floyd’s death. To date, more than 280 individual gifts have been made to the fund, started by Catlan M. McCurdy ’11 and Sanjiv P. Laud ’12 (see story on page 4). At Minnesota Law, we will continue to engage all in our community as we lean into new opportunities to advance racial justice.

As we head into 2021 and continue to address the challenges and opportunities arising from these crises, I am extraordinarily grateful for the support of our alumni community. I wish everyone good health and safety.

Garry W. Jenkins
Dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law
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Kellar Lecture Focuses on Marriage Equality in Minnesota

On Oct. 15, the Law School held “Marriage Equality in Minnesota,” an online discussion featuring Jack Baker ’72 and Michael McConnell, the first same-sex couple in the U.S. to have their marriage legally recognized.

The webinar was part of the Law School’s Horatio Ellsworth Kellar Lecture series. More than 200 people registered for the hour-and-a-half program, the first time a Kellar Lecture has been held as a virtual event.

In addition to Baker and McConnell, the panel included political and community organizer Richard Carlbom and Minnesota attorney Cristine Almeida; Professor William N. Eskridge Jr. of Yale Law School; Gail Langer Karwoski, author of The Wedding Heard ‘Round the World, a book chronicling Baker and McConnell’s courtship and marriage; and Christopher R. Riano, president of the nation’s Center for Civic Education.

The session was moderated by Dale Carpenter, constitutional law professor at SMU Dedman School of Law and a former Minnesota Law faculty member. Dean Garry W. Jenkins, William S. Pattee Professor of Law, delivered the opening remarks.

George Floyd Scholarship Created

With a generous gift from Catlan M. McCurdy ’11 and Sanjiv P. Laud ’12, and an equal match from the Law School, the George Floyd Memorial Scholarship in Law was established in June.

The endowed scholarship will provide critical financial support, allowing underrepresented students, and Black or African American students in particular, to pursue careers in the law and achieve their dreams.

“Mr. Floyd’s killing was a tragic reminder of the inequity and injustice facing Black Americans today, despite the decades that have passed since the civil rights movement,” McCurdy and Laud stated in making the gift.

Career Center Launches Civic Scholars Initiative

Minnesota Law’s Career Center launched a new Civic Scholars Initiative to encourage law student engagement in elections and other civic activities and to highlight the importance of civic engagement in a legal career.

Students were able to attend educational workshops and participate in volunteer activities related to voting, volunteering, and learning about the election process. Students who participate in the workshops and a sufficient number of volunteer activities will be eligible for a Civic Scholar notation on their transcript.

“We have a wide range of volunteer activities available,” says Hannah Stephan, 2L, who worked with fellow 3L James Holden and the Career Center’s Anne Sexton ’12 to develop the initiative. “There is something for everyone who wants to be involved, regardless of time availability or prior knowledge about elections and civic engagement.”

Minnesota Law is “committed to supporting all members of our local and global communities to create a more just society,” Sexton notes.

“Understanding election law, participating in civic engagement initiatives within your community, and voting if you are able to do so are all avenues to effectuate change.”
Law School Welcomes Most Diverse Class in 15+ Years

The Law School this fall welcomed 212 students from more than 120 undergraduate institutions in 34 states and seven countries to its first-year J.D. class. The class of 2023 is setting new records for gender and racial diversity at Minnesota Law. In addition to women making up a majority of incoming students for just the fourth time in the school’s history, the first-year class is the most racially diverse to enter the Law School in more than 15 years.

The students also have outstanding academic credentials, with a middle 50% range of 3.54-3.85 for their undergraduate GPAs and a middle 50% range of 160-166 for their LSAT scores. Nine percent have already earned a graduate degree in another field.

“We are thrilled to welcome this talented and enthusiastic group of future lawyer-leaders,” said Garry W. Jenkins, dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law. “This diverse group of law students is truly ready to contribute to our profession and tackle the many challenges facing the world.”

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AT A GLANCE: CLASS OF 2023

- **54%** women
- **25%** students of color or Indigenous
- **24%** identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community
- **13%** first-generation college grads

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Staff Notes  News about Law School Hires and Moves

**Mark Erickson** was appointed director of finance for the Law School. Erickson, who was and continues to be director of finance for the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, will now oversee the budgetary and financial management needs of both institutions. His previous experience includes serving as finance director for large units within the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and the Medical School.

**Marcail Distante** joined the James H. Binger Center for New Americans as its community outreach and program coordinator. Prior to joining the Binger Center, she worked for several years in both capacity-building and direct-service roles at nonprofits empowering low- to moderate-income Latinx families at the intersection of legal rights, financial literacy, and educational opportunity.

**Emily Haeg Nguyen** joined the Law School’s Human Rights Center as its communications and program manager. In this role, she leads communications, student support, the visiting fellows program, events, and operations. Previously, she worked in communications and development for People Serving People, Minnesota’s largest shelter serving families experiencing homelessness.
ON MAY 16, the Law School held the first virtual commencement ceremony in its 132-year history. A video program lasting approximately a half hour celebrated the class of 2020, which included 204 J.D. graduates, 49 LL.M. graduates, and 10 Master of Science in Patent Law (M.S.P.L.) graduates.

Law School commencement is traditionally held at Northrop Auditorium, but the Law School pivoted to a virtual ceremony this year in light of the pandemic-related restrictions on public gatherings that went into effect in March. The commencement video received more than 1,500 views.

The commencement website launched by the Law School also included individual videos with well-wishes from more than 50 faculty, staff, and alumni; a digital flipbook version of a traditional commencement program; and downloadable photos of the graduating classes. In the mail, graduates received tassels, diploma cases, and branded business card holders in an effort to bring a small piece of the typical in-person ceremony to each of their homes.

“While this is not our usual commencement, it is an occasion to celebrate all of you, our students, along with friends and family,” said Dean Garry W. Jenkins, William S. Pattee Professor of Law. “Even though I cannot shake your hand in person to say good job or well done, we send you off into the world ready. Stay true to yourself, and continue to fight for justice.”

The 2020 recipients of the Stanley V. Kinyon Teaching Awards, announced during the video, were Professor Alexandra Klass (tenured faculty); Professor Jean Sanderson (clinical faculty); and Professor Andrew Leindecker ‘17 (adjunct faculty).

Professors Klass and Sanderson delivered remarks to the graduates, as did the student speakers for each class: Allan Attali (LL.M.), Kenzie Gerber (J.D.), and Jackson Satterlee (M.S.P.L.).

Six graduating students were recognized with awards at the virtual ceremony: Jackie Fielding (William B. Lockhart Award for Excellence in Scholarship, Leadership, and Service); Michelle Valeria Cardona Vinasco and Eduardo Enrique Castro II (Equity & Diversity Award); Emily Franco and Kimberly Medina (Excellence in Public Service Award); and Emily Franco and Connor Riley Shaull (Most Outstanding Contribution Award).

The ceremony concluded with virtual performances by the TORT singers and the Minnesota Orchestra.

Congratulations to all the 2020 graduates, and welcome to the Minnesota Law alumni community!
Immigration and Human Rights Clinic Helps Family Win Asylum

A MEXICAN FAMILY THAT NARROWLY ESCAPED CARTEL MEMBERS who shot and pursued them is “ecstatic” after overcoming the odds—again—to win asylum in the United States with the help of Minnesota Law’s Immigration and Human Rights Clinic.

In 2017, the cartel targeted the family because they couldn’t pay “rent” for their neighborhood store in a small town in Mexico’s southern Oaxaca state. Gunmen opened fire on the family’s car in broad daylight, striking the mother and father several times and causing her to lose an unborn child. Their daughter suffered a gunshot wound to her back while shielding her younger brother. The cartel, which continued shooting at the ambulance carrying the family, pursued them from one hospital to another before the family was able to take a bus to the U.S. border and join relatives in Minnesota.

While family members largely have recovered physically from the harrowing incident, their emotional recovery will take more time.

Despite such a terrifying experience, winning an asylum case is no small feat these days, according to Professor Stephen Meili, faculty director of the clinic. That’s because the federal government has become much more restrictive in asylum cases involving victims of cartel and gang violence.

A key to the victory, Meili said, was the dedication of students in the clinic, including the current student directors, Emily Hauck, 3L, and Kristin Trapp, 3L, whose legal research and detailed country condition evidence was presented to the U.S. Immigration Court in Bloomington, where the family’s asylum hearing took place last November. Were it not for the students’ hard work, the family would have probably been sent back to Mexico, where they were likely to have been killed by the cartel.

Hauck acknowledges it is very difficult to meet the standard for asylum. “As students, we worked diligently on researching legal arguments and collecting evidence to show that the family merited asylum.”

Supporting the students’ legal arguments were affidavits from academics and other experts that explained to the court why the family would be unsafe if forced to return to Mexico, says Trapp. Experts had documented that what happened to the family was consistent with what cartels have done and continue to do to terrorize citizens in Mexico, Meili says.

“Something I learned in the clinic under Professor Meili’s guidance is the importance of using expert reports,” Trapp says. “We used research from organizations like Amnesty International and news articles. But it really helps bolster the argument to have academics who have written extensively on the conditions with cartel violence in Mexico.”

Trapp says she was lucky that the lottery system that assigns students in Minnesota Law clinics placed her in the Immigration and Human Rights Clinic, which was her top choice. Now, as a student director, she assists Meili in supervising clinic students and also mentors them.

“It has been the most rewarding experience of my law school career because you get to work on really interesting cases with particularly empathetic and loving clients who really need creative, detailed legal help,” Trapp says of her clinic work.

Hauck says she chose Minnesota Law largely because of its robust clinical program. “I wanted to get practical experience during law school and I certainly have in the Immigration and Human Rights Clinic. We met with our clients weekly for months leading up to their hearing in Immigration Court.”

The clinic is planning a virtual celebration with the family and all the students who worked on their case over the years, according to Hauck. “I am grateful to have been able to gain invaluable experience working on this case and to celebrate the win with our clients,” she says.
IN SEPTEMBER, the Law Library’s Riesenfeld Rare Books Research Center opened a new exhibit on racial justice, adding to a number of important conversations at the Law School regarding race and the law. The exhibit, “Law and the Struggle for Racial Justice: Selected Materials from the Riesenfeld Rare Books Center,” explores the quest for racial justice in America through historical legal cases, legislation, and events that saw civil rights denied, limited, and advanced by determined legal and political action. Drawing on the Riesenfeld Center’s rich collections, the exhibit focuses on Black Americans’ struggle to achieve rights and justice, from early antislavery movements to the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s and responses to police brutality in the 1980s.

The 16 items on display touch on both familiar and lesser-known historical moments. A rare copy of an 1804 antislavery speech, delivered to the free Black community of Philadelphia, witnesses the community’s active involvement in the early abolition movement. An 1872 legal case, decided during Reconstruction, typifies the antagonism of the U.S. Supreme Court to civil rights legislation in the post-Civil War period. Another item, a New Jersey bill from 1883, represents one of the earliest state proposals for equal public accommodations. Those efforts suffered, however, in the face of Jim Crow laws that prevailed in the courts, culminating in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) and rising violence against Black Americans.

The exhibit also underscores the evolving challenges of racism in the 20th century. The nationally publicized trials of the Sweet family in 1925 occurred against a background of housing discrimination enforced by restrictive covenants and intimidation. The Law Library’s Clarence Darrow collection contains numerous documents from these cases, which involved the successful defense of an African American doctor who protected his family and property from a mob gathered outside his Detroit home. Another item, a commission report addressed to New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia following the Harlem riot of 1935, urges reforms to end police misconduct and discriminatory practices in housing, employment, education, and health care. A copy of the 1937 autobiography of Black labor organizer Angelo Herndon is signed and inscribed by the author, and a 1972 magazine article autographed by Rosa Parks reflects on the significance of the Montgomery bus boycott.

Two final items reveal a few of the many contributions by members of the Law School community to issues of racial justice, and to policing in particular. In the early 1980s, Ronald E. Hunter ’78, Edward C. Anderson ’73, Judy Oakes ’69, G. Thomas MacIntosh ’65, G. Alan Cunningham ’51, and Russell W. Lindquist ’45 served on a task force to review and recommend procedural reforms for the Internal Affairs Unit of the Minneapolis Police Department, at the request of Minneapolis Mayor Donald M. Fraser ’48. A letter from Fraser to Hunter supporting the work of the task force is included in the exhibit. A 1982 petition to the U.N. regarding police brutality against Black Americans by then-student Arthur “Ray” McCoy ’83 is also displayed.

The exhibit shows that racial injustice continues to raise difficult questions that we must address as we recommit ourselves to building a fair and equal society.

A digital version of “Law and the Struggle for Racial Justice” has been released online at moses.law.umn.edu/racial-justice/exhibit.html. For more information about the exhibit or the Riesenfeld Rare Books Research Center, please contact Ryan Greenwood (rgreenwo@umn.edu; 612-625-7323).

By Ryan Greenwood, Law Library faculty member and curator of rare books and special collections.
LAW LIBRARY LAUNCHES GUIDE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RACIAL JUSTICE

In the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd in May 2020, Vicente Garces, reference administration and web services librarian, researched and prepared an in-depth research guide entitled “Law Enforcement and Racial Justice.” This timely guide, which has been recognized by the American Association of Law Libraries for its relevance, provides access to multiple resources for researching issues related to policing and racial injustice.

Available at libguides.law.umn.edu/lawenforcementandracialjustice, the guide features a wide variety of sources: numerous Law Library and University databases, print materials, and publicly available online documents. It is organized to provide researchers with access to sources on specific topics, including police tactics and use of force; police/community relations, community policing, and community activism; and police oversight. Minnesota-specific sources are included, as is the University of Minnesota Law School’s response.

By Michael Hannon, Law Library associate director for access services and digital
Law School Expands Racial Equity and Justice Offerings

New dedicated classes added; traditional law courses broadened to more fully incorporate these topics

WITH THE WORLD FOCUSING ON MINNEAPOLIS after George Floyd’s killing and the calls for racial justice that it ignited across the country and around the globe, Minnesota Law has expanded its commitment to incorporate racial equity and justice issues into its curricular and clinical offerings.

New racial equity and justice courses have been added, and faculty members are further integrating these topics into their teaching—not only in courses such as Constitutional Law and Criminal Law, but also in Torts and Mergers and Acquisitions as well. On the clinical side, more than 100 students and faculty involved in two dozen law clinics—whose clients often are Black, Indigenous, or other people of color—attended a recent training on implicit racial bias.

Dean Garry W. Jenkins, William S. Pattee Professor of Law, is co-teaching a new class dealing directly with Floyd’s killing: George Floyd’s Minneapolis: Past, Present, and Moving Forward. The class examines the historical, sociopolitical, and legal context and implications of Floyd’s killing, with experts addressing racial inequity in the criminal legal system, policing reform, and other topics.

“Our students understand that the Black community has been in extraordinary pain, and that our society has real work to do to make racial equity and justice a reality for all Americans,” Jenkins explains. “Lawyers and Minnesota Law will need to address these issues head-on. Students want to understand, study, and engage with these issues now so they are prepared to make a difference in our profession.”

‘This is Not a Temporary Response’

Faculty and administrators worked through the spring and summer to develop the new courses and find opportunities to address racial equity and justice in existing courses, building on continuing efforts to do so as part of Minnesota Law’s public service mission. This year’s effort came in addition to the need to adapt to teaching remotely in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This is not a temporary response,” says Associate Dean for Academic Affairs William McGeveran. “I see it as an acceleration and continuation of what Minnesota Law has always prided itself on doing. The dean was pretty clear that it was important that the racial reckoning that was happening couldn’t be set aside because we’re dealing with all the pandemic response.”

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison ’90, who is leading the prosecution of the four former Minneapolis police officers charged in Floyd’s killing, returned to Mondale Hall to teach a new course this semester. Ellison approached Jenkins to propose creating a course on law for the public good and serving as instructor for it. The course, Public Interest Advocacy and State Attorney General, addresses the broad jurisdiction and responsibilities of attorneys general as well as the challenges and ethics issues they face.

Ramsey County District Judge Nicole Starr ’03 is teaching another recently added course, Race and the Law: Systems, Structures, and Solutions. Students in the class will produce a final paper that identifies a community harm and proposes solutions, which they will present to community members for feedback.

The aftermath of Floyd’s killing prompted the return of the existing International Human Rights course, which originally was not on the fall schedule. Professor Fionnuala D. Ni Aoláin, U.N. Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism, decided to offer the course again now because she was doing a lot of work “on the intersection of human rights on the international stage and racial justice in the U.S.,” McGeveran says.

Our students understand that the Black community has been in extraordinary pain, and that our society has real work to do to make racial equity and justice a reality for all Americans. Lawyers and Minnesota Law will need to address these issues head-on. Students want to understand, study, and engage with these issues now so they are prepared to make a difference in our profession.”

—Dean Garry W. Jenkins, William S. Pattee Professor of Law
Enhanced and Added Offerings
Numerous faculty members are adding racial equity and justice components to traditional classes and existing programs.

In her Legislation and Regulation course, Professor Carol Chomsky added a discussion about racial justice to the syllabus and invited students to bring up racial and other social justice concerns in class. In addition, she provided links to readings on race in administrative law to stimulate conversation, and replaced some course readings with recent cases that raise racial and other social justice issues.

