PROTECTING YOU AND YOURS
Consumer Law Specialists Help Clients Weather the Storm

Robina Foundation
$25 Million Gift Funds
Binger Center for New Americans

Journal of Law and Inequality Celebrates 25 Years

Theory at Work:
JaneAnne Murray

Faculty Profile:
Francis Shen
Perspectives is a general interest magazine published in the fall and spring of the academic year for the University of Minnesota Law School community of alumni, friends, and supporters. Letters to the editor or any other communication regarding content should be sent to Cynthia Huff (huffx070@umn.edu), Director of Communications, University of Minnesota Law School, 229 19th Avenue South, 421 Mondale Hall, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

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ANY TRANSFORMATION BEGINS WITH AN IDEA

As I conclude my first year as dean, I’m particularly impressed by this law school’s deep commitment to excellence and innovation. There’s a uniqueness to the University of Minnesota Law School. I am delighted to be a part of a community of such smart and committed individuals. We are a community driven to provide a transformational educational experience, to advance knowledge, and to impact our community.

What drives us? What propels us forward? I think it’s the visionary efforts of our people, programs, and philanthropy—all of which are aimed at transforming individuals, legal education, and the law itself to better serve our citizens.

Our accomplished and creative faculty and students are making important contributions to law and policy, and their excellence is recognized by those outside of our community. For instance, Professor Daniel Schwarcz’s influential scholarship was recently honored with the Early Career Scholars Medal from the American Law Institute. The medal is awarded just every other year to one or two outstanding law professors whose work is relevant to the real world, contributes to public policy, and has the potential to influence improvements in the law. In addition, our students—guided by our world-class faculty—are applying what they’re learning to transform themselves for successful careers, with several winning national writing awards and major skills competitions (see pages 35-38). These awards and accomplishments confirm that we are bold thinkers and problem-solvers ready to tackle complex challenges.

Earlier this year, the Law School received an astounding charitable gift from the Robina Foundation to advance our clinical programs (see page 6). The grant has already yielded results. In addition to the impact that the Binger Center for New Americans has on individual immigrants’ lives and the community overall, this center offers a transformative and unique opportunity for our students. Moreover, it establishes this law school as the premier legal immigration education and reform institution in the United States.

As the legal education environment changes and levels of state support for higher education decline, we rely more and more on philanthropy to help fund innovative initiatives such as the Binger Center. It is my hope that this gift, in addition to creating a transformative center, will spark another kind of transformation—one in which more and more alumni and friends claim their places as philanthropists in support of the Law School to sustain our greatness and mission for generations.

Your continued generosity, engagement, and leadership are critical to our ongoing success. All of us are grateful for the remarkable support. We should celebrate this landmark $25 million gift, but we should also think of it as an exciting new beginning.

Garry W. Jenkins
Dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law
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FIFTY YEARS AGO, WHEN THE Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. published his book *Where Do We Go From Here*, he tackled issues of racial and economic justice. In an MLK Convocation held Jan. 18 at the Law School, Dean Garry W. Jenkins, Judge Michael Davis (’72), and Judge Nicole Starr (’03), tackled the same topic, but altered the subtitle from King’s “Chaos or Community?” to one probing the topic “Law and Leadership in a Fractured Era.” The convocation was sponsored by the Law School Diversity Committee.

Jenkins began the discussion by noting that systemic and implicit bias continue to exist in the United States, as do racial inequities in the criminal justice system. He then asked the panelists to address the topic of law and leadership:

Davis, a senior judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota, urged students to think of themselves as leaders today, and not wait until graduation. “You are leaders,” he said. “You don’t need me here. I have passed the torch to you.”

Added Davis, “People will look at you as a leader because you have a law degree…. Keep that fire you have...

On March 30, the Law School Democrats hosted a Minneapolis mayoral candidates forum at the Law School.


Winners of the Dorothy O. Lareau Writing Award, by section: (D) Paul Dimick ('19), (B) Graciela Quintana ('19), (C) Frances Fink ('19), and (A) Nicole Streifel ('19), with Professor Chris Soper

Judge Nicole Starr ('03)

that got you to law school.”

Starr, appointed in 2014 to a judgeship in Minnesota’s 2nd Judicial District (Ramsey County), told those in attendance to work with others in advocating for change. “None of us are truly excellent, but we can be excellent together,” she said.

Starr pointed to the Oxford Dictionaries’ declaration of post-truth as the 2016 “word of the year” as evidence of the need for attorneys—and law students—to jump into the public fray.

“You are among the most highly educated people in society,” she said. “You have a civic obligation to bring truth and knowledge into every discussion. You are uniquely situated.”

Both Starr and Davis addressed the inherent friction between chaos and community, echoing King’s 1967 book. Starr said societal divisiveness prompts people to seek answers.

“It is the chaos that makes people think, ‘What do we have in common?’” she said. Then Starr answered her own question, noting, “Our commitment to the core goals of the United States and our core constitutional truths has carried us through…and brought us together time and time again.”

For his part, Davis noted that chaos isn’t necessarily a pejorative. “Without chaos, we don’t have progress,” Davis said. “That’s what brings about change.”

Individuals, he added, can play an important part in altering the course of history. He cited the example of civil rights attorney and former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, calling him the greatest lawyer of the 20th century. “He changed the country,” Davis said. ■

"Where Do We Go from Here?" is one of several events sponsored by the Law School Diversity Committee and others to discuss equity, diversity, and inclusion issues. A calendar is available at law.umn.edu/admissions/equity-diversity.
HISTORIC AND TRANSFORMATIONAL: ROBINA FOUNDATION $25 MILLION GIFT FUNDS JAMES H. BINGER CENTER FOR NEW AMERICANS

ON FEB. 6, 2017, THE LAW SCHOOL held a press conference to announce a $25 million gift from the Robina Foundation. The grant—the single largest philanthropic gift in the Law School’s history—will fund the newly named James H. Binger Center for New Americans, establish a James H. Binger Professorship in Clinical Law, and provide scholarship support to Law School students.

The gift will provide permanent financial support to the Law School for the ongoing operations of the James H. Binger Center for New Americans. The Center brings about transformative change by creating a national model for the provision of comprehensive and cohesive legal services for immigrant communities through a variety of means, including improving federal immigration law and policy through impact litigation; protecting detainee rights and improving access to legal representation for refugees and immigrants; educating noncitizens about their legal rights; creating dynamic and comprehensive immigration clinics for students; and collaborating with others on immigration issues.

During its four-year pilot program—also supported by the Robina Foundation—the Center won a landmark case at the U.S. Supreme Court; won political asylum for clients from around the world; and won release for detained immigrants in Minnesota.

The Center has three law firm partners—Dorsey and Whitney, Faegre Baker Daniels, and Robins Kaplan—and three nonprofit partners—the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, and The Advocates for Human Rights.

The Robina Foundation gift will be distributed in this way: $23.5 million will be directed for an endowment to support the Center, $1 million to establish and fund the James H. Binger Professorship in Clinical Law, and $500,000 to support scholarships for Law School students.

The clinical law professorship shall be awarded to a faculty member teaching within the Binger Center with a focus on immigration, asylum, detainee rights, and/or refugee law and policy.

Speaking at the press conference, University President Eric Kaler said, “We only need to look at the headlines to understand the importance of this gift. There are very few issues as pressing today in Minnesota and around the nation as the legal and public policies about—and the fate of—our immigrant and refugee communities. To our very generous partner, the Robina Foundation: Thank you for your sense of justice and your remarkable generosity. We’re so honored to be able to translate this historic gift into action: educating and training a committed group of young lawyers to ensure the safety of—and justice for—Minnesota’s new Americans, and others like them around the country and the world. This is a great day for our University, for our Law School, and for justice for all Americans.”