In her Torts class, Professor Alexandra Klass dedicated more class time to discussions of qualified immunity defenses for police officers accused of excessive force and other intentional torts. She held an optional one-hour Zoom session for her 1L section that provided the students an opportunity to ask questions about both the criminal and civil law aspects of the Breonna Taylor killing. Klass also invited Professor Maria Ponomarenko, who has researched and written on policing issues, to participate in the discussion.

In her M&A class, Professor Claire Hill is including a special session on race, ethnicity, and gender. The session will be a conversation among Professor Hill, Professor June Carbone, and Professor Afra Afsharipour, senior associate dean for academic affairs at UC Davis School of Law.

Meanwhile, clinical staff and faculty recently participated in implicit racial bias training led by Sean Darling-Hammond, an attorney, sociologist, and doctoral student in public policy at the University of California-Berkeley. A former competitor on NBC’s American Ninja Warrior, Darling-Hammond presents the training nationally.

“We think it’s really important for our students to understand the roles that racial difference and implicit racial biases play in the representation of clients, and to begin to identify and unpack their own biases,” says Professor Perry Moriearty, co-director of the Law School’s clinical program. “We all have biases, no matter who we are, what we look like, and where we’re from.”

A clinical faculty subcommittee on racial equity also is working on a statement to reaffirm the law clinics’ commitment to racial equity and awareness of “systemic racism and the role that it plays in the work that we do and the lives of our clients,” says Moriearty, who is co-teaching the George Floyd’s Minneapolis course with Jenkins. “We are training upcoming lawyers that these are things we must acknowledge and actively confront.”

Outside-the-Classroom Offerings
Adding to the academic experience is the Big 10 Law School Speaker Series, which Dean Jenkins is encouraging faculty and staff as well as students to watch. Jenkins co-organized the 12-week series, which consists of weekly lectures, hosted on Zoom, relating to race, law, equality, and other relevant issues. On Sept. 23, Ni Aoláin was the featured lecturer; she addressed human rights in a time of pandemic.

Assistant Dean of Students Erin Keyes ’00 is leading another speaker series in which faculty members collaborate with speakers from around the country to present virtual discussions on racial justice topics. Over the summer, this series included such topics as bias in the use of facial recognition technology, racial disparities in the Minnesota justice system, and policing and racism. These programs were well received and additional programming is in the offing.

By Todd Nelson, a Twin Cities-based freelance writer
Supporting Today’s Students Is One Way Bruce and Tracy Mooty Give Back

IT’S EASY TO SEE HOW BRUCE MOOTY ‘80 has followed in the footsteps of his father. He attended Minnesota Law and dedicated his career to legal practice, just as John Mooty ‘44 did, and he even worked at the same firm. But Mooty takes after his father in another significant but less tangible way.

“One of the core values that my father passed on to me is giving back to the community,” Mooty says. “That’s something that has been important in my life and something that I really enjoy doing.”

It is for this reason that Mooty, senior counsel at Lathrop GPM, and his wife, Tracy, a spiritual director, make a point of giving to support today’s students. Their donations fund the John W. Mooty Public Service Fellowship and the Bruce and Tracy Mooty Scholarship.

Mooty recalls his own law school experience as an opportunity for personal growth that set the foundation for his career in mergers and acquisitions and business law. As a student director for the legal aid clinic, he had a chance to do what initially drove him to law school: help people solve problems.

“That probably was the most instrumental part of knowing that I wanted to be a lawyer,” he says.

“That I could really get a chance to hear what people were going through and see if I could help them figure out what might be the best course of action to take.”

After graduation, Bruce Mooty spent about 14 years at the law firm Briggs and Morgan. He left to join the firm then known as Gray, Plant, Mooty, Mooty & Bennett when he got word his father had been diagnosed with cancer. By joining John’s firm, he had an opportunity to work beside him and help out as John fought the disease. It was a cherished opportunity, Mooty says, to spend more time with his father and work with him on legal matters.

Mooty continued his career at the firm, now known as Lathrop GPM, serving for a long time as managing officer and chair before transitioning to his current role as senior counsel,
which allows for more time with their three daughters and nine grandchildren and serving on community and nonprofit boards.

When John passed away in 2015, Bruce and Tracy Mooty launched the John W. Mooty Public Service Fellowship to honor his leadership in law and philanthropy. The fellowship lets students explore a career in public interest work through a paid role with a local nonprofit. While students gain valuable hands-on experience, the nonprofits, which often work on limited budgets, benefit from the access to legal expertise. In addition to the fellowship, Bruce and Tracy Mooty have also funded a scholarship to help students overcome the cost of a legal education.

That scholarship is helping pave the way for Gabrielle Maginn, 2L, to pursue a career in public interest law. Maginn, who comes from San Diego, worked at a youth services organization before enrolling in law school and saw firsthand how lack of access to healthy food, quality schools, and after-school care affect children’s early lives and also their opportunities down the road.

“When I came into law school, I knew that I wanted to go into public interest work,” says Maginn. “This scholarship has allowed me the freedom to be able to pursue the work I want to do.”

Cameron Fox, 2L, from Eden Prairie, Minnesota, also envisions using his degree to help people. The scholarship made it possible for him to attend Minnesota Law and study for a career in family law or in the nonprofit world. He has already gained experience working with domestic violence cases.

“I know I want to be working with people, and specifically with families,” he says. “A big focus has been reaching out and helping people in situations where they’re at, especially to help them navigate the often-confusing legal world.”

The scholarship is also helping Rae Sansonetti, 3L, advance toward a career in criminal justice. Sansonetti, who comes from eastern Pennsylvania, is interested in protecting individuals’ constitutional rights and hopes to ultimately pursue a career as a public defender.

“I chose criminal justice because for me it’s the most fascinating area of the law,” she says. “I also wanted to work with oppressed communities. We have a huge mass-incarceration issue in this country that disproportionately affects not only people of color, but people of lower incomes.”

For Billy Price, 2L, the scholarship opened the door to combining his interests in law and business. Price, from Cincinnati, put his business degree to use working at Target’s corporate headquarters. There he came to see how a law career could extend beyond litigation to support a company’s strategy in a more proactive way, such as through protecting intellectual property. The scholarship made it possible to pursue a career in business law.

“I was leaving a career with a paycheck and walking way from any income,” Price says. “I don’t think I could have made the jump if I hadn’t had the support of the scholarship.”

While the scholarship helps students succeed, Bruce and Tracy have also found other ways to give back to their communities. Bruce has chaired the Law School’s Board of Advisors, sat on the Dean’s Advisory Council, served as national president for the U of M Alumni Association, and participated in countless University committees. Meanwhile, addition to being a grandmother extraordinaire, Tracy Mooty has volunteered in the community with church and hospice-related activities.

“In everything we have done, we’ve always tried to emphasize giving back; that you’re not just there to get something to put on your resume or to get a better job,” Bruce Mooty says. “We want to make sure the people who have a desire to do good in the world and want to be lawyers can get that experience.”

By Kevin Coss, a Minneapolis-based freelance writer
Minnesota Law grads have a long and illustrious history of using their law degrees to make positive change for their communities. With the many challenges facing our world, the role of these changemakers is even more necessary and important.

Law School alumni are working to reform the criminal justice system, expand resources for marginalized populations, establish safer environments for children, improve access to healthy food in underserved neighborhoods, and promote corporate social responsibility, to name just a few endeavors.

Whether working for a small nonprofit, state government, or a global corporation, these changemaking alumni exercise leadership and tenacity, starting each day with a commitment to improve the well-being of individuals and whole communities.

“Our institutions and communities need capable professionals who think rigorously and model integrity in leading positive change,” says Dean Garry W. Jenkins, William S. Pattee Professor of Law. “This law school graduates lawyers with those skills and instills a deep sense of commitment to making our world a better place.”

While there are many alumni who are making a significant and noteworthy impact, we selected eight inspiring stories to highlight the diverse ways Minnesota Law graduates are effecting change for their communities.
FOOD AS A TOOL FOR JUSTICE

Long before Michelle Horovitz ’05 came to Minnesota Law, she dreamed of attending culinary school. But her experiences in prosecution and defense clinics pointed her to a career in public interest law. She moved to Florida to work as a public defender in Miami-Dade County, where, she says, she got great training but also saw a lot of inequities and systemic injustice.

She chose to take a year off to pursue her dream of attending culinary school, but two weeks before she was set to start, she met Michelle Bernstein, a James Beard Award-winning chef who convinced Horovitz to get hands-on experience instead. Horovitz spent three months working for Bernstein as an unpaid prep cook, assistant to the pastry chef, and line cook, and was then hired full-time.

She eventually returned to the public defender’s office, where one day she noticed a food cart outside the courthouse that was run by teens who were on probation. “It sparked my interest in the social justice power of food,” she says. “I began to think that maybe a restaurant could be about building hope and careers.”

Horovitz returned to Minnesota in 2010, pondering how to combine her passions for social justice and food. She met two women who were equally interested in the topic and together they launched Appetite for Change, a nonprofit organization based in north Minneapolis. AFC offers community workshops, job training programs for youth, a cooperative commercial kitchen and business incubator for food entrepreneurs, and a restaurant that serves healthy, global food and provides jobs and a neighborhood gathering space. During the pandemic, AFC joined forces with the Minnesota Central Kitchen program to provide 8,500 meals per week to hungry families.

Horovitz, who serves as executive director, is crystal clear about the impact AFC seeks: “We want to promote health through accessible, affordable, and nutritious food, especially in areas that lack access. We want to create wealth through jobs and training. And we want to create social change by building connections and bridges between communities.”

JUSTICE FOR MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS

Andrew Gordon ’08 was on his way to becoming a doctor when his cousin was arrested and convicted of a drug and robbery offense in Florida. An undergrad at the time, Gordon was part of a forensics mock trial team, just learning his way around a courtroom. In that moment, he turned his focus to law. “I knew then that I wanted to be a lawyer because of my cousin and his experience with the criminal legal system,” Gordon says.

Today, he is deputy director for community legal services at the Legal Rights Center, a nonprofit law firm that seeks justice and promotes racial equity through criminal defense, restorative justice, advocacy, and

“I’m a believer in building a community network that understands legal representation is one tool in your toolbox to advocate for change.”

Andrew Gordon ’08
Deputy Director of Community Legal Services,
Legal Rights Center
community education. “We want to prevent that prison pipeline with youth and change the criminal legal system to recognize marginalized people as more than a number,” Gordon says. “I am privileged to be in a position that lets me have an impact every day.”

Gordon grew up in Jamaica and came to the U.S. to attend college. At Minnesota Law, his experience in the Misdemeanor Defense Clinic fueled his interest in public defense work. “It was one of the first experiences I had interviewing clients, and it taught me very early to be flexible, to understand where the client was coming from, and to talk to real people about real issues.”

After graduation, he moved to Boston and began work as a public defender with the Committee for Public Counsel Services. Six months later, his application to gain permanent residency was denied and his work permit expired. He chose to return to Minnesota and spent six months doing volunteer legal work for the Neighborhood Justice Center before the federal government admitted a mistake with his application to gain permanent residency. Shortly after it was approved, a position opened at the Legal Rights Center. He joined the staff and has spent the last decade advocating for individuals and communities who have been historically oppressed.

“I try to see every person as an individual with dreams and emotions,” he says. “My job is to empower them to make decisions and give them a voice. I’m a believer in building a community network that understands legal representation is one tool in your toolbox to advocate for change.”

FOCUSING PHILANTHROPY ON NATIVE COMMUNITIES

When Carly Bad Heart Bull ’11 looks at philanthropy evaluations of nonprofits, she rarely sees Native-led organizations in the rankings. “They are simply not on the radar of many funders or philanthropy-serving organizations,” she says. “Philanthropic organizations often have very little knowledge of and too few connections to Native communities.”

As executive director of Native Ways Federation, a group of seven national Native nonprofit organizations that advocates for investment in Indian country, she is out to fix that situation. “If we want Native people to be empowered and at the table, our systems have to change, and those systems are multi-layered. Philanthropy is one of those layers,” says Bad Heart Bull, Bdewakantunwan Dakota/Muskogee Creek and a citizen of the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe in South Dakota.

Bad Heart Bull began her legal career as an attorney in child protection, but soon started to feel the system disenfranchised Native people and was resistant to change. “I began to learn about philanthropy as another way to make progress, about how it could support big thinkers and new ways of looking at issues,” she says. She joined the staff of the St. Paul-based Bush Foundation, where she worked as a program officer for several years.

“I come from a community whose voice is not often heard. The language of law, and how it helps you navigate systems of power, has been incredibly influential for me.”

Carly Bad Heart Bull ’11
Executive Director, Native Ways Federation

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with Indigenous nations and communities. She joined Native Ways Federation in early 2020.

Bad Heart Bull has a keen understanding of the problematic systems that support Native people and communities. She and her identical twin sister, Kate Beane, dropped out of high school, dispirited by curricula and books that failed to mention their people or culture. She found her way back to college, studying and lobbying for funding for Indigenous languages at the University of Minnesota. “I knew how to talk about the importance of the work at a heart level,” she says. “But I also wanted to understand how to take a bill to tribal leaders and legislators, so I thought law school was a good idea.”

Her legal education taught her to speak yet another language. “I come from a community whose voice is not often heard. The language of law, and how it helps you navigate systems of power, has been incredibly influential for me.”

Bad Heart Bull sees signs of progress. Last year, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation named her a fellow in a program for leaders working to create equity. She and her sister helped lead the restoration of Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis to its Dakota name, Bde Maka Ska, a place where her grandparents lived in a village many years ago. “People in broader society are asking more questions now,” she says. “They are asking for education and trainings around equity. They want to understand about investing in Indian country. We can help make those connections happen.”

BUILDING SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN BUSINESS

“Technology is amoral,” says Chad Jerdee ’94, global lead of responsible business, corporate sustainability, and citizenship for Accenture in Chicago. “Companies have to be the moral compass.”

Jerdee, helps businesses develop and embed responsible practices into their use of technology. In his previous job as general counsel and compliance officer for Accenture, he witnessed the rapid increase in risk as companies dealt with such issues as data privacy, artificial intelligence, automation, and the ability to manipulate behavior with social media. “I knew we needed to think forward about how businesses were going to function in this fast-paced world of technology,” he says.

His newly created position focuses on helping companies embed socially responsible thinking in their business models. “Good companies can cause a lot of harm if they aren’t careful,” he says. “Building a sustainable business is very much about thinking long-term about how to improve the way we work and live. We help people think ‘Is this right? Is it good? Could this result in something harmful? Does this put anybody at risk?’ This is a really important way for companies to think.”

Jerdee is also passionate about growing employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. In 2014, he lost his lower left leg when he was hit by a drunk driver. “I learned a lot in the aftermath of that experience,”
he says. “It was personally enlightening time for me, and I discovered that the world makes big assumptions about disabilities.”

He joined the inclusion team at Accenture a year after his accident and introduced ways to move beyond a compliance mindset to a culture that significantly expanded disability employment opportunities. His work earned him the 2020 John D. Kemp Leadership Award from Disability:IN, a worldwide nonprofit focused on business disability inclusion. “I’m constantly thinking about the changes we need to make to be sure your whole self is appreciated when you get to work,” Jerdee says.

DRIVEN BY CIVIL RIGHTS

Rebecca Lucero ’07 grounds her work as commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights in her intersectional identities as a queer woman of color.

Born and raised in New Mexico, Lucero developed a commitment to civil rights early in life when, while working alongside her father in grocery stores, she witnessed poor treatment of workers.

“I always wanted to be a lawyer,” she says. “I thought law school would be how I pursued justice, but I quickly realized that law and justice are very different.”

A graduate of Grinnell College in Iowa, Lucero is the only person in her family to earn a college degree. After graduating from the Law School, she worked as a civil rights lawyer for the Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis (now Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid) and as an administrative law judge for the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. During the home mortgage lending crisis, she took a position as a senior community representative in then-U.S. Congressman Keith Ellison’s office. This experience clarified for her the need for systems to work better.

“I wanted to fix the policies and practices that were causing harm to communities, particularly Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities,” she says. “It deepened my commitment to move from transactional to transformational work.”

She joined Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity to lead systems change work in housing policy and then moved to the Minnesota Council on Nonprofits to lobby on behalf of the entire nonprofit sector as policy director.

In January 2019, Governor Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan asked Lucero to lead the state’s civil rights enforcement agency, an opportunity that brings together her work in civil rights, policy, and leadership to make systems-level change.

“Our department’s vision is to create a world where everyone can lead lives full of dignity and joy, free from discrimination,” she says. “Minnesota has some of the worst racial disparities in the country in employment, housing, criminal justice, and education, so we must tackle this work strategically and boldly.”

This summer, following the killing of George Floyd, the department launched a civil rights investigation into the Minneapolis Police Department—the only investigation surrounding Floyd’s killing that focuses on the policies and practices of the MPD. Within a week of filing the charge of discrimination, the Human Rights Department also filed a temporary restraining order against the city of Minneapolis, requiring the police department to make immediate policy changes such as banning chokeholds and neck restraints.

Lucero says working closely with the community is vital.

“We simply could not have done this so quickly without community members who have worked for these changes for decades.”

“I wanted to fix the policies and practices that were causing harm to communities, particularly Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities. It deepened my commitment to move from transactional to transformational work.”