Commented Dean Garry W. Jenkins: “This gift represents an extraordinary vote of support for the University of Minnesota Law School. The work of the Binger Center will impact immigration law and policy and support vulnerable people whose lives and livelihoods have been damaged by conflict and persecution. Moreover, the Center is unlike any

The Binger Center offers a wealth of resources—white papers, practice advisories, conference notes and slide shows, and more—to support pro bono attorneys and immigration advocates. Visit www.law.umn.edu/james-h-binger-center-new-americans/resources.
other clinical program found at other law schools, because it unites an entire community of talented advocates in common cause for the rights of immigrants and refugees, and it gives law students leading roles in this work. By combining the passion and intelligence of our students with the resources and expertise of our partners, we provide unparalleled representation to immigrants—often saving families, sometimes even saving lives.

“Thank you to the Robina Foundation for your extraordinary vision, this strategic investment, and for the assurance that our students will benefit from the highest quality of experiential learning for generations to come.”

“Legal education is in the midst of significant change,” said Kathleen Blatz (’84), chair of the Robina Foundation and former chief justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, “and we are enthusiastic about how the University of Minnesota Law School remains committed to educational excellence and programmatic innovation. In a short period, the Center has proven itself to be a vital part of our community and a highly influential entity at a time when immigration is at the center of the national conversation. This project is consistent with the legacy of James Binger and his desire to promote transformational philanthropy.”

Professor Benjamin Casper Sanchez (’97), director of the Center, said: “To the Robina Foundation—we are thankful you believed in us and provided us the pilot funding to build the Center together these past four years. We can’t begin to express our gratitude now for this truly historic gift. The call we put out today is to young people, and to people of any age, who have been inspired by the example of immigrants and refugees overcoming enormous obstacles to become new Americans. If you are one of these people and you want to make a difference by becoming a lawyer, then we are talking to you. If you want to join our cause and defend the values of human dignity at the core of the United States Constitution, then please reach out to us. Apply to law school! There’s never been a more important time for you to follow your values and your idealism. With the endowment of the Binger Center for New Americans here at the University of Minnesota Law School, I promise you there has never been a better place.”

A symposium is being planned for this fall. Information will be available on the Law School’s website in the coming months.

The Robina Foundation, a Minnesota-based private grant-making foundation, seeks to positivly impact critical social issues by encouraging innovation and financially supporting transformative projects of its four institutional partners. These partners, selected by the foundation’s founder, James H. Binger (’41), are Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, the University of Minnesota Law School, and Yale University. This newest grant brings the Robina Foundation’s total giving to the University of Minnesota to nearly $60 million since 2008. ■
THE HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER (HRC) heads into its 28th year with expanded resources and opportunities for students and new partnerships for research and impact.

“This is a time of enormous excitement and challenge for the Human Rights Center,” says Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, who, along with Amanda Lyons (’09), directs the HRC. “There is a growing demand throughout the world for our research and the legal assistance our students provide.”

Founded in 1988 by Professor David Weissbrodt, one of the foremost human rights legal experts, the Center has earned an international reputation for its pioneering research, commitment to teaching, and support to the local, national, and global human rights community.

The Center’s focus is on researching real-world challenges, preparing future lawyers with the commitment and skills to defend human rights, and working with partners to impact law, policy, and practice.

This summer the HRC will send a cohort of fellows to local, national, and international human rights organizations. They follow in the steps of the more than 600 fellows who have worked in more than 390 organizations in 90 countries since the the HRC fellowship program was founded. With these competitive fellowships, students get hands-on legal training and experience while supporting high-impact organizations. For example, the first group of fellows selected will work in Costa Rica with the U.N. refugee agency, Switzerland with the U.N. high commissioner for human rights, Northern Ireland on post-conflict justice, Mexico with juveniles in detention, Washington, D.C., on LGBT rights, and Minneapolis with women’s rights and refugees and immigrants.

“The fellowships make it possible for talented and committed students to pursue these pivotal opportunities and support the work of important organizations,” says Lyons. “Their presence throughout the world also contributes to Minnesota’s national and international reputation as a leader in human rights and international law.”

Kristen Ann Hathaway (’17) can testify to the importance of the hands-on experience of mentoring under skilled and dedicated practicing attorneys. She spent last summer at the South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense working on several capital-defense cases, including the case of Dylan Roof, the man who shot nine members of a Charleston church during a prayer service. “My summer experience was invaluable,” she says. “I will carry the lessons I learned with me throughout my legal career.”

The new interdisciplinary University of Minnesota Human Rights Lab, which received a Grand Challenge Exploratory Research Grant, also sends students into the world to investigate ways to use cutting-edge research more effectively with NGOs and policymakers.

“The support alumni and University leaders provide is vital for our work,” says Ní Aoláin. “Our goal is to expand our base of supporters and our network of past fellows to help us respond effectively to human rights issues worldwide.”

By Kathy Graves, a writer based in Minneapolis
WAR CRIMES EXPERT LEADS OFF SYRIA SERIES

ON FEB. 21, THE LAW SCHOOL began a yearlong Syria Series with an appearance by Ambassador Stephen J. Rapp. The series will explore the geopolitical dimensions of the conflict in Syria, the pursuit of justice for mass atrocities, the lives and rights of the millions of refugees, and the local, national, and international responses to their bids for asylum. The series is organized by the Binger Center for New Americans, the Human Rights Center, and the University’s Human Rights Program.

From 2009 to 2015, Rapp served as the U.S. ambassador-at-large for war crimes issues in the Office of Global Criminal Justice. He is currently a fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide and a distinguished fellow at The Hague Institute for Global Justice. Rapp has been working tirelessly to collect documents and other evidence in war zones in Iraq and Syria and lay the foundation for prosecutions. As ambassador, Rapp coordinated U.S. government support to international criminal tribunals, including the International Criminal Court, as well as to hybrid and national courts responsible for prosecuting persons charged with genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. He gained particular attention for his work to lay the foundation for accountability for crimes in Syria, most prominently by arranging for the United Nations Commission of Inquiry and other prosecutorial authorities to gain access to a cache of 55,000 photos that documented torture by the Assad regime.

From 2007 to 2009, Rapp served as prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, where he led the prosecution of former Liberian president Charles Taylor. His office achieved the first convictions in history for sexual slavery and forced marriage as crimes against humanity, and for attacks on peacekeepers and recruitment and use of child soldiers as violations of international humanitarian law. From 2001 to 2007, he served as senior trial attorney and chief of prosecutions at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, where he led the trial team that achieved the first convictions in history of leaders of the mass media for the crime of direct and public incitement to commit genocide.

NEW PRO BONO PROGRAM OFFERS HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE TO LL.M. STUDENTS

LL.M. students at the University of Minnesota Law School can gain practical experience working with actual clients on real legal matters in a new pro bono program launched this year with LegalCORPS, a Minnesota nonprofit that provides free legal assistance to low-income entrepreneurs and innovators and small nonprofits. Under the supervision of a licensed attorney, LL.M. students work on a range of legal matters, from intellectual property (copyright and trademark) to the establishment of a limited liability company and a minority shareholder dispute. Students work with an attorney in conducting client interviews, carrying out legal research, and drafting correspondence and corporate documents, such as a member control agreement for an LLC. In addition to helping business owners who otherwise would not be able to afford to work with an attorney, students who plan to sit for the New York bar exam (a goal of many LL.M. students) also can fulfill the requirement that they provide at least 50 hours of pro bono work prior to the exam.

At press time, future events in the Syria Series were still in the planning stages. Information will be posted as it becomes available on the Events page of the Law School website. LAW.UMN.EDU/EVENTS
RECENT CLINIC SUCCESSES

BINGER CENTER FOR NEW AMERICANS

TRUMP TRAVEL BAN ACTIONS: In February, CNA students joined with attorneys from Dorsey & Whitney, the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, and other Center partners to represent Somali Minnesota resident Samira Dahir and her 4-year-old daughter, Mushkaad. The government had previously approved the child to enter the United States as a refugee to reunite with her mother, but the Trump administration’s initial travel ban blocked her from boarding her flight. After what CNA director Ben Casper Sanchez (’97) told the Washington Post was “hundreds of hours of work by a lot of people”—including Law School students and U.S. Senators Al Franken and Amy Klobuchar—Mushkaad was reunited with her mother in Minnesota.

While CNA students helped prepare a federal lawsuit for Dahir, they also coordinated their efforts with Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson’s office, which was preparing to join the state of Washington in a federal lawsuit, venued in Seattle, challenging the travel ban as unconstitutional. CNA students documented Dahir’s case and the cases of other immigrants and refugees in Minnesota harmed by the travel ban. On Feb. 3, a federal judge in Seattle granted Minnesota and Washington’s motion for a temporary injunction, which blocked key elements of the travel ban nationwide. This initial victory allowed thousands of immigrants and refugees who had previously been granted visas to return to the United States on those visas to reunite with family and go forward with planned studies at universities, including the University of Minnesota.

Adding to the growing tide of federal cases, the Center for New Americans also filed a lawsuit Feb. 3 in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on behalf of two Minnesota families. In both situations, the husbands are residents of the United States and their wives had passed all background checks, submitted all necessary documents, completed all necessary interviews, and been approved for immigrant visas, making them eligible for green cards upon entering the country. Co-counsel included The Advocates for Human Rights, AMA Law Group, Apollo Law, the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, and Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll (acting as local counsel). One of the plaintiffs, Saido Ahmed Abdille, and her two daughters were reunited with her family at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport on Feb. 5.

REUNITING A FAMILY: In December 2016, a Salvadoran woman who was granted asylum in the United States with the assistance of the Immigration and Human Rights Law Clinic was reunited with her three children for the first time in over four years. In December 2015, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services approved the Asylee Relative Petitions filed by the clinic, which allow a person who has been granted asylum to petition for his or her immediate family to travel to the U.S. and derive asylum status through the petitioner. The Salvadoran woman had suffered frequent beatings, sexual abuse, and threats by her husband over an extended period of time. Following the client’s grant of asylum, student attorney Tracey Alexander (’16), under the supervision of

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AT THE LAW SCHOOL

Judicial Writing Course
Taught by Professor Daniel Schwarcz and recent graduate Caitlinrose Fisher (’15), this new course focuses on developing the writing abilities and practical knowledge of prospective judicial law clerks. The class is centered around six writing assignments, including a bench memo, jury instructions, a trial court order, and several appellate opinions. Readings include attorneys’ briefings, relevant portions of the record, key precedents, and samples of past materials. The class will also provide students with practical information about how to be an effective law clerk, drawing heavily on guest talks from local federal and state judges and law clerks.

Corporate Fellowship
The Career Center has launched the Minnesota Law Corporate Fellowship program, which places recent graduates in full-time, paid, career-building legal employment positions. Fellowships typically last one year, and each corporate partner in the program crafts a position that will provide important professional development opportunities and legal skill advancement. Fellows work directly with in-house counsel and staff, developing specific legal skills in specific industries. The candidate selection process is competitive, providing corporate partners with young attorneys who are enthusiastic about contributing to the corporation’s legal team.
Professor Emily Good, clinic director Professor Steve Meili, and former clinic teaching fellow Katherine Evans, filed Asylee Relative Petitions for each of the client’s three children in El Salvador.

ROBINS KAPLAN CIVIL PRACTICE CLINIC

CIVIL ASSAULT VERDICT: In January, student attorneys Samuel Ketchum (’17) and Aaron Minster (’17)—accompanied by supervising attorney and clinical professor Laura Thomas and co-counsel David Wilson of Wilson Law Group—secured a $25,000 civil assault jury verdict in Houston County District Court. The courtroom victory, which came after many years of litigation on behalf of the client, Daxaben Patel, and her entire family, was the result of hundreds of hours of work.

The case arose out of events that occurred between 2010 and 2012. In 2010, the defendants executed affidavits of support as part of a family-based immigration sponsorship process. A court ruling in March 2015 found that these affidavits formed a contract between the defendants and the United States, requiring the defendants to support Patel and her family members at 125% of the federal poverty guideline.

TRAFFICKING VICTIM PROTECTION: In November 2016, the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California rejected defendants’ motion to dismiss the clinic’s human rights trafficking case on behalf of Cambodian workers who alleged that they were trafficked to factories where they produced shrimp and seafood for export to the United States. According to the complaint, in Thailand the plaintiffs were subjected to forced labor, their passports were confiscated, and they were subjected to inhumane conditions. Defendants include U.S.- and Thailand-based firms that sell seafood to companies such as Walmart. Since spring 2016, the clinic has assisted plaintiffs’ pro bono counsel, Cohen Millstein Sellers & Toll; Hadsell Stormer & Renick; Paul Hoffman; and Anthony DiCaprio.

Student attorneys included Chelsea Ahmann (’17), student director of the clinic; Andrew Gasdick (’18); Brian Gerd (’17); Kathryn Hirsch (’18); Shirin Johnson (’18); and Bailey Metzger (’18). In spring 2016, student attorneys also included Kristen Mishler (’17), Nari Oh (’16), and Max Zimmerman (’16).

HUMAN RIGHTS LITIGATION AND INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY CLINIC

UNITED NATIONS ADVOCACY: In March, five clinic students—Amanda McAllister (’17), Mary Beall (’18), Myounghee (Denise) Choung (’18), Kathryn Marquis Hirsch (’18), and Jonathan Mansker (’18), along with Professor Jennie Green—travelled to Geneva to observe and participate in the periodic review of Sri Lanka during the 66th session of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Students lobbied CEDAW members to address Sri Lankan women’s concerns of impunity, sexual violence, and the lack of transparent transitional justice mechanisms. Students discussed these issues with members and provided questions for members to pose to the Sri Lankan government. Through this experience, students learned the intricate workings of CEDAW periodic reviews and collaborated with experts from around the world to produce meaningful change in the lives of Sri Lankan women.
ON NOV. 18, 2016, LAW & Inequality: A Journal of Theory and Practice marked its 35th anniversary with a symposium honoring its founder, the eminent feminist scholar, lawyer, and activist Catharine A. MacKinnon. Currently a law professor at the University of Michigan, MacKinnon began her academic career at the Law School, where she founded Law & Inequality as the school’s second legal journal and served as its academic advisor. The journal’s first editorial board, perceiving insufficiencies in the examination of inequality in legal literature, sought under MacKinnon’s direction to create a forum for scholarship that analyzes how the law perpetuates systemic oppression, exploitation, and discrimination.

This year’s symposium, “Legal Feminism: Looking Back, Looking Forward,” brought together legal scholars and practitioners to examine the lasting impact of MacKinnon’s feminism on the law. Specifically, the symposium focused on her groundbreaking 1991 work, Toward a Feminist Theory of the State, exploring where the arguments in the book stand today and what elements of its vision have yet to transpire.

The symposium consisted of four panels: Power, Violence, and the Family; Feminism, Consent, and Rape Reform; Changing Ideas about Gender; and Feminism in International Law and Policy. Katharine Bartlett of Duke University School of Law presented a lunch keynote address on the intersection of feminism and poverty, and MacKinnon delivered a responsive keynote to end the day. Notable panelists included Catherine Powell of Fordham University School of Law, who presented on empowering women as a means of achieving greater peace and security, and Shannon Gilreath of Wake Forest School of Law, who presented a feminist agenda for gay men, commenting, in part, on how MacKinnon’s work can and should be used to critique the destructive role of pornography in gay men’s lives.