Rebecca Lucero ’07
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Human Rights
KEEPING KIDS SAFE

Dev Gowda ’13 is passionate about safety in children’s products. As the assistant director for Kids In Danger, a small nonprofit based in Chicago, he wears many hats, but his favorite work focuses on developing public policy to keep children safe.

“We are pushing to make sure that products put on the market are safe and won’t hurt or kill a child,” he says. KID pursues legislation to strengthen product standards and government regulations and is working to ensure that designers and engineers keep safety top of mind in the product design process. Gowda also spends significant time building awareness of safety issues with parents and child care and medical providers.

KID was founded in 1998 by the parents of Danny Keysar, a baby who died when his portable crib collapsed around his neck. Gowda said the crib had been recalled five years earlier but the inspector who had reviewed the child care setting didn’t know about the recall. “Danny’s parents wanted to spread awareness of dangerous children’s products plus push for stronger standards,” he says. KID helped pass the 2008 Consumer Protection Safety Improvement Act, a landmark piece of legislation that mandates independent testing and bans lead and other harmful substances in children’s products.

Gowda now is at work on legislation to address dressers and bureaus that tip over onto children. The bill has passed the U.S. House and is pending in the Senate. He is also working with other groups such as the American Academy of Pediatrics to ban hazardous crib bumper pads and inclined sleepers.

Gowda got interested in public policy after taking a clinics course where he worked on both litigation and public policy. After law school, he worked for an organization on toy safety issues. He moved to KID two years ago. “I’m really thankful I learned how to communicate about legislation with clarity when I was in law school, and how to speak in public,” Gowda says. “Both have been big parts of my job.”

“Access to capital is a critical issue, so we are working to get capital for growth in the hands of businesses owned by people of color to impact their families and their communities.”

Molly Porter ’10
Senior VP and Co-Head of Community Relations,
Wells Fargo

“We are pushing to make sure that products put on the market are safe and won’t hurt or kill a child.”

Dev Gowda ’13
Assistant Director, Kids In Danger, Inc.
ADDRESSING THE RACIAL WEALTH GAP

Ten years ago, when Molly Porter ’10 began working at Wells Fargo, corporate social responsibility was a relatively new concept. “We were just dipping our toe in this area,” she says. “The division working on it needed a lawyer and I was interested.” One of her first tasks was to draft a human rights statement for the bank. “I was grateful for my legal training with that assignment,” she says. “Law school taught me to make every word count.”

A decade later, Porter is now senior vice president and co-head of community relations, leading a group of 140 people around the country who last year worked with community partners and elected officials to give away $444 million to nonprofits in all 50 states.

Porter has helped lead efforts to focus Wells Fargo’s giving in areas where the bank has expertise: housing affordability, small business growth, and financial education. The Wells Fargo Foundation now is one of the largest corporate foundations in the country in terms of annual cash gifts.

“We have been focused on paving a path to financial success in underserved communities for some time now,” Porter says. “We know that every person needs to have a safe and affordable place to live and access to high quality financial education and tools to build wealth. We also know that small businesses are the engine of the American economy, especially those businesses owned by entrepreneurs of color. Access to capital is a critical issue, so we are working to get capital for growth in the hands of businesses owned by people of color to impact their families and their communities.”

Porter is especially pleased to see a growing conversation nationwide about racial equity. “We know that our work must address systemic barriers to financial success for people of all backgrounds. We are always asking ourselves, how can our work help advance a more equitable economy for all?”

IMPACT INVESTING

Every day, as chief executive officer of the Bentson Foundation, Judi Dutcher ’87 contemplates how to deploy assets to improve people’s lives. “My job is to be mindful and respectful of the challenges people face and to understand ways we can have the most impact,” she says.

Last year, the foundation made $7 million in grants, primarily in the areas of arts and humanities, higher education, and mental health. “We look at the highest and best uses of the funds that reflect the passions of the board of trustees,” Dutcher says. “We rely on long-term relationships with community partners to set mutual goals. A great deal of my job is to figure out how far nonprofits can go to accomplish the impact we both want. We care most about impact.”

Dutcher brings diverse experience to her work. She practiced law in a small firm for the first few years of her career before then-Minnesota Gov. Arne Carlson convinced her to run for state auditor. She was elected to that position in 1994 and reelected in 1998. She subsequently headed the Minnesota Community Foundation and the Museum of Russian Art, where she learned the challenge of fundraising. “That experience really shaped my perspective and understanding of how empowering financial resources can be,” she says.

She is especially pleased to combine a personal passion for the University of Minnesota with her professional work. She serves on the steering committee for the University’s Driven campaign. “I share the Bentson board’s commitment to the University,” she says. “We look for areas of need and where we think our investments can provide life-changing support for students.” The foundation has given nearly $40 million to the University of Minnesota over the past 10 years and recently announced a $15 million challenge grant to establish scholarships for Pell-eligible undergraduate students across the University system. The Bentson Foundation board also recently expanded a scholarship program established in 2003 for outstanding undergraduates at the School of Nursing, the College of Education and Human Development, and the Law School.

“It’s a joy to have this job,” Dutcher says. “I get to meet with and learn from changemakers in the community. What could be better?”

Kathy Graves is a Twin Cities-based freelance writer.
While 2020 has been a uniquely challenging year for many, the start of a new decade provides an excellent opportunity to reflect upon the many ways that Minnesota Law has an impact. We are grateful for our incredible global network of more than 13,000 alumni, our world-class faculty, our hard-working staff, and, of course, our incredibly engaged and talented student body. The following are just 10 of the many, many ways in which the Minnesota Law community is taking on leadership roles and effecting positive change.

1. Advancing the Law through Litigation and Advocacy

Minnesota Law’s faculty, students, and clinics have successfully argued cases before state and federal courts that have impacted literally thousands of lives. One of many examples is Mellouli v. Holder, a U.S. Supreme Court case handled by the Federal Immigration Litigation Clinic of the Law School’s James H. Binger Center for New Americans. In its 2015 ruling in favor of the clinic’s client, the Supreme Court set a precedent that protects from deportation thousands of legal permanent residents convicted of certain low-level drug offenses. Another example is a U.S. Tax Court decision, Feigh v. Commissioner, 152 T.C. No. 15 (2019), in which Professor Caleb Smith, working through the Ronald M. Mankoff Tax Clinic and aided by then-3L Matthew Barron ’20, scored a precedential U.S. Tax Court ruling that stands to benefit many low-income taxpayers nationwide.

Faculty, staff, and students from the James H. Binger Center for New Americans had a hand in shaping national immigration policy through their advocacy work in the U.S. Supreme Court case of Mellouli v. Holder.
Aiding the Administration of Justice

Law School students and alumni are making a difference in courthouses throughout the state and the nation. Nearly a third of our graduates are selected for judicial clerkships, and, in turn, many of our alumni serve their communities as judges. Minnesota Law alumni have also achieved a high level of prominence on the bench. For example, four occupy seats on the highest courts of three states: Supreme Court Justices G. Barry Anderson ’79 and Natalie Hudson ’82 (Minnesota); Supreme Court Justice Janine M. Kern ’85 (South Dakota); and Court of Appeals Judge Paul Feinman ’85 (New York). In Minneapolis, the federal courthouse was recently renamed in honor of the late Diana E. Murphy ’74, who was the first woman ever appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit. Minnesota Law faculty members have also been tapped for the bench, including David Strass (U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit in 2017) and Laura Thomas (Hennepin County District Court in 2020).

Contributing to the Community through Public Service Partnerships

Through their commitment to public service, Minnesota Law students generate positive change and promote access to justice in the local community, the nation, and the world. In 2019 alone, students performed more than 37,500 hours of public service locally, nationally, and internationally. The Law School’s partnerships with the Great North Innocence Project and the Minnesota Justice Foundation, along with its wide variety of clinics, externships, field placement, and other pro bono opportunities, allow students to gain valuable skills while serving communities in need. In March 2020, students working with the Innocence Project helped free a man serving a 28-year sentence after investigating his case and unearthing previously missed cell-phone evidence tending to confirm his alibi.

Improving Legal Education through Innovation

Minnesota Law is forging new paths in legal education. Recognizing the importance of early feedback, a pioneering approach to 1L instruction developed by Professor Daniel Schwarcz is changing the face of legal education. His 2017 law review article, “Midterm Feedback Policy,” in which students are given qualitative feedback on their performance during their first year of law school, has been adopted not only by Minnesota Law, but also a growing number of other law schools. Another example of Minnesota Law’s focus on curricular innovation is its Law in Practice (LiP) program, which provides real-world legal skills to students in their 1L year. LiP, developed by Professor Prentiss Cox ’90, has been hailed as a national model for practical learning.

Making a Difference in 2020
5 Promoting Public Understanding of the Law

Minnesota Law’s world-class faculty improves the public’s understanding of the law through research and scholarship, media appearances to explain legal concepts and cases, and participation in educational programs and initiatives. Earlier this year, Professor Jill Hasday won the prestigious Scribes Book Award for the best work of legal scholarship. Her award-winning work, Intimate Lies and the Law (Oxford University Press, 2019), is the first book to uncover the hidden body of law governing deception in dating, sex, marriage, and family life. Professor Francis Shen conducts empirical and interdisciplinary cutting-edge research at the intersection of law and the brain sciences. Professor Susan Wolf, who holds appointments in both the Law School and Medical School, is one of the most oft-cited interdisciplinary scholars in the country. Professors Shen and Wolf are part of a team that was recently awarded a $1.6M National Institutes of Health grant to produce ethics recommendations for the use of breakthrough MRI technology that is portable and cloud-based.

6 Leading Legal Reform Efforts

Through scholarship, advocacy, and public service efforts, Minnesota Law faculty, staff, and students bring about positive change in the justice system. For example, sentencing reform efforts across the country received a major boost when 15 years of work spearheaded by Professor Kevin Reitz culminated in the adoption of the Model Penal Code: Sentencing by the American Law Institute in 2017. The model code provides key guidance on some of the most important issues of the day, from mandatory minimum sentences to racial and ethnic disparities in punishment. Other examples include Professor Maria Ponomarenko joining seven other legal scholars in a report recommending immediate policing reforms, and Dean Garry W. Jenkins and Professor Bob Stein serving on the Uniform Law Commission. The Law School also has numerous faculty members who have been elected to membership in the American Law Institute.

7 Filling the Ranks of Government Leadership

Minnesota Law’s long tradition of cultivating leaders who serve in public office is not only alive and well, but also reaching new heights. Key Capitol posts in Minnesota currently occupied by Minnesota Law alumni include speaker of the house (Melissa Hortman ’95), house majority leader (Ryan Winkler ’01), attorney general (Keith Ellison ’90), secretary of state (Steve Simon ’96), governor’s chief of staff (Chris Schmitter ’13), and commissioner of human rights (Rebecca Lucero ’07). Outside of Minnesota, our alumni in service include a U.S. Representative for Wisconsin (Ron Kind ’90), the solicitor general of Texas (Kyle Hawkins ’09), and the immediate past mayor of Kansas City, Missouri (Sylvester James Jr. ’83), among many others.
Minnesota Law’s human rights program is safeguarding liberty worldwide with its highly influential scholarship, advocacy efforts, and service programs. Minnesota Law’s Human Rights Center, for which Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin serves as faculty director, is internationally acclaimed for its excellence. A recent example of its many globally important initiatives is its involvement with launching a COVID-19 Civic Freedom Tracker last spring. Working with Professor Ní Aoláin, 3Ls Abby Oakland and Seiko Shastri researched COVID-19 emergency power declarations around the globe and added them to the tracker to help ensure that leaders exercising those sweeping powers are held accountable for human rights abuses. Professor Ní Aoláin was recently reappointed to a second three-year term as United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

Minnesota Law’s strong clinical program provides small businesses with free legal assistance, fueling their efforts to develop and expand. With many Twin Cities small business owners facing devastation from the combined impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and damages incurred in the civil unrest following the killing of George Floyd, the Business Law Clinic stepped in to provide free virtual advice sessions to proprietors. Over the summer, through a partnership with the SBA, the clinic also held a series of virtual presentations on legal topics of interest to business owners. The Law School’s Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Clinic also aids small businesses with their business needs. Over a single year, the Law School clinics provide an estimated $250,000 worth of free legal assistance to local small businesses.

Minnesota Law’s faculty, staff and students freely and frequently share their expertise with policymakers by testifying before Congressional committees, federal and state administrative agencies, and global councils. For example, Kristin Trapp, 3L, testified last February before state lawmakers on the merits of a constitutional amendment she helped draft proposing to replace gender-specific language in the state Constitution. Faculty and staff have also been tapped for leadership roles at state, national, and international levels. Examples include Robina Institute of Criminal Law Executive Director Kelly Mitchell, who chairs the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission, and Professor Alexandra Klass, who was recently appointed to Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz’s Advisory Council on Climate Change.
A LEGAL CAREER ON THE FAST TRACK

BY TODD NELSON
With a lot of drive and determination, Hakeem Onafowokan ’15 landed an internship as a student that put him on the road to be corporate counsel at NASCAR.
As corporate counsel for NASCAR, Hakeem Onafowokan ’15 negotiates, drafts, and assists with contracts and agreements on behalf of stock car racing’s sanctioning body—and in that role he relies daily on the problem-solving skills and foundational knowledge he gained at the University of Minnesota Law School.

“Practicing law is a lot of bringing practical solutions to your client,” Onafowokan says. “Working in-house, you have to identify business issues and risks while also identifying the legal issues and then providing pragmatic advice based on your research and understanding of the situation.”

Onafowokan is one of a dozen attorneys in NASCAR’s legal department. He works in NASCAR headquarters in Daytona Beach, Florida, near the iconic Daytona International Speedway, site of the sport’s signature event, the Daytona 500. The Minneapolis native grew up in the northwest Twin Cities suburbs of Brooklyn Park and Maple Grove and graduated from Osseo Senior High.

“Everyone works in specialty fields, but wherever I can help out I’m a team player,” Onafowokan says of his role at NASCAR. “I’m more on the competition-related side—contracts dealing with our various sanctioning bodies.”

That now includes helping to enforce NASCAR’s ban on the Confederate battle flag, which was announced in June. While Onafowokan had no direct involvement in the decision to impose the ban, he says he appreciates the move both professionally and personally.

“Like many across the country, I was extremely excited that NASCAR decided to ban the Confederate flag at its events and our properties,” says Onafowokan, adding that he got calls and messages from relatives and friends who also were happy with the decision. “The ban isn’t closing doors on anyone. We’re making it clear that we’re opening the doors for everyone to be a part of the NASCAR family and experience.”

The Road To NASCAR

Seeking to combine his love of sports and his desire to work in the legal field, Onafowokan went to law school immediately after earning a bachelor of science degree in sports management at the University of Minnesota. He interned in NASCAR’s public and government affairs department after his second year at Minnesota Law and was a law clerk in the company’s legal department after his third year, while studying for the bar exam. He joined NASCAR as corporate counsel in May 2018.

At the Law School, Onafowokan was an engaged student, taking part in the Black Law Students Association and the Sports Law Association, among other activities. The people he met during his Law School experience made a deep impression on him.

“Having great professors and great mentors and great classmates that helped push me to be the best version of myself that I could be, and helped push me to seek opportunities in the areas where I wanted to go—those are some of my fondest memories,” Onafowokan says.

With contracts taking up much of his workday, Onafowokan still relies on material he learned in his 1L Contracts class with former professor Ruth Okediji, who now teaches at Harvard Law School. “The curriculum was challenging, but it’s made me a better lawyer,” he says. “That foundation helps me today.”
Rather than focusing on individual grades and performance, Onafowokan advises law students to learn how to work with others so they can collaborate productively with colleagues, clients, and even opposing counsel when a deal needs to get done.

Motoring Through The Pandemic
The best part of his work at NASCAR, Onafowokan says, is that every day tends to be different. That’s been the case even more since the COVID-19 pandemic put a halt to NASCAR’s racing season in March.

The pandemic cut short Onafowokan’s legal work related to one of NASCAR’s major projects—development of its Next Gen race car. The new model was to debut next year, but challenges related to the pandemic have pushed that back to 2022.

Onafowokan’s attention instead has turned to dealing with issues related to races postponed or canceled because of the pandemic at some of the NASCAR-owned tracks that he works with, including renegotiating agreements with sponsors, event services providers, and vendors.

Since NASCAR resumed its race schedule in May, Onafowokan has assisted in making sure events can operate safely during the pandemic.

Reflecting on Racial Justice
Onafowokan, who was born in Minneapolis, found the May 25 death of George Floyd at the hands of the city’s police “extremely sad, disturbing, and devastating.” He watched the video of the fatal police shooting of Philando Castile in the St. Paul suburb of Falcon Heights, which occurred in 2016 while Onafowokan was working in the Twin Cities. Though he’s heard people speak of Floyd’s cries for his mother and pleas for his life, Onafowokan won’t watch the widely seen video of Floyd’s death.

“It’s just heartbreaking,” he says. “We’re in a special moment in terms of the Black Lives Matter movement. I think right now there’s a national awakening with regards to systemic racism against Black people and people of color.... Hopefully something positive will come from this in Minneapolis and across the country.”

Todd Nelson is a freelance writer based in the Twin Cities.
WHY MIGRANT REMITTANCES REALLY MATTER

Professor Paul Vaaler
Connects Migrant Wages With Venture Capital, Global Finance

BY CATHY MADISON
The pandemic shaved two months off Professor Paul Vaaler’s year in South Africa, but it failed to dampen his enthusiasm for his favorite topic. Vaaler was living and working in Johannesburg on a Fulbright scholarship when, in mid-March, he got 48 hours’ notice to catch the last plane out of the country before travel bans took effect. Back home in Minneapolis, he is now treating law and business students to his burgeoning expertise on migrant remittances, which he calls “the best economic development strategy in the world.”

As the inaugural holder of the John and Bruce Mooty Chair in Law and Business, Vaaler serves both the Carlson School of Management, where he earned a Ph.D., and the Law School. He was born at University Hospitals and raised nearby, but his diverse career, encompassing both private practice and academia, has forged a formidable global perspective. Since graduate school days at Oxford and Harvard, he has embraced international issues.

“I really enjoy understanding how people, money, and ideas flow, especially through developing countries, where the rules aren’t clear,” he says. When the Cold War ended and the Berlin Wall fell in 1991, the West began “essentially imposing on former communist or military-run countries the need to privatize, liberalize trade, and deregulate protective industries. They were saying, ‘If you do those things, we’ll give you money. If you don’t, you’ll be in trouble,’” he explains. But what would this mean for aid-hungry governments? Would unstable regimes discourage foreign investors? What about the growing number of migrants?

Vaaler was intrigued by the legal and business questions these issues raised. Today more than 250 million people live and work outside their home countries, boosting the economies of their host countries while also sending money home to developing countries. These remittances—$500 billion last year—far outstrip foreign investment or foreign aid and are “significant, substantial, and the most important source of venture capital,” Vaaler notes. “If that’s the way that healthy countries grow, then we need to understand and promote it.”

Remittances are often small sums sent through an informal system called hawala, loosely translated as “transfer and trust,” which is often easier to use than other formal systems running through banks or money-transfer companies like Western Union. Migrant workers hand over money to hawaladars, agents with contacts who can arrange equivalent transfers in the workers’ home countries. While these remittances often feed and house family members, they also fund startups and small businesses. A truck bought to ferry farm produce, for example, could also be used to start a taxi service.

Vaaler studied this transnational phenomenon up close in South Africa, where money, ideas, and people flow freely across porous borders, and shared his observations with local academic, finance, and civil society groups.

“Paul did some of the earliest research on the correlation between remittances and investments. It is cited both on the academic side and, more importantly, on the practitioner side, where it has a wide variety of applications,” says Paul Clyde, president of the William Davidson Institute and professor at the University of Michigan’s Ross School of Business. He and Vaaler are collaborating on a UN proposal designed to train business and government regulators to leverage remittances for an even greater impact in developing economies.

Michael E. Cummings, assistant professor at the University of Arkansas Walton College of Business, has worked with Vaaler since becoming his research assistant at the Carlson School in 2011. “We’ve focused on the big-picture, hot-button issues of the day—international migration, government policy, entrepreneurship, economic growth and development. He’s a good example of someone who approaches research not just as a scholar, but also from the perspective of what makes a difference,” says Cummings.

Migrant remittance issues find their way into courtrooms, where Vaaler has been an expert witness, as well as classrooms. “Lawyers advise intermediary businesses about how to move money quickly, cheaply, and effectively for migrants, but also transparently and legitimately for regulators,” he explains. Meanwhile, research opportunities abound. Vaaler is exploring how remittances from longterm migrants are used differently from those sent by newly-arrived workers, and how migrant men and women differ in remitting approaches. Women remit less per transaction but keep remitting years after men stop. Migrant women may prove more important for the investment environment of their home countries.

Vaaler is lauded by his colleagues for being “a delight to work with,” notes Clyde, and effusively embracing all ideas at first, yet setting a high bar for precision. “He gave me courage and confidence,” adds Cummings. Clearly, Vaaler, who is excited to be back on campus despite the pandemic, loves his job: “Service, research, teaching—all in one. It’s pretty exotic.”

Cathy Madison is a Twin Cities-based writer.
Susanna Blumenthal was named a 2020-21 fellow of Stanford University’s Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. Blumenthal is one of 38 selected scholars representing 20 U.S. institutions and 11 international institutions and programs.

Benjamin Casper Sanchez ’97 was named the 2020 recipient of the Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association’s Access to Justice Award. The award recognizes a Minnesota attorney who demonstrates an outstanding commitment to defending and improving access to legal services, the courts, and the broader justice system for Latinos in Minnesota and across the country.

Linus Chan was honored by the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild for outstanding contributions to the cause of immigrant justice. Chan was recognized as the group’s 2020 Member Honoree during the American Immigration Lawyers Association’s Virtual Conference.

Prentiss Cox was appointed co-director of Law Clinics.

Jennie Green was promoted to the position of clinical professor of law.

Ryan Greenwood was promoted to the position of associate law librarian.

Ralph Hall was awarded the 2020 Service to FDLI Award by the Food and Drug Law Institute. The award, established in 2017, honors FDLI members who have provided exceptional volunteer services to FDLI, furthering its mission as a neutral convener to educate and spark innovative change.

Jill Hasday’s book, *Intimate Lies and the Law*, won a gold medal in the annual Foreword INDIES Book of the Year series as well as a 2020 Scribes Book Award “for the best work of legal scholarship published during the previous year.”

Kristin Hickman was named a McKnight Presidential Professor. The University designates the McKnight Presidential Endowed Professorship program as “one of the highest honors for faculty” and reserves the recognition for “highly distinguished, world-class scholars.”
Joan S. Howland was elected to a second three-year term as a delegate-at-large to the American Bar Association’s House of Delegates, the policymaking body of the organization.

Alexandra Klass was appointed by Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz to the Governor’s Advisory Council on Climate Change. Established by Climate Change Executive Order 19-37, the advisory council will work with the Governor’s Climate Change Subcabinet to identify innovative policies and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase climate resiliency.

Amy Monahan, Melvin Steen & Corporate Donors Professor and associate dean for research and planning at the Law School, was named a Distinguished McKnight University Professor.

Perry Moriearty was appointed co-director of Law Clinics.

JaneAnne Murray organized and hosted a “Zoomsday” celebration in June, the 2020 version of an annual Bloomsday celebration for the Irish American Bar Association of New York—an event that pays tribute to James Joyce’s masterwork, Ulysses, and Joyce’s contribution to First Amendment jurisprudence.

Francis Shen was promoted to the position of professor of law. Also, Shen will lead a unique partnership, funded by a grant from the Dana Foundation, between two leading research institutions—the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Law and Neuroscience, based at Vanderbilt Law School, and the Center for Law, Brain & Behavior at Massachusetts General Hospital—to support the curation and dissemination of research and legal cases at the intersection of law and neuroscience.

Caleb Smith was appointed co-chair of the ABA Tax Section’s Pro Bono and Tax Clinics Committee for a two-year term. The committee frequently drafts and submits comments on IRS and Treasury regulatory guidance, provides CLEs, and participates in national ABA Tax Section meetings.

Laura Thomas, formerly director of Law Clinics, was appointed a district court judge in Minnesota’s 4th Judicial District by Gov. Tim Walz. Thomas is chambered in Minneapolis in Hennepin County.

Susan Wolf will lead the ethics and public policy component of a new Engineering Research Center for Advanced Technologies for the Preservation of Biological Systems (ATP-Bio), based at the University’s Institute for Engineering in Medicine and funded by a $26 million grant from the National Science Foundation.
TO JONATHAN CHOI, the tax system in the United States isn’t just a way to pay for a functioning society. It also is used to enact public policy and achieve broader goals. From providing affordable housing to promoting renewable energy, the tax code can be tailored to reward the pursuit of pro-social objectives.

Choi, a Canadian, found this model intellectually appealing, and it piqued his interest in the American tax system early in his higher education. “It surprised me how many government programs are conducted through the tax code in the United States,” he says. “The reach of those provisions—and making sure they go to the people they are intended to benefit—is an important part of social policy.”

Since law school at Yale University, Choi has been researching, writing about, practicing, and teaching taxation. He brought his expertise to Minnesota Law as an associate professor this fall. A specialist in tax law and the computational analysis of law, Choi will teach courses on corporate law and federal income tax. He also will continue his technology-fueled research into tax law and how bodies like the IRS and the U.S. Tax Court interpret statutes.

“Traditionally, if you want to see how courts apply statutes, you and a research assistant would read all the statutes and summarize the cases and try to draw conclusions from that,” Choi says. “I program computers to analyze the cases and statutes so that I can look at much larger data sets and do it in a consistent and replicable way.”

Choi uses cutting-edge tools like machine learning and natural language processing to pore over huge sets of data and compare the way laws are written, interpreted, and implemented. This year alone, he has published articles in the New York University Law Review and the Stanford Law Review. The pieces explore anti-abuse doctrines and how they are applied, as well as how agencies respond to judicial deference and change their methods of interpretation over time.

It’s a unique approach, and one that will be a welcome addition, says Dean Garry W. Jenkins, William S. Pattee Professor of Law. “We are delighted to have Jon Choi join the Minnesota Law faculty. As a rising scholar in tax law and computational analysis of law, Professor Choi brings outstanding new expertise, insights, and methodological approaches. His teaching and research will benefit our students and enrich the Minnesota Law intellectual environment.”

Choi comes to Minnesota Law from the New York University School of Law, where he was a fellow. Previously, he practiced tax law at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz in New York for four years. At Yale, he served as executive Bluebook editor for the Yale Law Journal. Choi also was founding co-director of the Bulletin, an online supplement to the Yale Journal on Regulation.

Choi’s work unites many of the interests he pursued at Dartmouth College, where he majored in computer science, economics, and philosophy. His philosophy courses, he says, particularly inspired his interest in the role taxation plays in issues of issues of justice and fairness.
At Minnesota Law, Choi aims to share with students his experiences as a tax lawyer in private practice, a job he thoroughly enjoyed. “I think it’s really underrated. I’ve almost never met an unhappy tax lawyer,” says Choi, who always aspired to work as a law professor.

Fascinating discussions with Minnesota Law faculty and a student body that’s sharp and highly engaged drew Choi to the University of Minnesota. He’s looking forward to living in the Twin Cities and enjoying the outdoors in both summer and winter. He says it feels a bit more like home than New York, and he expects it will be a fruitful place to continue his research and open students’ eyes to the appeal of tax law.

“Being a law professor is the perfect job,” he says. “At Minnesota Law, I have the opportunity to influence the next generation of lawyers and to discuss crucial public policy issues with brilliant colleagues.”

—Professor Jonathan Choi

By Suzy Frisch, a Twin Cities-based freelance writer

**AT A GLANCE**

- Graduated from Dartmouth College *summa cum laude* with a triple major in computer science, economics, and philosophy
- At Yale Law was the founding co-director of the *Yale Journal on Regulation* Online
- Former contestant and winner on *Jeopardy!*
Doing Justice,
Preventing Crime

In Doing Justice, Preventing Crime, Professor Michael Tonry lays normative and empirical foundations for building new, more just, and more effective systems of sentencing and punishment in the 21st century. Drawing on philosophy, punishment theory, and empirical research, this book explains the structural changes needed to uphold the rule of law and its requirement that the human dignity of every person be respected. The book was published by Oxford University Press in its Studies in Crime and Public Policy series on July 1, 2020. Tonry has two other books in the last year: Of One-eyed and Toothless Miscreants—Making the Punishment Fit the Crime? (Oxford University Press, editor) and Organizing Crime—Mafias, Markets, and Networks (University of Chicago Press, co-editor).

What inspired you to write a book on this topic?

Black lives matter. Black people suspected and convicted of crimes are systematically treated unjustly, unfairly, and inhumanely. Their experiences differ, however, more in degree than in kind. Few defendants are treated justly, fairly, and humanely. I wanted to figure out why and to show how things can be made better.

What are a few common misconceptions that you dispel in your book?

Many people mistakenly believe that severe punishments deter wrongdoing, that harsher punishments are more effective than lesser ones, and that incapacitating people by locking them up is an effective way to prevent crime. Scientists have consistently shown for 40 years that none of this is true.

What is a key takeaway from the book?

Justice and fairness cannot become regular features of American criminal courts until mandatory minimum sentencing and similar laws are repealed and discretion is returned to judges. And that by itself will not be enough until prosecutors acknowledge that their only legitimate job is to prove guilt and that sentencing decisions should be made by dispassionate judges.

Recent events, including the killing of George Floyd, have put inequalities in the criminal justice system in the national spotlight. How, if at all, do recent events and debate impact the view of “doing justice” and preventing crime you’ve expressed in this book?

I’ve written two books, Malign Neglect (1995) and Punishing Race (2011), on racial injustices in the criminal justice system. Most “tough” sentencing laws foreseeably resulted in grotesquely, disproportionately severe punishments of Black and other minority offenders. In this they are not unlike laws on police use of fatal force and racial profiling. Real changes in Black people’s encounters with the criminal justice system will not occur until all those laws and practices are radically changed.

With politicians on both sides of the aisle claiming to be in favor of criminal justice reform, why hasn’t more meaningful change occurred?

The commitments to change are, alas, largely rhetorical, and target the low-hanging fruit of juvenile, first-time, and minor offenders. Politicians still fear the epithet “soft on crime.” Little will change until the severest sentencing laws are repealed, early release from lengthy prison terms is authorized, and sentences for violent crime are made less harsh.
Is there another country that has “gotten it right”? That the U.S. should be looking to as a model in effectuating systemic change?

No place is perfect, of course, but most continental European countries treat people accused of crimes justly, humanely, and respectfully. Accusations of racial injustice are rare. Those systems are insulated from politics and public emotions, their judges and prosecutors are career civil servants, and plea bargaining is rare or nonexistent.

What impact would you like your book to have?

Few scholarly books, if they are read at all, have immediate or discernible influence. I’ve proposed fundamental changes in how Americans think about criminal justice and how practitioners do their jobs. If I’ve done my job well, the book will nudge sentencing practices and policies in more just and effective directions.

What’s your best brief pitch for why someone should read this book?

Everyone would want themselves and their loved ones to be treated fairly, justly, evenhandedly, and sympathetically if charged with a criminal offense, rather than be processed on an inhumane assembly line. Doing Justice, Explaining Crime explains why that needs to change and shows what needs to be done.
Tarun Sharma, 2L

Prior to law school, Sharma worked in analytics and operations for two Major League Baseball teams, the San Francisco Giants and the Arizona Diamondbacks.

WHAT DID YOU DO IN MLB?
In San Francisco, I worked very closely with the amateur and professional player scouting staffs. I had an opportunity to learn about baseball and data analytics from a group that had won three World Series rings in the prior five years. Working in Arizona was a dream come true because it was my first experience working in professional sports. I will be forever grateful to Dr. Ed Lewis and the small analytics cohort still there who brought me along and taught me what they could about computer coding and scouting players.

WHERE DOES YOUR INTEREST IN BASEBALL COME FROM?
My older brother played baseball when I was younger, and I enjoyed attending his games. My father used to always make time to take me to baseball games whenever we went on road trips. As a result, I’ve had an opportunity to visit 20-plus ballparks for MLB games.

WHY LAW SCHOOL?
I decided to pursue my J.D. after my time in San Francisco because I have always dreamed of attending law school. In the future, I’d certainly be open to working with sports clients, but right now, I’m focused on completing my education and gaining as much experiential knowledge as possible.

WHY MINNESOTA LAW?
I selected Minnesota Law because of a great conversation that I had with Professor Mitch Zamoff while weighing my options. I heard about and later got to experience the great corporate client base, highly educated population, good food, great music, and, of course, sports that Minnesota has to offer.

FAVORITE STUDENT ACTIVITY OR EXPERIENCE?
I am serving as vice president of the Sports Law Association and treasurer of the South Asian Law Students Association this year. My favorite experience so far was when Chief Judge [John R.] Tunheim ’80 held a hearing at the Law School.

1L SUMMER JOB?
I was grateful to be part of the Twin Cities Diversity in Practice Summer Clerkship program this year. With [the firm of] Arthur Chapman and its corporate partner, Target, I tackled projects relating to real estate, subrogation, and tax practices. Unfortunately, owing to COVID-19, I missed out on enjoying the firm’s seats at Target Field with my colleagues.

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS?
I’m in a pretty intense fantasy dynasty baseball league with twenty 40-man-rostered teams where fellow 2L and Sports Law Association board member Kyle Ignatius is my co-owner. I also serve as commissioner for a fantasy football league with friends from high school who are now all over the country.

FAVORITE SPORTS QUOTE?
“Baseball is almost the only orderly thing in a very unorderly world. If you get three strikes, even the best lawyer in the world can’t get you off.” —Bill Veeck

ANYTHING ELSE YOU’D LIKE TO SHARE?
I want to give a plug to the best sports law podcast in existence, Conduct Detrimental, for allowing me to offer topic suggestions. You can find my writing on sports law topics via my LinkedIn. Thank you to the new board of the Sports Law Association (2Ls Colton Messer, Kyle Ignatius, Erin Abramovitz, and Meg Simchuk) for working to build out our sports law program. My hope is for Minnesota Law to one day have a sports and entertainment law publication, course, and clinic. You can support the Sports Law Association by following us on Twitter @UMNSportsLaw and attending our virtual programming this fall. Thank you to the Career Center, especially my counselor, Wendy Griak, for helping me find a great summer employment program. Thank you to my family for their love and support.
Sharie Cassioppi, 2L, was awarded a Benjamin B. Ferencz Fellowship in Human Rights by World Without Genocide, a St. Paul-based human rights organization. The fellowships provide financial support through World Without Genocide for work on core areas of human rights, including research, policy development, and action at local, state, national, and international levels.