The panel on Power, Violence, and the Family was a continuation of The Family-Inequality Debate, a workshop co-hosted by Law & Inequality that took place the day before the symposium. The workshop examined the Relationship Dynamics and Social Life Study at the University of Michigan, which followed a group of 1,003 women between the ages of 18 and 19 to investigate how young women form families. The study indicates that two-parent involvement does not always produce healthy families. Scholars participating in the workshop offered commentary on the implications of this research on law and policy.

For many symposium participants, MacKinnon has been a teacher, mentor, and inspiration. A quarter-century after its publication, Toward a Feminist Theory of the State continues to influence feminist legal theory. Not only did the symposium honor MacKinnon and her contributions to the law—it was an opportunity for participants to honor all feminists of the past, present, and future, and to ask what can be done to propel further change.

Law & Inequality’s forthcoming edition (volume 35, issue 2) will feature articles written by the workshop and symposium participants.

By Amy Erickson (’17), editor-in-chief
The Partners in Excellence Annual Fund leverages the power of literally thousands of gifts of all sizes and the support of our alumni, making a real difference in the life of the Law School and our students.

“Every day our alumni benefit from their high-caliber legal education as well as the continued recognition and success of the Law School. One gift every year has an exponential impact on our resources.”

LAURA THOMAS
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
DIRECTOR, CLINICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

To make a gift, visit give.umn.edu/law

For more than 125 years, the University of Minnesota Law School has been a leader in legal education. Supporters like you make that leadership position possible. Contributing to the Partners in Excellence Annual Fund each year is an important way to ensure its ongoing success.

For comments and questions about the Law School’s Partners in Excellence Annual Fund, contact Abigail Loyd, assistant director of the Annual Giving Program, aloyd@umn.edu, 612-625-6584.
THE LAW LIBRARY IS PROUD TO RELEASE AN ONLINE VERSION
of its 2015 book “Never Whisper Justice”: A Tribute in Photographs to the
University of Minnesota Law School. The book provides narratives and
photographs documenting the Law School’s first 125 years, from 1888 to
2013. Starting with the institution’s humble beginnings, when it was located
in the basement of the campus’s Old Main building, the book chronicles the
Law School’s transformation over the decades that followed as it grew into
a prestigious academic institution. Scores of fascinating photos are included,
depicting students, faculty, alumni, staff, events, and celebrations throughout
the years, as well as the various buildings that housed the Law School. The
narrative summarizes important issues and changes the school faced over
a century and a quarter of growth, and profiles the key personalities that
nurtured its increasing influence. The book is structured around the tenures
of the Law School’s first 10 deans, from William S. Pattee to David Wippman.
Professor Donald G. Marshall’s eloquent advice, “Never whisper justice,”
provided a fitting title. The book can be read and viewed in its entirety
at http://z.umn.edu/lawdc.

1  Marie McDermott and Flora Mattson-Sheffield,  
two of the three women in the class of 1893
2  Practice court, 1925
3  Dean Carl Auerbach, Vice President
   Walter Mondale (’56), University President
   C. Peter McGrath, and U.S. Supreme Court Justice
   Warren Burger at the dedication of the Law
   School’s new building, April 4, 1978
4  Commencement, 1993
5  Race for Justice, 2006
6  Dean William S. Pattee, 1897
NEW LAW LIBRARY FACULTY

Scott Dewey joined the Law Library in November 2016 as the faculty research librarian. Dewey specializes in faculty research support and provides in-depth research assistance to the Law School faculty. He also works closely with the Minnesota Law Review and participates in the Law Library’s many other reference service programs.

Dewey graduated from the UCLA School of Law and is a member of Order of the Coif. He also holds a Master of Library and Information Science degree from UCLA. In addition, he earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in 20th-century United States history and environmental history from Rice University, and a B.A., summa cum laude, in history from the University of Houston Honors College. Prior to joining the Law Library faculty, Dewey served for several years as the assistant director of scholarly support and research assistance at the UCLA School of Law. He also has experience as a judicial attorney for the California Courts of Appeal.

Dewey’s research interests include environmental law and policy, criminal law and procedure, juvenile dependency, legal history and the history of legal education, the evolution of legal precedent, citation analysis, and the politics and sociology of legal and scholarly reputation and authority. He is an expert on the history of air pollution, and the author of “Don’t Breathe the Air”: Air Pollution and U.S. Environmental Politics, 1945-1970 (Texas A&M University Press, 2000). He also has published articles in the fields of history, law, and information science.

Chad Schatzle joined the Law School in September 2016 as a reference librarian. Schatzle’s primary responsibilities include providing reference service to Law School faculty and students, as well as other library patrons, and producing library research guides.

Schatzle earned a J.D., cum laude, from the University of Miami, an LL.M. in taxation from the University of Florida, and an M.L.I.S. from the University of South Florida. Prior to joining the Law Library faculty, Schatzle served as the reference/student services librarian at the University of Nevada’s William S. Boyd School of Law.
WHILE DAVID E. CHRISTENSEN (’68) wanted a life apart from his farm upbringing in Tracy, Minn., he loved the area and returned to raise his own family. Today, he’s helping aspiring attorneys in greater Minnesota do the same.

After earning his B.A. from the University in 1962, Christensen served three years in the Air Force before enrolling at the Law School. His favorite course was trusts and estates with Robert Stein (’61). “He might have been the best professor I ever had,” he says.

Following graduation, Christensen joined a firm in Pipestone, Minn. Back then, he recalls, “practicing rural attorneys did everything—there wasn’t much specialization.” In time, he would serve as Pipestone County attorney, a county court judge, and, until 2008, a state district court judge. “As a judge, I liked listening and making decisions,” he says. “I think it worked out well.”

Christensen recently established a scholarship for Law School students from greater Minnesota who have completed undergraduate degrees at the University. “I’m a big proponent of the University,” he says, “and it’s our obligation to give back so others have a chance.” Christensen hopes some scholarship recipients will return to their rural roots, as he did. “It’s a good place to practice law,” he says. “You get a lot more variety than at a large firm. You have a better chance of becoming a judge. And it’s a little easier to make a name for yourself.”

Gifts to the Partners in Excellence Annual Fund make a significant impact on the University of Minnesota Law School and our students. To give, contact the Office of Advancement at 612-626-8671.

By Karin B. Miller, a freelance writer and editor based in the Twin Cities.
SCHOLARSHIP STORIES

DONOR SUPPORT ALLOWED THE LAW SCHOOL TO AWARD MORE THAN 95% OF OUR DESERVING STUDENTS SCHOLARSHIPS DURING THE 2016-17 ACADEMIC YEAR.

GRATEFUL GOPHER

SUKANYA MOMSEN ('16)
DEAN’S DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP

During her time at the Law School, Sukanya led the South Asian Law Student Association for two years, was a liaison to Minnesota Women Lawyers and the Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association, and volunteered for the Asylum Law Project in Miami, Fla. She credits her scholarship for giving her the opportunity to commit herself entirely to the study of law.

“In the classrooms of Professors Stephen Befort (‘74) and John Matheson, Sukanya discovered her passion for employment and corporate law. She honed her skills through externships with a U.S. District Court judge and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, as well as clerkships with two major law firms. After graduating Order of the Coif, Sukanya began a clerkship at the Minnesota Court of Appeals. This fall she will be joining the Minneapolis law firm of Nilan Johnson Lewis.”

CAYLA EBERT ('18)
DEAN’S DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP; C. BLAINE HARSTAD SCHOLARSHIP

Cayla was drawn to law school because of the law’s power to help others. “The positive academic culture and phenomenal international law faculty are what drew me to the University of Minnesota Law School.”