Cassioppi, who currently works as a legal intern for the International Leadership Institute, was selected to pursue the goal of raising public awareness about reparations for systemic injustice.

The fellowship is named for one of the world’s leading advocates for human rights, Benjamin B. Ferencz. In Nuremberg, Germany, in 1947, Ferencz prosecuted members of the Nazi Einsatzgruppen, mobile killing squads responsible for the deaths of more than a million Jews during the Holocaust.

Eura Chang, 2L, was one of four law students selected nationally to receive the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Law Foundation’s inaugural Sharon and Ivan Fong Leadership Scholarship for outstanding professional promise and leadership potential. Chang is a member of the Minnesota Law Review, a Robina Public Interest Scholar, and co-president of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association.

Before law school, Chang taught English in Senegal on a Fulbright grant and later served as a state operations coordinator and parent educator for Stand for Children Colorado. She received her B.A. cum laude in educational studies, political science, and French and Francophone studies from Macalester College, where she won the George Stanley Prize for Civic Engagement and was founder and president of Students for Educational Equity.

Marisa Tillman, 3L, was recognized by the Minnesota Justice Foundation with an Outstanding Service Award.

At the Law School, Tillman participated in the Asylum Law Project with the Capital Area Immigrants’ Rights Coalition. She was also a certified student attorney with the Binger Center for New Americans’ Detainee Rights Clinic. Previously, Tillman served as a refugee intern and mentor through Lutheran Social Services, an intern with Chicano Latino Affairs Council, and as a legal assistant with Lutheran Volunteer Corps through World Relief Immigration Clinic.
Meghan Knapp, 3L, was named the recipient of the 2020 Equal Justice Award by Minnesota Women Lawyers. This annual award invites a law student in Minnesota to submit a paper on a topic involving law and social justice. Knapp’s article is entitled, “Romani Women’s Right to Water: Bringing Intersectional Discrimination Claims in the E.U.” Knapp works as a research assistant for Professor Fionnuala Ni Aoláin, the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, and she is a full-time intern with the Guernica Centre for International Justice in San Francisco, where she is working on multiple transitional justice projects in Latin America and Africa.

Meghan Knapp, 3L, and Jackie Fielding, 3L, were named 2020 Robina Post-Graduate Fellows. Robina Post-Graduate Fellowships are supported by the Robina Foundation in recognition of the need for greater funding for recent graduates who want to pursue public interest work. These highly competitive fellowships provide funding for fellows to work full-time, for one year, in a legal or policy role at a nonprofit or government agency.

Knapp’s fellowship is with the Guernica Centre for International Justice in San Francisco, which hosted her for a Remote Semester Field Placement (a Law School course) this spring. The Guernica Centre is a nonprofit organization that helps assist individuals, civil society groups, and institutions in implementing strategies to ensure accountability and redress for international crimes against humanity.

Fielding’s fellowship is with the Brennan Center for Justice. Based in New York City, the Brennan Center is an independent, nonpartisan law and policy organization dedicated to advancing the interests of democracy and justice.

Emily Franco, 3L, was named a recipient of the University of Minnesota President’s Student Leadership and Service Award for her role in establishing a food pantry in Mondale Hall in order to serve the needs of Minnesota Law’s student community. In a message to the University community, President Joan T.A. Gabel described this award as “honoring outstanding students for their invaluable leadership and service to the University of Minnesota Twin Cities and the community.”
STUDENT SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES During a time of Pandemic

COVID-19 made it difficult for some students to have a traditional summer legal experience. Seven students share their observations and insights on how the pandemic impacted their summers and what they and their employers did to make the best of the situation.

Ben Cooper, 2L
Law clerk, Land O’Lakes
“Since I worked from home, I set up informal virtual ‘coffees’ with different attorneys to learn more about their backgrounds and interests. It was different not to develop relationships in person, but I made an effort to connect with the rest of the team.”

Emily Curran, 2L
Legal intern, Capital Habeas Unit; Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Missouri
“The pandemic made finding a summer internship much more difficult, but I was extremely grateful to have found this experience in the end. I work remotely, with most tasks being similar to the Capital Habeas Unit’s ‘normal’ summer intern program, except that I could not visit our client in prison or tag along to interviews with witnesses as I normally would.”

Parth Deshmukh, 2L
Summer associate, Winthrop & Weinstine
“My summer at Winthrop was completely ‘virtual.’ Having said that, all the attorneys were extremely forthcoming, and [they] put in more effort trying to get to know the summer associates. I’d like to believe that the work I did was the same as it would have been inside of a physical office. Not being able to connect with people organically in the hallways, over lunch, etc., was definitely the biggest challenge.”
Yemaya Hanna, 2L  
Summer associate, Maslon  
“Although I worked remotely this summer, I still got a feel for the culture at Maslon and I became an expert in Zoom and Webex meetings. I did miss my commute to the city, because it provided me with some much-needed alone time on stressful work and school days.”

Emily Newman, 2L  
Summer intern, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of the General Counsel  
“I wouldn’t say [working remotely] changed the substance of the work I did, as I worked on projects that past interns were assigned. While I had less face-to-face interaction throughout the day, I was able to participate in certain things that I wouldn’t have been able to if I was in-person, such as the Department of Commerce Intern Webinar Series, where DOC interns meet via video chat to hear presentations from other DOC attorneys and to network.”

Zoe Psiakis, 2L  
Summer Clerk, Anishinabe Legal Services  
“I was grateful to be working in person! I met with clients, but with precautions and by appointment only. (Anishinabe Legal Services normally has many walk-ins). I also spent limited time in court, because tribal courts and rural state courts had fewer judges and took longer to resume hearing civil matters.”

Schuyler Troy, 2L  
Summer associate, Fredrikson & Byron  
“I was not optimistic that the abrupt shift to a fully remote experience would go smoothly, but it went about as well as any of us could have hoped. The work was challenging, and I got the opportunity to work on some interesting cases.”
I have grown up in Minnesota, I have helped construct Minnesota, and have advocated for Minnesota’s workers,” he says. “So it’s only befitting that I obtain my professional degree from one of Minnesota’s most respected educational institutions.” He plans to use his legal education to represent workers’ interests and expand their rights.

Jennifer Melton has nearly a decade of experience in aiding the survivors of human trafficking, including seven years in China and another year-and-a-half with the Global Center for Women and Justice, where she worked on trafficking education and outreach. Minnesota Law’s commitment to social justice and nationally ranked clinical programs were strong factors in her decision to pursue her legal education at the Law School.

“Collaborating to prevent trafficking and assisting survivors highlights the importance of a robust civil society and civic engagement,” she says.

Melton’s goal is to become an immigration attorney, bridging the ever-widening divide between the disenfranchised and those in positions of power.
SAMIA OSMAN, SOMALI REFUGEE, FORMER INTERN AT LAW SCHOOL

Samia Osman says her choice of Minnesota Law for her legal education was an easy one, as the Law School was “already home” to her. As an undergraduate, Osman interned at the James H. Binger Center for New Americans, where she got to work shoulder-to-shoulder with faculty and staff. A Somali refugee herself, she brings empathy and understanding to assisting immigrant clients. “I want to help those in my communities and in whose shoes I have been—whether that is children living in refugee camps, or Muslims, Blacks, and immigrants in America who are demonized, stereotyped, and discriminated against for simply existing,” she says.

Osman’s dream is to go into international law with a focus on human rights and humanitarianism—“a dream born from being a refugee who comes from and grew up in a world filled with corruption, conflict, and overall instability.”

EMMA PETERSON, FULBRIGHT RECIPIENT

Prior to enrolling at Minnesota Law, Emma S. Peterson tutored youth in Peru and Estonia and also volunteered as a tutor in New Orleans during her freshman year of college at Tulane. She has an M.A. in English and was a recipient of a prestigious Fulbright award.

“When it came to choosing a law school, I knew that I wanted the opportunity to engage with the local community through volunteer opportunities and to be able to study human rights law,” she says. “Minnesota Law offered clinics, great connections to local organizations, and a growing city.”

Peterson plans to go into public interest law through nonprofits that work with underserved populations.

JENNIFER RIVERS, MOLECULAR SCIENTIST

Jennifer L. Rivers has an M.S. in molecular microbiology and has worked as a molecular and microbiology scientist. Just prior to enrolling at Minnesota Law, she served as an antimicrobial resistance fellow (one of only 12 selected nationally) for the Association of Public Health Laboratories-CDC.

“The public health challenges we face today are further complicated by obstacles inherent in our healthcare system,” she says. “To make scientific research maximally impactful, I want to direct energy toward eliminating these systemic barriers and building a public health legal framework that is sustainable, effective, and compassionate.”

Rivers plans to apply for a dual J.D./MPH degree and move her career into public health law, healthcare policy, and humanitarian advocacy.

TONY SANCHEZ, ROTC GRAD, FIRST GEN STUDENT

At Florida State University, Tony Sanchez participated in Air Force ROTC and had internships at the state legislature and in the office of the public defender, both excellent preparation to pursue a career in the law. He is also a first-generation college student in his family. “I think it’s extremely important to add diverse perspectives in a classroom, [so] not every problem is looked at through the same lens,” he says. “I hope to add a fresh set of eyes in the classroom, whether that’s as a Wendy’s employee during a discussion in Advanced Corporate Law or as the son of a Black/Hispanic father in Employment Discrimination.”

Sanchez plans on joining the U.S. Air Force as a member of the Judge Advocate General Corps after graduation.

BENJAMIN WETZEL, FORMER BALLET DANCER

Benjamin Wetzel was a professional ballet dancer for nine years prior to enrolling in Minnesota Law. Wetzel’s impressive career includes major parts in numerous productions while dancing for companies in Louisville and Nashville. A Swiss-American dual citizen, he is fluent in German.

“Physically, my body was beginning to slow down,” he says in explaining his transition from ballet to law. “Though I could have continued dancing for a few more years, I was eager to start a new adventure navigating the complex, varied, and nuanced challenges offered by a career in law.”

Wetzel is starting his legal education with an open mind about what his career might look like after law school, but he would like to work with people from countries around the world in whatever legal area he ultimately pursues.
HAIL TO THE EDITORS-IN-CHIEF!

When it comes to Minnesota Law’s student-led law journals, these four have the last word. The 2020-21 editors-in-chief are: (from left) Navin Ramalingam, 3L (Law & Inequality: A Journal of Theory and Practice); Abby Oakland, 3L (Minnesota Law Review); Jacky Arness, 3L (Minnesota Journal of International Law); and Jack Brooksbank, 3L (Minnesota Journal of Law, Science & Technology).
Caroline A. Crenshaw ’09 was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as a commissioner of the Securities and Exchange Commission in August. She occupies one of two Democratic seats on the five-member bipartisan commission. Prior to becoming a commissioner, Crenshaw worked at the SEC for seven years. She also serves as a captain in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps.
You worked at the Securities and Exchange Commission for seven years before becoming an SEC commissioner. What was your role then?

I began my career as a staff attorney, helping oversee institutions that manage millions of Americans’ savings. As counsel to Commissioners Kara Stein and Robert Jackson, I advised on a wide range of legal and policy issues including rulemaking, enforcement matters, and other SEC actions.

Can you describe your role as a SEC commissioner? What are you most looking forward to as you begin this chapter?

I’m looking forward to advocating for ordinary American families who are the backbone of our economy. I come to this job not just as a securities lawyer, but as a soldier, sister, and new mother. I want to make sure my fellow soldiers, our families, and millions of American families have a fighting chance to achieve the financial futures they deserve.

You were appointed to a “Democratic seat” on the SEC. What does that mean?

The Securities Exchange Act provides that the five-member commission can have no more than three commissioners from the same political party. Because we are in a Republican administration, there are three Republicans and two Democrats. I hold one of the Democratic seats. Despite this composition, most commission actions are bipartisan.

Is being an SEC commissioner something you ever envisioned for yourself in law school?

No. Although I loved Administrative Law with Professor Kristin Hickman, I intended to practice criminal law. But I was put in the securities litigation group when I started in private practice, and I honestly found the federal securities laws interesting and intellectually stimulating. When I started at the SEC, I saw how our work impacts all Americans.

How is the COVID-19 pandemic affecting the SEC and/or the start of your tenure as a commissioner?

The SEC has remained fully operational during the COVID pandemic and has continued to pursue its mission. With most of the staff teleworking, the SEC has been continuously, and without interruption, monitoring markets to ensure they function properly, protecting investors from COVID-related investment scams, and providing market participants relief they need to continue their operations.

What was your favorite experience at Minnesota Law?

The dedication of the faculty and the collegiality of my classmates stand out. My professors cared deeply about their students and were passionate educators. That was evident every day. The friendships I made with Section D classmates will last the rest of my life.

What advice would you offer to a law student today?

First, find work that is meaningful to you. If you do something you are proud of and that brings you emotional and intellectual fulfillment, long hours feel manageable. Second, find a mentor you trust, who believes in you, and who is willing to impart knowledge and wisdom. Third, be open to any experience. I never thought I would practice securities law, and today I’m an SEC commissioner.

How do you like to spend your free time?

I try to find time in the mornings or on weekends to go to the playground, pool, or park with my husband and our toddler. If we can, we find cement mixers, backhoes, or helicopters to watch too. I also make sure I read a few pages of a novel every night.

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

My college lacrosse varsity letter. Despite struggling with injuries and playing time, I learned the importance of responding positively to adversity and doing my best no matter what. Additionally, I have an Army award on my desk. It reminds me every day of the importance of teamwork and camaraderie.

An expanded version of this interview is available in the digital version of the magazine, viewable at: http://minnesotalawmag.law.umn.edu
Thank you to all of those who joined us for President Joan Gabel’s introduction to the Law School at the LOCKHART CLUB CELEBRATION on October 6, 2020. It was an exciting night and opportunity to commemorate and recognize the alumni and friends who are leading Minnesota Law into a bold, innovative future. As we continue our strong final year of the Law School’s Driven to Lead campaign, we thank you all for your participation and look forward to seeing what more we can accomplish together. For those who were unable to celebrate with us, a recording of the event can be found online at z.umn.edu/LockhartRecording

THE LOCKHART CLUB CELEBRATION was among the many Law School events that transitioned to a virtual space this fall. The annual event, typically held at the McNamara Alumni Center, is an opportunity to thank our generous alumni and share our successes with our alumni community.

In the spirit of connecting during this unusual time, an hour-long virtual Lockhart program was held on the evening of Tuesday, October 6. The celebratory event included remarks by Dean Garry W. Jenkins, Board of Advisors Chair Michelle Miller ’86, and Driven Campaign Committee Member Jim Chosy ’89. A key point in the program was a lively and informative question-and-answer exchange between Dean Jenkins and University of Minnesota President Joan T.A. Gabel, who is herself a lawyer. The program also included videos featuring students, faculty, and staff, as well as a virtual performance by the TORT singers.

“While we all wish that we could be together in person, as is our usual practice, it is still terrific to have so many of our closest friends and supporters together through technology,” Dean Jenkins told attendees in his welcoming remarks.

Alumni logged on to the program from across the U.S., as well as from several foreign countries.

For Robert Lewis ’95, a partner in the global finance practice of Sidley, the virtual celebration was his first Lockhart event. He logged in from Chicago, where he lives and works.

Lewis points to the Q&A as his favorite part of the program. “Dean Jenkins’ conversation with President Gabel was both timely and informative—addressing certain challenges facing the University and the Law School in these uncertain times,” he says.

Lewis believes events such as the Lockhart Club celebration play a crucial role in alumni engagement. “Although the Law School does an admirable job of keeping alumni informed through electronic communications, for alumni sitting outside of Minnesota, it is always important to hear a live discussion of the status of the Law School community and the vision for the Law School’s future,” he explains.
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 Minnesota Law through an annual gift of $2,000 or more.

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

$10,000–$24,999 **Fraser Society**
As dean, **Everett Fraser** helped bring the Law School to national prominence. Today, members of the Fraser Society help secure the Law School’s place at the forefront of legal education.

$5,000–$9,999 **Dean’s Circle**
Since its founding in 1888, the Law School has been led by eleven distinguished deans. Members of the Dean’s Circle build on their example and help ensure the Law School graduates the next generation of lawyer-leaders.

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

**Lockhart GOLD**
**Graduates Of the Last Decade**
Lockhart GOLD engages a new generation of leadership donors through a stepped donation program for alumni ten years out or less. Recent graduates contributing at these special giving levels are members and enjoy all the benefits of the Lockhart Club.

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<th>Graduation Year</th>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>$10/month ($120 annually)</td>
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<td>2017, 2018, 2019</td>
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<td>2010 and prior</td>
<td>$167 per month (or approximately $2,000 annually) Full Lockhart Club membership</td>
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For questions or for information about joining the Lockhart Club, please contact Lizzy Beghelli, assistant director of annual giving, at 612-624-0097 or beghelli@umn.edu
Alumni News

Arielle S. Wagner ’16 was elected president of the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association for the 2020-21 year. Founded in 1991, MAIBA is a nonprofit organization of American Indian attorneys, law students, and officers of tribal courts, and is committed to building and maintaining relationships with Twin Cities urban Indian organizations and the 11 tribal communities in Minnesota.