MOST REWARDING EXPERIENCE:
Cayla worked closely last year with political refugees as a volunteer legal translator for the Asylum Law Project. The work reminded Cayla of what drew her to the law in the first place. “There are a lot of problems in the world, but there are also a lot of solutions,” she says. “I believe the law is the best way—the most just and fair way—to get to those solutions and change lives.”

FAVORITE CLASSES:
Civil procedure with Professor Mitchell Zamoff and international trade with Professor Oren Gross.

HOW SCHOLARSHIPS HAVE HELPED:
“By being able to focus on my studies, I have been successful in my classes, which has helped me land my summer associate position at a firm of my dreams”—Hogan Lovells in Washington, D.C. Ebert’s scholarship has also brought her closer to her Law School community and motivated her to give back through her work with the admissions office.

RACHEL LEITSCHUCK ('18)
DEAN’S DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP; LINDQUIST & VENNUM SCHOLARSHIP

BEST EXPERIENCE:
The judicial externship program, where Rachel worked with a federal magistrate judge, observed court proceedings, shadowed settlement conferences, and gained insight into the judicial decision-making process. “I loved getting to talk over legal issues with my judge and her clerks, and the feedback I’ve gotten on my writing projects has been invaluable.”

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES:
Former secretary and current director of events for Law Council. “I’ve loved serving as a line of communication from the student body to University administration, advocating on behalf of my classmates, and organizing programming for the student body,” she says. Rachel also serves as an admissions ambassador and orientation Leader.

HOW SCHOLARSHIPS HAVE HELPED:
“Scholarships have given me the opportunity to live and work in the Twin Cities, participate in my clinic, be a part of the judicial externship program, and be more engaged in the Law School community.”

SUMMER PLANS:
Rachel will be working as an associate at Fredrikson & Byron.

“Law school is an expensive investment. Going in, no one knows if their academic successes will lead directly into a high-paying job. Knowing I had a scholarship helped me decide to follow my dreams and go to law school.”
PROTECTING YOU AND YOURS

Consumer Law Specialists Help Clients Weather the Storm
In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Federal Trade Commission Act into law to promote competition and protect consumers. Since then, consumers have benefitted from more than a century of executive action and legislation, from the Kennedy-era Consumer Bill of Rights to the Obama-era Dodd-Frank Act, which created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The lawyers who represent consumers, whether tackling predatory lenders, unfair credit reports, or debt collectors, share a single goal: to make a difference in the lives of ordinary people. As they anxiously watch current trends, wary about the reversal of recent progress, they remain committed to a career they embrace. Yet consumer protection was seldom a childhood—or even young adulthood—dream.

“I’ve always wanted to be a shortstop in the major leagues. But at almost 60, my chances aren’t good,” jokes Professor Prentiss Cox (’90), co-director of the Law in Practice program and director of the Consumer Protection Clinic at the Law School. His clinic has inspired many of today’s consumer lawyers, but no such an opportunity existed three decades ago. After college, when not fielding baseballs, Cox learned about business and consumers by holding advocacy jobs, conducting energy audits, and running a food cooperative wholesaler organization. He was 30 when he opted for the professional stability (and good health insurance) that law school would provide.

Seeking consumer protection or financial regulation work, Cox hired on with the Minnesota attorney general’s office. As consumer enforcement division manager, he prosecuted numerous nationally recognized cases involving subprime mortgage lending, foreclosure, consumer fraud, and related matters. In 2005, he joined the Law School faculty specifically to set up the Consumer Protection Clinic, never imagining that two years later, the housing bubble would burst and interest in consumer law would explode.

“This set of laws went from a relative backwater to front and center as people began to understand the impact that the lack of consumer protection has on markets. There has always been a question about the fairness of markets, consumer rights, and the balance of power, but the financial crisis exposed much larger issues,” Cox says.

Had the rules imposed by the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act been in place then, he adds, the financial crisis would not...
have occurred. What followed Dodd-Frank was another explosion, this time of jobs and interest in both industry compliance and public enforcement. Cox joined the inaugural advisory board of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to offer his expertise. “I’m very ready to stand in defense of the progress that has been made in the past seven years. That it has changed the market in favor of fairer and more transparent consumer financial practices is extraordinary,” he says.

That the Trump administration may dismantle many of the Dodd-Frank protections, despite their broad popularity, is a real threat, however. “We’re very likely to see a substantial attack,” Cox says. “But one of the key elements of our defense is that we can make people aware of the total dissonance between the rhetoric used by the parties in power and the reality of who benefits and what the impact of any changes will be. The communication was X, and the reality is the opposite of X. The dissonance could not be more stark.”

While it is easy to attack a federal agency in service of a powerful institution, he adds, specifics about what has gone wrong are missing. The CFPB, whose director, Richard Cordray, will remain in place until 2018, covers a wide range of consumer protection activities and has stayed on the leading edge of online banking and other technological innovations. “The great thing about it is that it’s decentralized. If it is shut down at the federal level, a large number of state AGs are willing to pick up the baton and take a more active role. We have a safety valve in our system,” Cox says.

As the memory of the financial crisis fades, so has student interest in consumer law. But Cox contends that representing David against Goliath will always appeal, particularly if power shifts to the states. “An AG’s office is a great place to start a legal career. You get your hands dirty real quick, and you have a lot of power at a young age even though you’re not paid a lot. It’s rewarding, interesting, and very intellectually engaging work involving a tremendous amount of law and policy and massive pieces of litigation,” he says. “I’m extremely fortunate to be able to do the work of helping people when they are treated unfairly. It’s wonderful.”

Solo Advocacy

JOHN GOOLSBY (’02), A SOLO PRACTITIONER IN St. Paul, has been representing Minnesota consumers in Fair Credit Reporting Act cases for more than 14 years. Like Cox, Goolsby came to consumer law in a roundabout way—as a bluegrass guitarist teaching music to elementary students in rural North Carolina—and initially entertained lofty aspirations.

“My goal was to be a Supreme Court justice. Maybe it still is,” he says. “Even in high school I saw law as a vehicle to champion what’s right. I still feel that way, and I was fortunate enough to find an area of law that helps me do that.”

Characterizing his practice as “fighting the good fight for people who don’t necessarily have the resources to make that fight,” Goolsby says he is glad that consumer protection is getting more attention. He was mostly unaware of consumer law opportunities as a law student but found his immigration law clinic experience invaluable. “It deepened my commitment to doing something that made a difference, to helping people who were up against the wall.”

After graduating, Goolsby spent four years with the Consumer Justice Center, developing a passion for consumer law. If these clients file suit and win, he points out, the lawbreaker has to pay legal fees, which is an exception to the usual rule in American courts. His clients range widely in age, income, and political bent, and many of them do not have the resources to invest in private attorneys. He describes one case in which a couple had successfully represented themselves in defeating a claim and winning a counterclaim in a suit brought against them. Although they were owed money, the credit bureaus reported it backward, saying the judgement went against them. Even when they provided the court document showing they were the creditors—not the debtors—two credit bureaus failed to fix their reporting. This time, they hired Goolsby to win their case against the credit bureaus.

“Anyone can have inaccurate information on their credit
One study found that 75 percent of reports contain some sort of error, and 25 percent of those are serious. Of course the industry disputes this, but even by its own count, at least two million people are affected,” says Goolsby, who files suit in about half his cases. Often the error is as simple as confusing similar names or social security numbers, but “perhaps surprisingly, just as often the error doesn’t get fixed when the information is demonstrably false.”

Goolsby is keeping a close eye on Dodd-Frank rules in jeopardy, including the future of the CFPB. “Consequences could be potentially grave for the community I serve. Eliminating or reducing its power would be horrible for consumers. Sometimes it’s the only thing that stands between bad business practices and consumer victims,” he says. “If that rule is rescinded, it will be like the wild, wild West all over again.”