Wagner is currently an associate at Lockridge Grindal Nauen in Minneapolis, where she concentrates her practice in the firm’s antitrust, data breach, and tribal government representation groups. She is an enrolled member of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa in northern Minnesota.

Rachel Kitze Collins ’14 was elected chair of the Minnesota State Bar Association’s Environmental, Natural Resources, and Energy Law Section for the 2020-21 year. Collins has served on the ENRE section since 2016.

The ENRE section sponsors seminars and other events to keep members up to date with developments in these fast-changing legal fields.

Collins is currently an associate at Lockridge Grindal Nauen in Minneapolis, where she practices primarily in the firm’s environmental and business law groups, representing public entities and businesses in complex, high-profile litigation involving environmental, constitutional, and contract law in federal and state court.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz has appointed Julie Allyn ’95, Maximillia Utley ’08, and Terri Yellowhammer ’95 to serve on Minnesota’s 4th Judicial District bench.

Allyn serves as an assistant U.S. attorney in Minnesota. Previously, she served as an assistant Hennepin County attorney and a Minnesota assistant attorney general. She is also an adjunct professor at the Law School.

Utley is a senior assistant Hennepin County attorney. In this role, she is a supervising attorney in the Juvenile Prosecution Division, where she has been involved in several office initiatives to increase the use of juvenile diversion and reduce disparities in the justice system. She previously served as the president of the Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers.
Yellowhammer is the American Indian community relations development manager for Hennepin County. In this role, she guides the county on effective partnering with tribal communities in the Twin Cities and on reservations in Minnesota on a range of issues, including the overrepresentation of American Indian children in the child protection system. Previously, she represented indigent clients in adult and juvenile child protection cases at the Indian Child Welfare Law Center, was a White Earth Nation Tribal Court judge, and was a Minnesota assistant attorney general.

All three seats will be chambered in Minneapolis.

The Minnesota State Bar Association’s New Lawyers Section has named Kyle Kroll ’16 as the 2019-20 recipient of its Outstanding New Lawyer of the Year award. Kroll, who serves as an adjunct legal research and writing professor at Minnesota Law, is an associate with Winthrop & Weinstine. His complex commercial litigation practice includes class action, antitrust and unfair competition, false advertising, intellectual property, and utilities matters. Kroll is involved in numerous bar-related and civic activities for the MSBA, Hennepin County Bar Association, and the city of Minneapolis.
Richard Allyn ’69 of Robins Kaplan and Erin Osborne ’13 of Central Minnesota Legal Services were recognized by the Minnesota Justice Foundation with Outstanding Service Awards.

Allyn, who was recognized for private practice pro bono, co-founded Minnesota Law’s Insurance Law Clinic and has been an adjunct professor in the clinic since its inception.

Osborne, who was recognized as a direct service provider, has been a staff attorney with the Minneapolis office of CMLS since 2015. She is currently program director of its domestic violence litigation in partnership with the Hennepin County Domestic Abuse Service Center.

Theodora Gaïtas ’94 was appointed to the Minnesota Court of Appeals by Gov. Tim Walz.

Previously, Gaïtas served as a judge in the 4th Judicial District, chambered in Minneapolis, where she presided over criminal matters and co-chaired the district’s Domestic Violence Steering Committee. She also practiced with Matonich Law, where she represented individuals in medical negligence and medical device litigation throughout Minnesota. Before that, she served as an appellate public defender with the Minnesota Appellate Public Defender’s Office.

Mackenzie Heinrichs ’18 received a 2020 Equal Justice Works Fellowship. As a fellow, Heinrichs will provide outreach, education, and legal representation to immigrant young adults in Minnesota in response to the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision regarding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. She will work with high schools, community colleges, and universities to increase access to legal assistance for immigrant young adults.
Amarachi Ihejirika ’16 is a product liability defense lawyer with Blackwell Burke in Minneapolis. She was recently recognized by the National Black Lawyers as one of its “Top 40 under 40.”

YOUR TYPICAL WORKDAY?
No day is the same, but most days involve some combination of the following—interpreting case law, statutes, and/or procedural rules, analyzing discrete legal issues, discussing case strategy, and otherwise collaborating virtually with my colleagues.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT YOUR JOB?
I like learning about the science and technology behind the products. I also like learning about the client’s business and the overarching industry. The learning opportunities are endless.

HOW HAS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMPACTED YOU?
The biggest change has been working from home. It has pushed me to find new and creative ways to work and to live. Socializing is much more limited these days. Usually it takes the form of FaceTime or a socially distanced walk. I’m looking forward to when I can safely visit family again.

YOUR FAVORITE MINNESOTA LAW EXPERIENCE?
Participating in the Maynard Pirsig Moot Court—the first time as a student and the second time as a student director. Briefing a constitutional issue and then delivering an argument while thinking on your feet and being questioned about the merits of your position is quite the experience.

FREE TIME ACTIVITIES?
When I’m not working, I’m most likely doing one of the following activities—walking, exercising, cooking, brainstorming new design ideas for my living space, watching Netflix, and keeping in touch with family and friends.

ADVICE TO ENTERING STUDENTS?
In the first year of law school, there is an emphasis on the “right” way to be a 1L. While the guidance is helpful, it’s not a one-size-fits-all. Most importantly, be yourself.

MINNESOTA LAW
SPRING ALUMNI WEEKEND

Spring Alumni Weekend is an important Minnesota Law tradition. While the COVID-19 pandemic has required that we adapt the way we gather, we are still looking forward to celebrating with you!

We plan to celebrate our milestone reunions through a series of virtual events in Spring 2021 and hope to hold an in-person event for our reunion alumni in June 2021. And, because milestone reunions were postponed in 2020, we are honored to celebrate with twice as many classes this year.

Questions? Contact us at lawalum@umn.edu.
Class Notes  NEWS ABOUT YOUR CLASSMATES AND COLLEAGUES

61  David S. Doty was selected to receive the 2020 American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the 8th Circuit. John R. Tunheim ’80, chief judge for the District of Minnesota, nominated Doty for the award.

62  Grant Merritt published Iron and Water: My Life Protecting Minnesota’s Environment, a memoir of family, mining pioneers, unscrupulous magnates, and the fight for Minnesota’s natural resources.

63  Jonathan Rose and his wife, Wendy, are having an endowed professorship at Arizona State University’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law named in their honor. Jonathan began teaching in 1968, the second year of the new College of Law, and taught contracts, legal ethics, and antitrust throughout his 47-year career. He is currently professor emeritus at ASU.

67  James H. Stewart was named a Minnesota Super Lawyer. Stewart practices at Duluth-based Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick in the areas of estate planning and probate, trusts, and business and tax law. He is a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel.

69  Joseph T. Dixon Jr. of Henson Efron in Minneapolis was named by Best Lawyers as the 2021 Lawyer of the Year for mediation and recognized by Best Lawyers in America for bet-the-company litigation and commercial litigation. He is past president at Henson Efron.

73  Alan C. Eidsness was recognized by Best Lawyers in America for family law and family law mediation. A shareholder and attorney with Henson Efron in Minneapolis, he is a leader of the firm’s family law group.

77  Phillip Kunkel recently joined the St. Cloud, Minnesota, office of Alliance Management, where he will provide business structure and management advice to companies experiencing financial stress.

78  George Hicks was named a winner of Ernst & Young’s Entrepreneur of the Year 2020 Heartland Award. He is a co-founder and co-chief executive officer of Minneapolis-based Värde Partners, a global alternative investment firm.

79  Tom McDonald was profiled in the May 2020 issue of Washington Lawyer in a feature story titled “An Ambassador for Humanitarian Work.”

80  Barbara Jean D’Aquila was named one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Minnesota by Super Lawyers for her work in employment litigation. She is a partner in the Minneapolis office of Norton Rose Fullbright, where she manages the litigation department, including commercial litigation, government investigations, and labor and employment matters.

81  Angela Christy was named one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Minnesota by Super Lawyers for her work in family law. She leads Binder Law Offices in Minneapolis and represents clients with complex custody matters and elaborate financial estates.

83  Jane Binder was named one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Minnesota by Super Lawyers for her work in family law.

84  Kathryn A. Graves, an attorney and shareholder at Henson Efron in Minneapolis, was recognized by Best Lawyers in America for family law and family law mediation. She was also elected chair of the Minnesota Board of Marriage and Family Therapy.

85  Elizabeth Bransdorfer was recently named a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. She is an attorney at Mika Meyers in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she specializes in divorce and family law.

Gregory Brooker was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award by the Minnesota Law Review. He is an assistant United States attorney for Minnesota in Minneapolis and serves as chief of the civil division.

Dwayne N. Knutsen was re-elected chief judge of Minnesota’s 8th Judicial
District by his fellow district court judges. He joined the 8th District bench in July 2010.

**Thomas C. Leighton** was recognized with the 2020 American Inns of Court A. Sherman Christensen Award. Leighton has been a member of the board of trustees of the American Inns of Court since 2006.

**Patrick Seiter** was named general counsel for Woman’s Hospital in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Prior to his new role at Woman’s, he was a partner at Taylor Porter.

**Sheila Ann Engelmeier** was named one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Minnesota by Super Lawyers for her work in employment and labor law. A founder of Minneapolis-based Engelmeier & Umanah, she focuses her practice on employment matters, shareholder issues, and early childhood education.

**Wade R. Wacholz** has joined Avisen Legal in Minneapolis as an attorney. His practice focuses on business and farm succession planning, corporate law and governance, finance, and estate planning.

**Jeffrey Baker** was recognized with the Local Hero Award by the Washington State Bar Association. Baker is the superior court commissioner for Klickitat and Skamania Counties.

**Elizabeth Clarke** has joined American Collectors Association International as an analyst on its compliance and legal team. She previously worked as an in-house attorney in the corporate payments systems division at U.S. Bank.

**Mark Jacobson** was recognized by Chambers USA for his work in civil litigation at Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick in Duluth and is certified by the Minnesota State Bar Association as a civil litigation specialist.

**Jan M. Conlin** was named one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Minnesota by Super Lawyers for her work in business litigation. A founding partner of Ciresi Conlin in Minneapolis, she focuses her practice in intellectual property and business-critical litigation.

**Stephanie A. Ball** was named a 2020 Minnesota Super Lawyer. Stephanie practices in the area of civil litigation at Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick in Duluth.

**William Invie Shroyer** was recognized by Best Lawyers in America for real estate and corporate law. He is a shareholder in the real estate, corporate law, and banking and finance practices of Milwaukee-based Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren.

**William Hardacker** received the Minnesota Lawyer In-House Counsel Award in the area of nonprofit or government organization. William is in-house counsel for the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community.

**Colleen Lomax** has joined the board of directors of Vitalyst Health Foundation. Lomax is an
attorney at Meagher & Geer in Minneapolis, practicing in the areas of commercial litigation and product liability litigation.

Sara Gullickson McGrane was named one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Minnesota by Super Lawyers. She is an attorney with Felhaber Larson in Minneapolis, where she is an experienced practitioner in all aspects of employment litigation.

Chad Baruch was named Lawyer of the Year for appellate practice in Dallas/Fort Worth by Best Lawyers in America. He is a managing shareholder at Johnston Tobey Baruch, where his practice includes civil, criminal, and family law appeals.

Jeanette Bazis was named one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Minnesota by Super Lawyers for her work in business litigation. Bazis is an attorney with Greene Espel in Minneapolis, where her practice has focused largely on federal courts.

Susan E. Ellingstad was recognized in the 2021 edition of Best Lawyers in America. She is a partner with Lockridge Grindal Nauen in Minneapolis and leads the firm’s employment law practice.

Lee Lastovich was recognized in the Chambers USA 2020 Guide for his work in labor and employment law. A litigator and trial lawyer, he is the office managing principal and litigation manager of the Minneapolis office of Jackson Lewis.

Scott A. Neilson was honored by Best Lawyers for his work in insurance and product liability litigation. He is a shareholder and attorney with Henson Efron in Minneapolis, where he represents individuals, small businesses, and large corporations nationwide.

Roxanne Rothschild was elected a fellow of the College of Labor & Employment Lawyers. She is executive secretary of the National Labor Relations Board, and was the first woman to be appointed to this position in 76 years.

Vildan A. Teske was named one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Minnesota by Super Lawyers for her work in class action and mass torts. She is a partner with Teske Katz, where she litigates state and national consumer class actions.

Brett Ludwig was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as a judge on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. He previously served as the U.S. Bankruptcy Court judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin since 2017.

Julie Allyn was appointed by Gov. Tim Walz as a district court judge in Minnesota’s 4th Judicial District. She previously served as an assistant Hennepin County attorney and a Minnesota assistant attorney general.

Satveer S. Chaudhary was recognized with the Excellence Award by the Hennepin County Bar Association to honor his contribution to the profession through mentoring others. His private practice, Minneapolis-based Chaudhary Law Offices, focuses on immigration law.

Lora Friedemann was recognized as one of Minnesota’s most powerful business leaders in the 2020 edition of the Minnesota 500. She is a shareholder and trial lawyer at Fredrikson & Byron in Minneapolis, focusing on intellectual property cases.

Jennifer Frisch was appointed a judge on the Minnesota Court of Appeals by Gov. Tim Walz. She previously served as senior associate general counsel at the University of Minnesota, where she represented the University as trial and appellate counsel in state and federal courts.

Michelle Gilboe was featured as the attorney of the month on the cover of a special Minnesota edition of Attorney at Law magazine. Gilboe is a trial attorney with experience in complex class action, toxic tort, and MDL litigation.

Terri Yellowhammer was appointed by Gov. Tim Walz as a district court judge in Minnesota’s 4th Judicial District. Prior to her appointment, she was the American Indian community relations development manager for Hennepin County.

Craig Bramley was recently recognized in Best Lawyers in America. Craig serves as managing director with Berman & Simmons in Portland, Maine, and represents plaintiffs in medical malpractice and personal injury cases.

Neil Fulton was appointed to the South Dakota Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Training Commission. Fulton has served as a federal public defender and as chief of staff for former South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds. He has also been active with the South Dakota State Bar, including time spent as chair of the ethics committee.

Jack Rice received the 2020 Professional Excellence Award from the Minnesota State Bar Association. He founded Jack Rice Defense in...
Brett Ludwig ’94 Appointed to Federal Judgeship in Wisconsin

The U.S. Senate confirmed Brett Ludwig ’94 to a seat on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Ludwig became a Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin in 2017 and served on that court until becoming a district judge. Ludwig formerly had a commercial litigation practice at Foley & Lardner, where he had also chaired the firm’s pro bono practice. He also clerked for Judge George Fagg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit.

Robert J. Heinrich was recently recognized in Best Lawyers in America and also named a leader in his field by Chambers USA. Heinrich is a shareholder in the banking and finance practice at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren in Milwaukee. Clara J. Ohr has joined Goldwind Americas as a deputy general counsel. She previously served as general counsel for East Coast Power & Gas. Marya P. Robben was named one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Minnesota by Super Lawyers. She is a partner in the Minneapolis office of Lathrop GPM, practicing in the areas of estate planning, estate and gift taxation, fiduciary representation, probate administration, trust formation and administration, and guardianship and conservatorship law. Marian E. Saksena was named one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Minnesota by Super Lawyers. She is a founding officer at the Stephenson National Bank & Trust in Marquette, Michigan.

Robert J. Heinrich was recently recognized in Best Lawyers in America and also named a leader in his field by Chambers USA. Heinrich is a shareholder in the banking and finance practice at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren in Milwaukee. Clara J. Ohr has joined Goldwind Americas as a deputy general counsel. She previously served as general counsel for East Coast Power & Gas. Marya P. Robben was named one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Minnesota by Super Lawyers. She is a partner in the Minneapolis office of Lathrop GPM, practicing in the areas of estate planning, estate and gift taxation, fiduciary representation, probate administration, trust formation and administration, and guardianship and conservatorship law. Marian E. Saksena was named one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Minnesota by Super Lawyers. She is a founding officer at the Stephenson National Bank & Trust in Marquette, Michigan.

David A. Schultz was named Distinguished University Professor of Political Science and Legal Studies at Hamline University in St. Paul—the first faculty member at Hamline to receive that title. He also holds an appointment at the University of Minnesota Law School and teaches election law, state constitutional law, and professional responsibility.

Heather C. Addison recently graduated from the Cannon Trust School with the honor graduate designation. She has also received her certified trust and financial advisor certifications. She is a trust officer at the Stephenson National Bank & Trust in Marquette, Michigan.

Frederick W. Dingledy won the American Association of Law Libraries’ Law Library Journal Article of the Year Award, for his paper “From Stele to Silicone: Publication of Statutes, Public Access to the Law, and the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act.” Dingledy is the senior reference librarian and an adjunct professor at William & Mary Law School. Adam Furber was named Investment Funds Lawyer of the Year at The Asian Lawyer’s 2020 Asia Legal Awards. Furber is head of Simpson Thacher’s Asia Investment Funds Practice.

Tara C. Nordgard was named one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Minnesota by Super Lawyers. She is a partner at Carlson Caspers in Minneapolis, where her practice focuses on intellectual property and high-stakes business litigation.
01 Dinesh R. Badkar has opened his own firm in Los Angeles. Badkar Law helps clients with all aspects of general business litigation with a focus on real estate and health care matters. Badkar was previously a partner with Manatt, Phelps & Phillips.

Rebecca Lawrence joined Ballard Spahr in Minneapolis as senior counsel, focusing on public finance and municipal securities regulation and enforcement. Previously, she was managing director and associate general counsel for Piper Jaffray.

Brooke Tassoni received the Minnesota Lawyer In-House Counsel Award in the category of private companies with annual revenues over $500 million. Tassoni serves as a senior lawyer and litigation practice team lead at Cargill Inc.

02 Jessica Boelter joined White & Case in New York as a partner in the firm’s financial restructuring and insolvency practice. She was previously global co-chair of Sidley Austin's restructuring practice.

Cameron Boyd received the Minnesota Lawyer In-House Counsel Award in the area of nonprofit or government organization. He is general counsel for the Metropolitan Airports Commission and has been with the organization for more than 16 years.

Anthony Eliseuson was promoted to litigation program director for the Animal Legal Defense Fund. Before joining the ALDF in 2017, he was a litigation partner in the Chicago office of Dentons.

Daniel West received the Minnesota Lawyer In-House Counsel Award in the private company with annual revenues up to $500 million category. He is general counsel for Doran Companies.

Court J. Anderson was recognized by Best Lawyers for his work in trusts and estates. Court is a shareholder and attorney with Henson Efron in Minneapolis, where he advises and represents individuals and businesses in a wide variety of commercial and construction disputes.

03 Jess Anna Glover was named executive director of the Land Stewardship Project. She also serves as director of the Land Stewardship Action Fund, a sister organization.

Rachel Hughhey was honored by the Hennepin County Bar Association with its 2020 Excellence Award for Mentoring in the Profession. She is a partner in the intellectual property practice at Merchant & Gould in Minneapolis, as well as co-chair of the firm’s appellate practice.

Alpasian Sapmaz was promoted to partner at Merchant & Gould in Minneapolis, where his practice is focused on general intellectual property law with an emphasis on patent prosecution in the mechanical arts.

Aaron Simon has joined Meagher & Geer in Minneapolis as an of counsel attorney in the professional liability, insurance, and complex general liability areas. He previously was a senior litigation attorney with Brownson.

Jaime Driggs was selected as a fellow by the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. A shareholder with Henson Efron in Minneapolis, Driggs was recognized as a 2020 Minnesota Super Lawyer in the area of family law.

Alison McElroy received the Minnesota Lawyer In-House Counsel Award in the private company with annual revenues up to $500 million category. She is president, international and chief legal officer for Lift Brands in Chanhassen, Minnesota.

Julie Skoge was promoted to partner at Merchant & Gould in Minneapolis. She is a registered patent attorney who practices IP law with an emphasis on patent prosecution for both domestic and foreign clients.

Andrew P. Young joined Barnes & Thornburg as a partner in its San Diego office, working in the litigation practice. He previously served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the major frauds and public corruption unit for the Southern District of California and as a criminal trial attorney in the Department of Justice’s tax division.

Laura Moehrle was appointed a district court judge in Minnesota’s 7th Judicial District by Gov. Tim Walz. She previously was a shareholder with Quinlivan & Hughes in St. Cloud, Minnesota, where she specialized in insurance defense litigation and medical malpractice defense for more than 14 years.

Andrew W. Davis was recognized by the Pro Bono Council of the Minnesota State Bar Association and the Minnesota Supreme Court for his outstanding pro bono efforts in 2019. Davis donated more than 200 hours of pro bono service in 2019, including significant time on local human rights matters.

Jessica Hutson Polakowski was named to the 2021 list of Best Lawyers in America. She is a shareholder in the intellectual property litigation and litigation practice groups at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren in Madison, Wisconsin.

Thomas G. Sinas was named as one of Michigan’s top 10 personal injury plaintiff’s lawyers by Leading Lawyers. He manages the Sinas Dramis Law Firm’s Grand Rapids office, focusing on personal injury and wrongful death litigation, auto negligence, and Michigan auto no-fault law.

Alex Wolf was elected president of Koley Jessen in Omaha, Nebraska. His primary areas of practice include estate planning and administration, business succession planning, and organizational/tax planning for closely held businesses and nonprofit entities.

Andrew Borene has joined Cybereason, a cybersecurity technology company, as managing director for its U.S. public sector business. He has more than 20 years of senior leadership experience in industry, government, and academia with security and intelligence technology initiatives.

Jennifer C. Moreau was named a shareholder at Barna, Guzy & Steffen in Coon Rapids, Minnesota. She is a member of the firm’s litigation and...
Rachel Hughey ’03 was honored by the Hennepin County Bar Association with its 2020 Excellence Award for Mentoring in the Profession. She is a partner in the intellectual property practice at Merchant & Gould in Minneapolis, as well as co-chair of the firm’s appellate practice. She is also an active pro bono volunteer. According to the HCBA, “[Hughey] has been a steadfast advocate for advancing women in the profession through mentoring, board service, and inviting newer attorneys to take part in meaningful work.”

Rachel Herder ’11 joined Mammoth Biosciences, a San Francisco biotechnology company, as vice president of intellectual property. As a patent attorney, she has represented startups, both at an IP law firm and as the director of the Intellectual Property Clinic at Penn State Law. Herder has focused her career on representing clients in the genome editing and gene diagnostic spaces and has advised startup life science clients on various aspects of intellectual property law, including patent prosecution, litigation, and global patent strategy.
Minneapolis office, where she leads clients through business litigation matters, including environmental litigation, defense of consumer claims, and contract disputes.

Mikka Gee Conway was named the first chief diversity, inclusion, and belonging officer at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Previously, she was associate general counsel for the J. Paul Getty Trust.

Rachel Herder joined Mammoth Biosciences, a San Francisco biotechnology company, as vice president of intellectual property. Previously, she was director of the intellectual property clinic and assistant professor of clinical law at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School.

Sharon Markowitz was named an Up & Coming attorney by Minnesota Lawyer. She is a partner at Stinson, where she represents financial services clients and handles class action litigation and appellate litigation for a range of clients.

Adam Tomczik was elected to a second term as president of AFSCME Local 2938, a labor union representing attorneys and legal support staff employed by Hennepin County in the County Attorney’s Office, the Public Defender’s Office, and the Adult Representation Services Division.

Maya S. Zahn Rhine was named to the Best Lawyers Ones to Watch list. She is a shareholder at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren in Madison, Wisconsin, with a practice in commercial real estate.

James Dickey has joined the Upper Midwest Law Center in Golden Valley, Minnesota, as assistant general counsel. Previously, he was an associate attorney with both Hellmuth & Johnson and Bernick Lifson.

Paige Stradley was promoted to partner at Merchant & Gould in Minneapolis. She works in the firm’s intellectual property practice on a range of litigation involving patents, copyrights, trademark, and false advertising disputes.

Eric M. Friske was named to the Best Lawyers Ones to Watch list for his work in several areas of litigation. He is an associate at Henson Efron in Minneapolis in the firm’s corporate and business litigation practice group.

Benjamin J. Hamborg was named to the Best Lawyers Ones to Watch list in commercial litigation; litigation—labor and employment; and litigation—trusts and estates. He is an associate at Henson Efron in Minneapolis in the firm’s corporate and business litigation practice group.

Yunjie (Jen) Ji has joined the global toy company Mattel Inc. as APAC legal counsel in the Shanghai office. Previously, Jen was general counsel for Red Pulse Technologies.

Jacquelyn Lutz joined Messick Law in Woodbury, Minnesota, where her practice will focus solely on family law. She was recently named a Rising Star by Super Lawyers, and she devotes significant time to pro bono representation through Legal Service of Dakota County.

Pari McGarraugh was elected a shareholder at Fredrikson & Byron’s Minneapolis office. Her practice includes the areas of health law, health care fraud and compliance, litigation, and white collar and regulatory defense.

Michael Vargas was named a 40 Under 40 honoree for 2020 by Silicon Valley Business Journal. He is an associate with Rimon Law in Palo Alto, California, with practice areas in financial services, corporate, technology, education, universities, and endowments.

Katherine Bills joined Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren as a real estate attorney in the firm’s Milwaukee and Chicago offices. Her practice focuses on auto dealership law and commercial real estate. She previously served as in-house counsel for Lift Brands, formerly known as Snap Fitness.

Rachel Kitze Collins was elected chair of the Minnesota State Bar Association’s environmental, natural resources, and energy law section. She is an associate at Lockridge Grindal Nauen in Minneapolis, where she practices primarily in the firm’s environmental and business law groups.

Sarvesh Desai was named an Up & Coming Attorney by Minnesota Lawyer. He was also named to the Best Lawyers Ones to Watch list for his work with business organizations.

Alex Dyste-Demet was named an Up & Coming attorney by Minnesota Lawyer. She is an attorney-adviser in the Office of the Solicitor at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Chuqin (Xing) Anderson was named to the ABA’s On the Rise: Top 40 Young Lawyers list for 2020. She is a managing associate in the real estate practice group at Dentons in Atlanta.

Caitlinrose Fisher was named an Up & Coming Attorney by Minnesota Lawyer. She is an attorney at Greene Espel in Minneapolis, working in business litigation, government and constitutional litigation, politics and elections, appellate, and white-collar criminal defense.

Emily Bodtke Zambrana was named an Up & Coming Attorney by Minnesota Lawyer. She is an associate in the product liability practice group at Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath’s Minneapolis office.

Kyle Kroll was named the 2019-20 Outstanding New Lawyer of the Year by the Minnesota State Bar Association. He was also elected assistant treasurer of the Federal Bar Association Minnesota Chapter. He is an attorney in the business and commercial litigation practice at Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis.
Arielle S. Wagner was elected president of the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association. She had previously served two terms as vice president. She is an associate at Lockridge Grindal Nauen in Minneapolis, practicing in the firm’s antitrust, data breach, and tribal government representation groups.

Rudolph Dambeck, a JAG officer in the US Army, earned the Expert Soldier Badge in October. The ESB badge is earned through intensive testing in physical fitness, weapons, patrol, and combat medical aide. Rudolph is the first US Army lawyer to earn this badge.

Paul R. Gaus has recently joined Downey Brand as a bankruptcy litigation associate in its Sacramento office.

Michael Ogle has joined Sidley Austin as an attorney in the company’s New York office. Previously, he was an attorney with Vedder Price.

Paul D. Hallgren joined Cozen O’Connor’s Minneapolis office as an associate. Previously, he was an associate with Ballard Spahr.

April L. Will joined Moss & Barnett in Minneapolis as an attorney. She is a member of the firm’s family law team, helping clients with dissolution proceedings, paternity, custody, child support, orders for protection, and distribution of marital assets and debts.

Joseph M. Hallman joined McKee, Voorhees & Sease in Des Moines, Iowa, as an intellectual property attorney in the mechanical and electrical practice areas. At Minnesota Law, Hallman was managing editor of the Minnesota Journal of Law, Science & Technology.

Shea M. Holman’s article “Steps to Maintain Workplace Equality During the Pandemic” was published in Law360. Shea co-authored the article with Ally Coll, president of The Purple Campaign, a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing workplace harassment.

Submit Your Class Notes:
Do you have news that you’d like to share with your classmates? Submit your class notes to lawalum@umn.edu

Driven.
The Campaign for the University of Minnesota Law School

Professor Bradley G. Clary propelled Minnesota Law’s legal writing and moot court programs for more than two decades. This legacy will continue through the newly created Bradley G. Clary Scholarship. Give today to directly offset the financial burden for our students, allowing them to spend more time challenging ideas and solving problems, instead of making ends meet.

Support this fund at z.umn.edu/FacultyWhoInspire
Recent Gifts

GIFTS OF $100,000+

The Robina Foundation made its final gift of $2.3M to endow the Law School Dean’s Innovation Fund. Founded by philanthropist James H. Binger ’41, the Robina Foundation has sought, since its inception, to invest in organizations in pursuit of innovation in critical social issues. At the dean’s discretion, this fund will support innovative programs and initiatives, such as to promote Law School faculty research and engagement, enhance student experiences, and advance the overall mission and goals of the University of Minnesota Law School and its dean. With this final gift, the Robina Foundation has completed its mission and will cease operations at the end of 2020.

Thomas ’83 & Victoria Mielke made gifts in support of the Law School Diversity Scholarship Fund, taking advantage of the Law School Scholarship Match, and created the newly endowed SMS Diversity Scholarship. Named in honor of their daughter’s favorite Supreme Court justice, Sonia Maria Sotomayor, this scholarship will support underrepresented students at Minnesota Law. Tom and Victoria’s generous commitments are driven by a desire to enable students to follow the career path best suited to their passions and talents. Tom is the former executive vice president and general counsel for Kimberly-Clark.

GIFTS OF $25,000–$99,999

Charles Nauen ’80 and Pati Jo Pofahl ’86 made an additional commitment to the Charles Nauen and Pati Jo Pofahl Diversity Scholarship. Knowing the importance of increasing diversity at Minnesota Law and in the greater Twin Cities legal community, Charles and Pati Jo created their endowed scholarship. This gift was also motivated by their desire to ensure that the students of today receive the same opportunities they had. Charles is a partner at Lockridge Grindal Nauen, and, following her corporate legal career, Pati Jo went on to teach English as a second language to immigrants and refugees in St. Paul.

Catlan McCurdy ’11 and Sanjiv Laud ’12 made a gift, with the help of a match from Minnesota Law, to endow the George Floyd Memorial Scholarship in Law as a tribute to George Floyd and as a call to action to support diversity initiatives and racial equity in the legal profession. This scholarship will provide critical financial support, allowing underrepresented students, and Black or African American students in particular, to pursue careers in the law and achieve their dreams.

Dean ’08 and Diana Matheson made a generous gift to endow the new Matheson Lecture in Corporate Governance in honor of Dean’s father and Minnesota Law professor John Matheson. Dean is vice president and chief legal officer at Multek, and Diana is a real estate attorney at Investment Building Group. Their intent is for the Matheson Lecture to be an annual, community event broadly focused on corporate governance that will be jointly organized by Minnesota Law and the Law School’s Corporate Institute.

Dafei Chen ’00 made a generous gift to endow the Bridge Qiao Scholarship at Minnesota Law. A managing partner at Han Kun, Dafei is a proud and actively engaged Minnesota Law alumnus in Greater China. His contribution will support Minnesota Law students who aim to contribute to a positive and improved global relationship, as well as mutual understanding and respect, among people and countries, particularly the U.S. and Greater China.

Paul ’64 and Jeanne Ravich made a new commitment in support of the Law School Scholarship Fund, taking advantage of the Law School Scholarship Match. Paul is a founding partner of Ravich Meyer Kirkman McGrath Nauman & Tansey. Scholarship support made a top-notch legal education accessible for Paul, and he and Jeanne believe it is important to pass on this legacy. Paul and Jeanne’s generous contribution will help the Law School provide crucial student support during this time.

TESTAMENTARY BEQUESTS

Norman ’76 and Constance Bjornnes

Merry Rosenberg ’80
PLANNED GIVING

Make Your Impact.

Planned gifts are as varied as the lawyer-leaders who make them. By partnering with Minnesota Law, along with your family and trusted advisors, you can create a plan that reflects your charitable goals, maximizes potential tax benefits, provides financial security for you and your loved ones, and creates a lasting legacy for you that will help the Law School remain a leader worldwide.

Examples of recent planned gifts include:

- A bequest to grow the Dean Carl Auerbach Public Interest Summer Fellowship
- A bequest to grow the Class of 1969 Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Bequests to create a new endowed chair in Business Law and a new endowed professorship in Environmental Law
- A beneficiary designation of retirement assets to grow an existing named diversity scholarship
- A charitable remainder trust beneficiary designation to provide endowed support of a current Law School clinic
- Directing proceeds from a charitable gift annuity to support endowed scholarships
- A life insurance beneficiary designation to provide unrestricted Law School support

Visit law.umn.edu/give/planned-giving or contact David Jensen, Director of Advancement at dljensen@umn.edu or (612) 625-2060 for further information and to learn more about ways you can achieve your philanthropic goals and cement your Minnesota Law legacy.

The Dean Carl Auerbach Public Interest Summer Fellowship

Dean Carl Auerbach served as dean from 1972-79, spearheading the effort to build Mondale Hall as a home for the Law School. The Dean Carl Auerbach Public Interest Summer Fellowship was created in his honor to support students who share his belief in the connection between law, public service, and social justice. Your contribution to this fund will support a summer position for a student dedicated to public interest work.

Support this fund at z.umn.edu/FacultyWhoInspire
Tributes

RUSSELL A. ANDERSON ’68, FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE MINNESOTA SUPREME COURT

Russell A. Anderson ’68, who served on the Minnesota Supreme Court from 1998 to 2008, the last two years as chief justice, died Sept. 15 at his home, surrounded by his family. He was 78, and had been diagnosed with glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer, in 2017.