While he generally avoids talking politics with clients, he tries to educate them about doing what they can do to preserve consumer protections. He also keeps an eye on his bread and butter, the fair credit reporting laws, which thus far seem safe. He will not take his shingle down anytime soon. “Business can be up and down and I have to buy my own health insurance, but I have a lot of freedom, the frustrations keep it interesting, and I’m making a difference,” he says. “Until I’m nominated for Supreme Court justice, I like it pretty well most of the time.”

Providing Legal Aid

“I WAS THINKING ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL LAW, but when I was a 1L, we started hearing more about foreclosures and seeing early signs of the mortgage crisis. So I signed up for Professor Cox’s Consumer Protection Clinic and loved it from the beginning,” says Kari Rudd (’09), now a staff attorney for Bay Area Legal Aid in San Francisco. “I knew that’s what I wanted to do.”

Her first clinic client was a woman who had been sold a predatory loan and was worried about foreclosure. “We were able to [help a client] stay in her home with an affordable mortgage. Since then I’ve handled a lot of foreclosure cases. They’re always the most satisfying.”

“We were able to file a complaint and negotiate a good result for her, so she could stay in her home with an affordable mortgage. Since then I’ve handled a lot of foreclosure cases. They’re always the most satisfying,” she says.

Graduating amidst the financial crisis, Rudd faced a cruel job market. She received a Robina fellowship from the Law School to work at the Legal Services Advocacy Project in St. Paul, then became a VISTA attorney with the Housing Preservation Project, where she focused on foreclosure relief. After moving to her husband’s Bay Area hometown, she signed on as Bay Area Legal Aid’s second consumer law attorney.

“Consumer law has only been a priority there since 2012, and now there are five of us,” she says. The organization is large, with about 100 staff members and six offices in a sprawling seven-county area. Foreclosure rates are declining, but Rudd stays busy with debt collection, fair credit reporting, and unfair business practice cases. Those who lost houses have regained assets, making them targets for debt collectors armed with old default judgments the homeowners know nothing about. Another outcome of the recession is a raft of foreclosed mortgages or evictions reported incorrectly on credit reports.

Rudd stays current with housing and advocacy issues through the National Consumer Law Center and National Association of Consumer Advocates, and watches the news closely. Some rules authorized by Dodd-Frank that have not yet gone into effect are now on hold, she points out. If the CFPB can no longer do as much to help resolve individual cases, her office may have to rely more on the state AG or county district attorneys. “We’ll have to wait and see,” she says. But thanks in part to Cox’s clinic—which she calls “the single most valuable thing I did in law school”—Rudd remains committed to consumer law. “I love it. I want to do it as long as they let me.”
Legal Legacy

SERENDIPITY CHARACTERIZED THE PATH OF DAVE
Huey (’79), whose career began in an unlikely place: the bowels of a nuclear submarine. Coming of age during the ’60s antiwar movement and protest years, Huey joined the Navy. Happening to note that hazardous duty entailed a $50 pay bump, he volunteered for sub duty—“a lot of fun,” he recalls. Later, in law school, his direction was no less happenstance. Though he had majored in economics and was interested in political science, he had “no clue what I was going to do when I got out. It took some stumbling around,” he says. Eight years of private practice did not quite satisfy. A high school friend who had just been elected U.S. senator from North Dakota steered him to the AG’s office, which had one opening: consumer protection and antitrust. He took it.

As the only attorney in the small North Dakota office, Huey handled mostly local consumer protection cases; antitrust issues were large multistate affairs handled elsewhere. Some of his cases were high-profile, including one involving an antiabortion activist who ran a consumer credit counseling firm as a “ministry.” The convoluted case landed in the state supreme court, thus polishing Huey’s expertise in legal theory, appellate law, and human nature.

In 2000, Huey moved to Washington State’s AG’s office, which “had a very different atmosphere and more than one consumer protection attorney, so I got to specialize.” It was a boom time for housing, but predatory lending was beginning to arouse suspicion. “I saw a lot of things that other people weren’t seeing, but it was a learning curve for all of us. We knew something was fishy, but first we had to get an unvarnished story about what was actually happening,” he said.

As an assistant AG for Washington’s consumer protection division, Huey later helped negotiate not the six-figure penalties he had anticipated, but instead a $325 million national settlement with Ameriquest Mortgage and a landmark $484 million national settlement with Household Finance Corporation. In a role that garnered him several state and national awards before he retired in 2015, he was also one of the lead state negotiators for the unprecedented $26 billion settlement that generated $9 billion in consumer relief and involved federal financial regulators, AGs from all 50 states, the U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee’s office, and leading financial services institutions.

“It made me much more enthusiastic about consumer protection, and more appreciative of the wisdom of Congress in the early 1900s. The FTC act addressing unfair and deceptive acts and practices applied a wide, broad standard, and we need that. Large businesses have expertise in all these areas, and when they handle thousands of transactions every day, it’s easy for them to take advantage of one or two,” he says. “We need responsible enforcement, but what we’ve had, too often, is non-enforcement of consumer protection laws.”

Dodd-Frank and the CFPB have been extremely beneficial for consumers, but Huey has “real concerns” about the future. “I shudder to think what will happen if the Bureau’s authority is significantly degraded. It will be ‘Katy, bar the door!’ for consumers,” he says. “If Dodd-Frank is repealed or significantly altered, [the predators] are back in business. Willie Sutton said he robbed banks because that’s where the money is. The same principle applies.”

On Behalf of Many

LIKE MOST OF HIS PUBLIC INTEREST-ORIENTED classmates, Kai Richter (’99) pursued a law degree “to fight for justice, as cheesy at that sounds. I’ve been lucky to have the opportunity to do that.” Now a partner at Nichols Kaster in Minneapolis, Richter spent several years representing plaintiffs in private practice as well as managing the complex litigation division for the Minnesota AG’s office. He caught the class action bug while pursuing a wage-and-hour suit against Walmart, an action that took seven years, as well as a landmark lawsuit against the University of Michigan Law School that the U.S. Supreme
Court decided in 2003. Today he spearheads his firm’s ERISA litigation team, targeting companies that mismanage their employee retirement plans.

“As opposed to contract disputes between businesses, class actions appeal a lot to me. I have an opportunity to bring cases on behalf of everyday people, and to make a difference,” he says. Settlements he has negotiated thus far have, combined, delivered more than $175 million in consumer relief. “That is very satisfying. It’s why I do what I do.”

But that success rate may change. “Unfortunately, politics has affected the practice. More obstacles and potential obstacles are looming,” he says, citing such cases as AT&T v. Concepcion, decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2011, which allows corporations to embed class action waivers in contractual fine print. Wronged consumers can bring claims only in individual arbitrations, which is not economically feasible. Also, Richter says, the Fairness in Class Action Litigation bill currently wending its way through Congress is “nothing about fairness. It’s a threat not just to consumer law but to any sort of class action cases,” he adds. “The arbitration ruling was a punch in the gut for consumer lawyers. Now it could be total decapitation.”

Areas where arbitration agreements are still prohibited, such as mortgage banking, comprise much of Richter’s practice. Though the need to defend consumers against corporate greed and overreaching remains, maintaining a successful class action practice is almost a matter of “sheer will power. That has been our secret recipe. You do the best you can for people and be smart about which cases you take and litigate,” Richter says. “I can’t imagine doing anything else. I really enjoy handling big, complex cases with very talented co- and opposing counsel. And I love representing everyday people.”

In The Bullseye

YET ANOTHER PRENTISS COX DISCIPLE IS AMANDA Roberson (’16), whose lifelong dream of attending law school revolved around public interest and helping people. She was initially interested in criminal law, but a summer internship at a county attorney’s office, where she helped prosecute financial exploitation of vulnerable adults, prodded her to sign up for the Consumer Protection Clinic.