Anderson, a native of Bemidji in north-central Minnesota, did his undergraduate work at St. Olaf College before enrolling at the Law School. He earned a Master of Laws degree from George Washington University in 1977. His law career included six years in private practice in Bemidji and four years as county attorney in Beltrami County. Before his appointment to the state’s high court, he spent 15 years as a judge in Minnesota’s 9th Judicial District. He was also a member of the U.S. Navy’s Judge Advocate General’s Corps in Washington, D.C. After his judicial career ended, Anderson taught evidence at Minnesota Law.

In a statement, Minnesota’s current chief justice, Lorie Gildea, said, “Chief Justice Russell Anderson will be remembered with fondness and respect for his compassion, dedication, and commitment to ensure that every Minnesotan has equal access to justice. While on the court, he led efforts to combat domestic violence, promote problem-solving courts that focus on rehabilitation, and enhance public access to court information. He was also a strong advocate for a fair and impartial judiciary. Russ led with integrity, intelligence, and thoughtfulness, and his judicial career was only paralleled by his many civic contributions.”

ROBERT E. BOWEN ’48, FORMER MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Robert E. Bowen ’48, who served as a judge in both the Hennepin County and Minnesota District Court systems, passed away May 15 at the age of 96.

Bowen grew up in Minneapolis, Bowen was an Eagle Scout and valedictorian of the Blake School class of 1941. He served as a signal officer with the U.S. Army’s 1st Cavalry Division before enrolling at Minnesota Law.

Former Gov. Arne Carlson, who named Anderson to the Supreme Court bench, told the Minneapolis Star Tribune that in his time as the state’s chief executive he had made no better judicial appointment, and he praised Anderson’s “intellect, empathy, and integrity.”

After clerk ing for Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Thomas Gallagher ’21, Bowen began his lawyering career as a solo practitioner, concluding it 23 years later as a partner with Gray Plant Mooty (now Lathrop GPM). He was appointed to the Hennepin County Municipal Court in 1973 and to the Minnesota District Court in 1980. After retiring from the bench in 1988, Bowen spent the next 20 years as a court-appointed special master and as a mediator and arbitrator in civil cases.

Away from the courtroom, Bowen was an avid angler; indeed, he was so fond of fishing and its gear that fellow jurist Ann Montgomery ’74, now a senior U.S. District Court judge, once quipped, “If you ordered a judge from L. L. Bean, you’d get Bob Bowen.”

KURT BLUEDOG ’77, LEADING VOICE FOR NATIVE AMERICAN ISSUES

Kurt BlueDog ’77, a major figure in American Indian advocacy, jurisprudence, and legislation for more than four decades, died May 12 of complications from cancer. He was 70.

BlueDog grew up in Waubay, South Dakota, attending Enemy Swim Day School and Waubay High School. He received his bachelor’s degree from the University of South Dakota in 1972 and served as a signal officer with the U.S. Army’s 1st Cavalry Division before enrolling at Minnesota Law.

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BlueDog’s career highlights were many and wide-ranging. In his first year as a lawyer, he assisted in drafting the American Indian Religious Freedom Act; he later worked on such legislation as the Texas Band of Traditional Kickapoo Act and the Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities Assistance Act. He spent seven years as a staff attorney with the Native American Rights Fund of Boulder, Colorado, represented numerous tribal entities and interests in federal court, and served for more than 20 years as a chief judge with the tribal courts of the Fond du Lac, Lower Sioux, and Prairie Island communities.

At the time of his death, BlueDog was serving in leadership or advisory roles with several organizations, including the National Indian Gaming Association, the Minnesota Historical Society, and the Smithsonian Museum’s Native American Veterans Memorial Project.

“We are so saddened by the passing of Kurt BlueDog—a kind, intelligent friend to many and a staunch advocate for and defender of Native causes,” Keith Anderson, chairman of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, said in a statement. “The many results of Kurt’s tireless passion and work will live on throughout Indian Country.”

Tom Johnson ’70, who served as Hennepin County Attorney from 1979 to 1991, died June 8 at his home in Minneapolis after a six-year battle with advanced prostate cancer. He was 75.

Raised on a farm in northern Minnesota, Johnson graduated from Duluth Central High School and earned a bachelor’s degree in physics at the University of Minnesota before enrolling at Minnesota Law. In 1972, he worked on the campaign of Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern, and the following year he ran successfully for a seat on the Minneapolis City Council, where he served for four years.

Following Johnson’s 12-year term as Hennepin County Attorney, his last post as an elected official, he remained, according to the Star Tribune, “a force for justice reforms through both public advocacy and personal relationships, serving as a mentor to many state leaders.”

Johnson practiced environmental law at Gray Plant Mooty; he founded CornerHouse, an advocacy center for child victims of sexual abuse; he founded and sat on the board of the Minnesota Justice Research Center, which seeks fair and humane treatment for those in the criminal justice system (just a few weeks before his death, he participated in a board meeting online); and he led the nonprofit Council on Crime and Justice from 1998 to 2007. Until shortly before his death, Johnson also served as the volunteer Ombudsman for Clerical Sexual Abuse for the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis.

In an obituary he wrote himself last December, Johnson said that the most satisfying work he’d done was “calling attention to the unacceptable racial disparities in the justice system and their cost to society.” Shortly after Johnson’s death, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz issued a statement calling him “a voice for the voiceless, a passionate pursuer of justice, a loving husband, and a wise and good-humored father.”

Duane E. Joseph ’53, a partner with Minneapolis-based Dorsey & Whitney for more than 40 years and a steadfast Minnesota Law benefactor, passed away peacefully in Bonita Springs, Florida, on June 1. He was 91 and had been living with Parkinson’s disease for a number of years.

Joseph grew up in Minneapolis and was the first member of his family to attend college, earning both his undergraduate and J.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota, and working as a waiter from high school through law school to support his family and fund his education.
During his long career at Dorsey, he specialized in real estate, banking, and business law, and he chaired the firm’s real estate department and management committee. For more than 50 years, Joseph was a member of the board of directors of Ryan Companies, the large-scale construction, development, and real estate management concern headquartered in the Twin Cities. He taught real estate law as an adjunct professor at the Law School, served on the boards of numerous businesses and non-profit organizations, and co-founded Riverside Bank.

Beginning in 1980, Joseph and his late wife, Peggy, were consistent and generous donors to the Law School, making 43 gifts in all. As a member of the same AA group for more than 40 years, Joseph provided support and loyal friendship to many. Throughout his life, he had an avid interest in travel, world events, sports (he ran 12 marathons), the arts, and the latest technology and gadgets. He was known to family, friends, and colleagues as a keen observer and wit, a man of style, and a person of integrity and dignity who met his struggle with Parkinson’s with grace, fortitude, and an undiminished enthusiasm for life.

DENNIS MATHISEN ’66, LAWYER, BANKER, AND ENTREPRENEUR
Dennis “Matt” Mathisen ’66, who found success in law, banking, and real estate development and was known for his active lifestyle and wide array of philanthropic interests, passed away July 22 at his home in Vail, Colorado. He was 80 and had lived for 18 years with a rare lymphoma, after being given a life expectancy of five years at his original diagnosis.

A native of Minneapolis, Mathisen earned both his undergraduate and J.D. degrees at the University of Minnesota. After several years in corporate law at Lindquist & Vennum in Minneapolis, he moved into mergers and acquisitions strategy work, then segued into banking and finance and, ultimately, real estate development. Meanwhile, he found the time and focus to excel at skiing, sailing, scuba diving, road biking, golf, tennis, art collecting, and numerous other pursuits.

Mathisen received many awards and accolades during his career, but he was proudest of being honored with a 2011 Ripple of Hope Award from the Robert F. Kennedy Foundation for his work in human rights. (Other recipients of the award have included Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Bono, Congressman John Lewis, and President Barack Obama). Mathisen was a generous supporter of the Law School as well, both financially and with his time; he served on MN Law’s Board of Visitors in the early 2000s, and more recently he was a member of the steering committee for the Driven fundraising campaign. He also served such nonprofit organizations as the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Minnesota Humanities Commission, and the Mayo Clinic Leadership Council, among others.

THOMAS B. POCH ’67, MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
Thomas B. Poch ’67, who served for 15 years as a judge in Minnesota’s 1st Judicial District and as an assistant Ramsey County attorney for nearly three decades before that, died peacefully in his sleep at Breck Homes in Bloomington on March 15. He was 77 and had been diagnosed with dementia.

Poch joined the office of the Ramsey County Attorney shortly after earning his J.D. from the Law School. During his 29 years in that office, he headed up the Criminal Division and the Crimes Against Persons Unit, among other leadership roles.

In 1996, Minnesota Gov. Arne Carlson appointed Poch to the 1st District bench. He won reelection in 1998 and 2004, and, following his retirement in 2011, he served as a senior judge on the court. His proudest accomplishments included establishing the Dakota County Peer Court, presiding over tens of thousands of court cases, officiating at hundreds of weddings, and finalizing many adoptions.

Poch also received a direct commission in the Naval Reserve as a judge advocate general, and was later appointed a military judge in the Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary. He retired as a Navy captain in 1998 and subsequently volunteered as a Blue & Gold Officer for the U.S. Naval Academy. His time in the Reserve was spent on aircraft carriers, in Navy and Marine courtrooms, and traveling internationally to teach courtroom security. An avid skier, Poch was a member of the National Ski Patrol for 47 years.
In Memoriam

CLASS OF 1948
Robert E. Bowen
May 15, 2020
Bayport, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1950
Paul R. Buhl
June 11, 2020
Marlborough, Massachusetts

Burton J. Gindler
August 19, 2020
Los Angeles, California

Neal A. Lano
June 21, 2020
Grand Rapids, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1951
Edward I. Niles
May 21, 2020
Arroyo Grande, California

CLASS OF 1953
Duane E. Joseph
June 1, 2020
Bonita Springs, Florida

CLASS OF 1954
Fred R. Kraft
June 15, 2020
Edina, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1955
Clinton A. Schroeder
March 12, 2020
Edina, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1957
Ralph S. Schneider
July 10, 2020
Madison, Wisconsin

Jerald B. Wolfson
March 12, 2020
Kansas City, Missouri

CLASS OF 1958
Roger W. Sherman
May 17, 2020
Buffalo, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1959
Bruce W. Blackburn
August 14, 2020
Wayzata, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1959
Ralph S. Towler
September 5, 2020
Edina, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1961
Ralph R. Chiodo
June 14, 2020
Cumberland, Wisconsin

Philip J. Orthun
February 14, 2020
Scottsdale, Arizona

Michael J. Sheahan
May 17, 2020
Woodbury, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1962
Jerome R. Jallo
January 27, 2020
Minneapolis, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1963
Paul L. Billings
June 28, 2020
Edina, Minnesota

David E. Kelby
May 6, 2020
Fort Myers, Florida

CLASS OF 1966
John H. Kraft
April 20, 2020
Victoria, Minnesota

Dennis M. Mathisen
July 22, 2020
Phoenix, Arizona

CLASS OF 1967
Thomas B. Poch
March 15, 2020
Lakeville, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1968
Russell A. Anderson
September 15, 2020
Hopkins, Minnesota

James W. Lickle
May 26, 2020
New Brighton, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1969
James C. Boone
August 29, 2020
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Malcolm D. Reid
May 11, 2020
Minnetonka, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1970
Thomas L. Johnson
June 8, 2020
Minneapolis, Minnesota

John K. Kallman
March 20, 2020
Chicago, Illinois

CLASS OF 1971
Donald H. Burgett
March 16, 2020
Spicer, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1974
Lyle W. Kirmis
June 28, 2020
Plymouth, Minnesota

Ted N. Lundrigan
August 30, 2020
Pine River, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1976
Susan A. Nelson
February 4, 2020
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1977
Kurt V. BlueDog
May 12, 2020
Wayzata, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1978
Joseph L. Mayer
February 16, 2020
Alexandria, Virginia

Barbara A. Olson
May 17, 2020
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1979
Steven A. Anderson
April 17, 2020
Milaca, Minnesota

Bernice L. Fields
July 18, 2020
Minneapolis, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1981
Allan J. Beckel
May 3, 2020
Arvada, Colorado

CLASS OF 1982
Judith Moran Martin
March 25, 2020
Minneapolis, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1984
Roslale E. Johnson
July 24, 2020
Big Lake, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1987
Vicki C. Krueger
May 28, 2020
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1988
Michael A. Tracy
March 31, 2020
Minneapolis, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1990
Diane M. Cornell
April 10, 2020
Hudson, Wisconsin

CLASS OF 2001
Benjamin R. Elwood
February 17, 2020
St. Paul, Minnesota
“Recall your 1L year... stressful but character building? Now add the additional layers of virtual classes, or in-person classes with face masks and social distancing. Minnesota Law has adapted admirably, and significantly, to ensure that this year's 1L experience remains more character-building than stressful. But rapid innovation is only one component of that plan. Our financial support is a tangible way for us to demonstrate that alumni stand together with current scholars and faculty at Minnesota Law.”

Joshua L. Colburn ’07
2020-21 University of Minnesota Law School Annual Fund Chair

Annual Giving is behind every lawyer-leader

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

To make a gift, visit give.umn.edu/lawschool or contact Jackie O’Reilly, Annual Giving Officer, at 612-625-8435 or oreil061@umn.edu.
Thank you to the 246 alumni at 34 different firms who participated in the 2020 Partners at Work firm giving challenge and donated a total of $346,770 to the Law School. Overall participation in giving from Minnesota Law alumni working at a PAW firm was 30%! The firms that finished at the top in participation and dollars are highlighted below. **Thank you to everyone who donated to keep Minnesota Law strong and vibrant for the next generation of lawyer-leaders.**

### Top Three Firms by Participation

**GROUP 1**
- 1. Anthony Ostlund Baer & Louwagie
- 1. Kaplan, Strangis and Kaplan
- 1. Lind Jensen Sullivan & Peterson
- 1. O’Melveny & Myers

*A four-way tie for first place with 100%!

**GROUP 2**
- 1. Nilan Johnson Lewis
- 2. Bassford Remele
- 3. Maslon

**GROUP 3**
- 1. Winthrop & Weinstine
- 2. Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath
- 3. Lathrop GPM *(tied)*
- 3. Robins Kaplan *(tied)*

### Top Three Firms by Dollars

**GROUP 1**
- 1. Henson Efron
- 2. Kaplan, Strangis and Kaplan
- 3. Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

**GROUP 2**
- 1. Maslon
- 2. Merchant & Gould
- 3. Nilan Johnson Lewis

**GROUP 3**
- 1. Lathrop GPM
- 2. Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath
- 3. Fredrikson & Byron

To learn more about Partners at Work, contact Elissa Ecklund Chaffee, Director of Alumni Relations & Annual Giving at echaffee@umn.edu or 612.626.8671
WHY I GIVE  Michelle Miller ’86

For Michelle Miller ’86—chair of the Minnesota Law Board of Advisors and Vice President, Chief Counsel, Employment Law at Medtronic—giving is grounded in family tradition. “One of the adages my family lived by is ‘To whom much is given, much is expected.’ We weren’t wealthy people, but we believed that whatever blessings we had were to be shared.”

Education was another central tenet. “My father believed that education was the answer—that the way for African Americans in the United States to progress and overcome the inequities that we see and to which we’re subjected was through education. As my sister, brother, and I grew up, the one value that we heard the most about was education. And that has driven much of the work I have done.

“I believe in philanthropy, that we should give where we perceive we can make the most difference. I believe African Americans are still underrepresented… in the practice of law—that there should be more opportunities and more encouragement for those opportunities. One way to enhance those possibilities is to provide whatever financial contributions my husband, Al and I, can give to the Law School.”

HOMETOWN: Miller has lived in Minneapolis since 1971, but “Mississippi is home.”

GIVING: Murphy Society member

WHAT YOU WON’T FIND ON HER RESUME: That when she started law school, Miller thought she’d be a civil rights litigator and change the world. “My goal is still to make a difference,” she says. “No one person changes the world. We all work on our little corners of the world and hope that we are able to collaborate with like-minded people and then make a difference.”

ADVICE TO FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS: “You need to answer three questions: Who are you, really—what are your values, what are you really about? What price are you willing to pay for something called success? And what is success anyway?”
WAYS TO GIVE
There are many ways to give back to the University of Minnesota Law School. For more information, visit www.law.umn.edu/giving. Or send your gift directly to the University of Minnesota Foundation, P.O. Box 860266, Minneapolis, MN 55486-0266, noting “Law School” in the memo line.

ANNUAL FUND
Student scholarships, clinics, and faculty support are just a few areas that benefit from annual gifts made to the Law School. Please contact Lizzy Beghelli, assistant director of annual giving, at (612) 624-0097 or beghelli@umn.edu to learn more about how you can support the Annual Fund.
On October 22, students, faculty, and staff joined in a virtual celebration of Minnesota Law’s annual recognition of philanthropy—**Gopher Gratitude Day**. Students wrote and recorded thank-you messages to the alumni and friends who support the Law School every year and whose generosity makes a real difference for the entire Minnesota Law community.

“Your generous support is helping to provide future lawyer-leaders with an incredible legal education. As a recipient of a scholarship, I am aware every day of how fortunate I am to be taught by world-class professors, supported by deeply invested faculty and staff, and lifted up by our Minnesota Law community and alumni. Thank you for your support, and I look forward to being able to pay it forward in the future.” —Sharie Cassioppi, 2L

You can learn more about Gopher Gratitude Day and test your philanthropy IQ at this year’s virtual site: z.umn.edu/GopherGratitudeDay