“It was an absolutely fantastic experience. I saw the parallel between criminal prosecution and what you’re able to do through enforcement actions on the civil side,” she says. She was grateful for the chance to represent a consumer in federal court on a debt collection issue with no Minnesota precedent. “It’s a really cool thing to help an individual while you’re also creating new protections that will help lots of other people.”

An internship at the CFPB affirmed her interest in consumer protection. Today she is one of more than 100 attorneys in CFPB’s enforcement office. During her first month on the job, the Bureau fined Wells Fargo $100 million for secretly opening unauthorized accounts. Roberson says she can’t imagine a better place to work. “It’s a fascinating time to be here,” she says. “Before the CFPB, there was no federal agency tasked with protecting consumers in certain markets. But in the five years since the Bureau was created, its actions have resulted in nearly $12 billion in relief for more than 27 million consumers.” Having worked on student loan issues while in Professor Cox’s clinic, she is also excited about the Bureau’s action against Bridgepoint Education, a for-profit college chain ordered to return more than $23.5 million to deceived consumers.

While the courts or Congress might change the CFPB’s structure, Roberson says she remains committed to her job. “We’re a law enforcement agency. No matter what happens, we’re focused on enforcing the law and protecting consumers, and I think that’s really important work.”

Cathy Madison is a Twin Cities writer and the author of The War Came Home With Him: A Daughter’s Memoir.
JANEANNE MURRAY IS A STORYTELLER AT HEART. Long before she joined the Law School as practitioner in residence in 2011 and collected fans from afar through her work on Clemency Project 2014, she embraced the role of narrative in the pursuit of social justice.

After training for law in her native Ireland and earning her LL.M. degree from the University of Cambridge in 1990, Murray moved to New York, where, after a stint as a litigation associate at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, she “got hooked” on criminal defense. She eventually opened her own criminal defense practice, where she handled many high-profile cases.

But it was during her eight years as an assistant federal public defender in the Eastern District of New York, handling 50 to 70 cases at a time, that she fully realized the power of story. At that time, the court was bound by mandatory minimum sentencing guidelines, which meant that plea bargain negotiations were literally about a number, which Murray worked to keep as low as possible. Human factors played little—or no—part unless she could identify extraordinary factors that justified a departure from the guidelines.

“One had to mine the client’s past and trajectory into the offense in order to take the case out of the ordinary,” Murray says. But it wasn’t until 2005, after the Supreme Court deemed the federal sentencing guidelines advisory rather than mandatory, that she began writing extensive sentencing petitions in every case. “That was when sentencing advocacy came to the forefront—and when defense lawyers got free reign to persuade judges to see our clients as human beings.”

She recounts the case of a female client convicted of a “terrible confidence fraud”: stealing from her fellow immigrants. Her boyfriend was convicted of a much lesser crime and had already been sentenced to two years; she was facing several more. But a closer look at the woman’s situation revealed her severe gambling addiction and the cultural shame, secrecy, and downward spiral it evoked. Moved by her circumstances, the judge sentenced her to just one year. “So many clients don’t get the help they need,” Murray says. “You have to tell the story.”

“She has an absolutely laser-like focus on getting justice for these prisoners. She has this overflowing well of compassion for people, as well as a genuine, well-founded, and well-exercised sense of justice.”

“I was troubled by the spotty quality of plea-bargaining and sentencing advocacy, which, because so few cases go to trial, is 95 percent of what defense lawyers do. Those skills need support and improvement. We need to be mitigators, social workers, and detectives immersed in the social science literature,” she says. “A presentence report might contain only two paragraphs about a client’s life circumstances. It’s almost like they don’t exist as a human being. How easy it is, then, for a judge to put them away for a long time.”

Trial lawyers are well-versed in narrative form, she explains. Prosecutors tell stories to create a baseline for jurors, while defense lawyers know they need a good counternarrative in order to win. Murray contends that stories are crucial in sentencing, too. “Judges come in with sentence expectations and predispositions about clients. We have to think about how we will distinguish, humanize, and individualize them, so they become someone the judge might care about despite their antisocial behavior.”
Now professor of practice and 2014–15 Stanley V. Kinyon Adjunct Teacher of the Year, Murray still defends federal clients in her solo practice. But when Clemency Project 2014, a joint initiative of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, ABA, ACLU, Families Against Mandatory Minimums, and National Association of Federal Defenders, asked her to join their steering committee, she jumped in with both feet.

Their goal was to screen clemency candidates, those nonviolent, low-level offenders who would receive less harsh sentences under current law. “It’s obviously better to set the right sentences at the beginning, or at least to fix unjust sentences more systematically, but we had reached the point where the train was leaving the station. We knew this president [Obama] might be our last chance, so we were getting everyone we could on that train,” Murray says.

“She hit the ground running. She has boundless energy, and there is nothing you can ask her to do that she would not say yes to. We used to joke that someone needs to buy her a sign that says NO,” says fellow Clemency Project steering committee member James Felman, of Kynes Markman & Felman in Tampa, a former ABA liaison to the U.S. Sentencing Commission. “And she always has a smile on her face. I’ve never heard her complain about anything.”

In what may have been the largest pro bono initiative in U.S. legal history, according to Felman, surveys went out to about 36,000 federal prisoners. Volunteers around the country went to work screening candidates, creating a customized database, obtaining relevant documents, and ultimately filing about 2,500 petitions. Every Wednesday for two years, 10 steering committee members spent two hours on the phone discussing cases.

Felman points out that often during such highly visible projects, initial volunteers are talkers who want the credit but are nowhere to be found when the real work beckons. Murray is not among them. “She’s not just a talker. She’s a doer,” he says.

“She has an absolutely laser-like focus on getting justice for these prisoners,” adds Mary Price, Families Against Mandatory Minimums general counsel, whose admiration and fondness for Murray grew throughout the project. “She has this overflowing well of compassion for people, as well as a genuine, well-founded, and well-exercised sense of justice. She also pays attention to detail.”

Price likened their challenging steering committee work to “trying to fly the plane while building it.” Because Murray had filled all the roles and had a working understanding of the project from the ground up, the two often collaborated during late-night and weekend phone calls. “She was part of the glue,” says Price. “I was never afraid to reach out to her, and she was always there. She has a generosity of spirit as well as smarts. It was a shared mission, on the right side of history.”

Murray shared her passion for the project with 15 Law School students who earned credit for their work on 35 cases, 14 of which resulted in clemency grants. Having grown up in our sophisticated and story-based visual culture, today’s students tend to write vividly and are perhaps “hungry for the opportunity to put that knowledge to work at the legal level. Clemency work is not so dry and legalistic,” she says.

Most students were able to visit their clients in prison. “Some of those clients had not been visited for years by anybody. It’s dreadful,” Murray says. “To have that person look them in the eye and say thank you—students were so moved by that. It makes a big difference.”

Lindsey Lancette, a 3L with prosecutorial ambitions, who found Murray’s class “very engaging,” signed on to represent a meth addict housed in Waseca, Minn. Though serving a 20-year sentence for drug dealing, the client had only allowed others to conduct transactions in her home. Her sentence was cut in half. Lancette got to place the call informing the woman of her 2017 release.

“I was definitely surprised and really excited,” Lancette says. “Even as a prosecutor, I will be able to incorporate this experience into my plea offers and sentencing.”

The variable quality of sentencing advocacy across the country continues to motivate Murray, despite the dim prospects of clemency initiatives in the current administration. She longs for a “clearinghouse” website where advocates can review relevant social science pertaining to age, addiction, recidivism, and other factors, as well as sample sentencing petitions and cutting-edge decisions.

She has proposed a Law School class that incorporates sentencing theory and process, prison visits, and the art of persuasion through narrative. She has conducted empirical research on public attitudes that shows that more than half the U.S. population opposes mandatory minimum sentences.

“Clemency isn’t the answer. It’s a Band-Aid solution,” says Murray. The beauty of former President Obama’s clemency initiative, however, was the spotlight it placed on low-level offenders who were serving long sentences and deserved a second chance. “It’s simply immoral that we continue to lock these people away. My approach is to humanize them, one at a time,” Murray says. “Lives matter.”

By Cathy Madison, a freelance writer and editor based in the Twin Cities
Faculty Awards, Grants, and News


Ann Burkhart will deliver the 2017 Distinguished Gifford Lecture in Real Property at the University of Hawaii at Manoa’s William S. Richardson School of Law. The annual lecture was established to honor David L. Callies, Benjamin A. Kudo Professor of Law, and Jerry M. Hiatt, prominent Hawaii attorney, for their superior work in the field of real property.

June Carbone participated in “Family Inequality: Causes and Consequences in Europe & the Americas,” a Social Trends Institute Experts Meeting held Feb. 17-18 in Rome. The meeting brought together social scientists and law professors to engage in a comparative examination of the emergence of the family as a sign of growing inequality.

Thomas Cotter’s book *Comparative Patent Remedies: A Legal and Economic Analysis* (Oxford University Press, 2013) was cited by Canada’s Federal Court of Appeals in its Feb. 2, 2017 opinion *Apotex Inc. v. ADIR* for the proposition that, in awarding damages for patent infringement, courts should consider whether the defendant could have avoided infringement by using a noninfringing alternative, in order to avoid rendering the patent owner better off than it would have been absent the infringement. Cotter’s articles in opinion on patent damages were also cited by the Federal Court of Canada.
Kristin Hickman’s work on Internal Revenue Service regulatory practices was cited in a concurring opinion written by Judge Mark Holmes of the United States Tax Court in the case of 15 West 17th Street v. Commissioner (Dec. 22, 2016). Hickman’s research was also debated by a panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit in majority and dissenting opinions in Catskill Mountains Chapter of Trout Unlimited v. EPA (Jan. 18, 2017).

Claire Hill was a featured speaker at the Investments Institute of the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans. Hill delivered a lecture on behavioral finance as it pertains to investment decisions to be made or overseen by trustees of employee benefit plans.

Joan Howland was awarded the 2017 AALS Law Library Section Award by the Association of American Law Schools. Howland has been an appointed member of the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation since 2012 and is the current chair of the committee. She has also chaired many American Association of Law Libraries committees, including the Diversity, Education, National Resources, Recruitment, and Scholarship Committees. The AALS presented its 2017 section awards at its 111th annual meeting, held Jan. 3-7 in San Francisco. Howland was also named one of “Most Influential People in Legal Education” for the second consecutive year by The National Jurist, which is read by more than 100,000 law students and educators. Its “most influential” list is based on ratings by law school deans and professors nationwide.

Neha Jain was an expert panelist at a meeting on “General Principles of Law” organized by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations at the U.N. Headquarters in New York. Jain was invited to speak on the nature of the general principles as an autonomous source of international law and their relationship to other international legal sources. Jain has previously written on the general principles of law in two leading international journals, the American Journal of International Law and the Harvard International Law Journal.
Garry W. Jenkins was listed in Twin Cities Business magazine’s “Top 100 to Know in 2017,” which featured “key individuals expected to make an impact on Minnesota business, the regional economy, and quality of life in 2017.”

JaneAnne Murray’s Clemency Project secured 14 commutations over the past several months.

Fionnuala Ní Aoláin was elected to the American Law Institute—the leading independent organization in the United States producing scholarly work to clarify, modernize, and improve the law.

Daniel Schwarcz was awarded a Young Scholars Medal by the American Law Institute. The award is presented every other year at the Institute’s Annual Meeting to one or two outstanding early-career law professors whose work has the potential to influence improvements in the law.

Susan Wolf was appointed to the National Academies Committee on Science, Engineering, Medicine, and Public Policy. This is the only committee that crosses all three National Academies—Science, Engineering, and Medicine—and the committee includes the presidents of the three academies. The committee is charged with the responsibility to deliberate on initiatives for new studies in the area of science and technology policy, taking especially into account the concerns and requests of the president’s science Advisor, the director of the National Science Foundation, the chair of the National Science Board, and the chairs of key science and technology-related committees of the Congress.

To see a list of recent faculty publications go to: law.umn.edu/our-faculty/recent-publications

INSTITUTE ON METROPOLITAN OPPORTUNITY RELEASES REPORT ON CHARTER SCHOOL SEGREGATION AND PERFORMANCE

A recent report from the Law School’s Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity, led by Professor Myron Orfield, describes how charter schools are worsening segregation and failing to achieve consistent academic improvement. The new IMO research suggests that moderate or even nominal attempts to reduce school segregation would produce academic gains comparable to—or greater than—those observed in the most highly lauded class of charter schools.

The report, titled “Segregation and Performance,” is the first installment in IMO’s Minnesota School Choice Project, which will provide an expansive look at charter education in the Twin Cities.

Previous IMO research has shown that area charter schools suffer from a high degree of racial and economic segregation, while producing mediocre academic performance. Both trends continue unabated: of the region’s 50 most segregated schools, 45 are charters. The new report shows that integration remains indispensable to anyone wishing to close achievement gaps or reduce inequality in education.

FACULTY DEPARTURES

Professor David Fisher, executive director of the Corporate Institute, will be retired beginning July 1. He joined the Law School as executive director of the Corporate Institute in May 2012, and is a professor of law and teaching specialist with the Law School. He is of counsel with Larkin Hoffman Daly & Lindgren, where he has specialized in business law, business organization, and corporate and board governance and has served clients as general counsel.

Professor Ruth Okediji will be leaving the Law School on July 1 for Harvard Law School, where she will hold the Jeremiah Smith Jr. Professorship. She teaches contracts, international
THE NUMBERS BEST TELL LAURA

Cooper’s story: Graduate of the University of Southern California at age 19. One of just 20 women in her law school class of 200. The first female to clerk for Judge John S. Hastings of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit. One of the first women to join the faculty at the Law School, and the first woman granted tenure.

Now, after 42 years of teaching, nine books, numerous appointments, and multiple awards, including the Stanley V. Kinyon Tenured Teacher of the Year, Cooper is retiring from the Law School in June.

“I am enormously grateful to the University for allowing me to create my own path, to do what interested me, including practicing as an arbitrator and working on issues like gender fairness,” Cooper says.

A distinguished scholar in the fields of labor law and workplace dispute resolution, Cooper had not necessarily planned a career in labor and employment. “There was a gap at the time on the faculty, so I decided to educate myself,” she says. She spent a summer as an attorney for the National Labor Relations Board and a year on sabbatical observing federal and state mediators, arbitrators, and labor attorneys, as well as agency and court proceedings.

Over the years, she founded the Welfare Law Clinic, became faculty co-editor of the ABA Journal of Labor & Employment Law, and chaired the Labor Law Group, a nonprofit trust that develops materials for law students. She also chaired federal and state subcommittees investigating women’s treatment in courts on gender fairness task forces. In recent years, she created an innovative capstone course in which students play the role of lawyers in a semester-long complex simulation, learning to integrate diverse areas of law with practice skills and ethics.

Law has been part of Cooper’s life since she was a child growing up in California. During school breaks, her mother often took her to watch trials at the Los Angeles courthouse.

“Murder, civil rights, we watched it all,” Cooper says. “It never occurred to me that’s not how other kids spent their breaks.”

Cooper is spending her final semester teaching at Uppsala University in Sweden. She will continue to serve as a labor arbitrator and an editor on the ABA Journal of Labor & Employment Law through June 2018. She also plans to devote more time to philanthropic work. She and her husband fund two summer positions for law students at Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid and two clerkships with The Advocates for Human Rights through the Human Rights Center. They also are engaged with Hennepin County Library, College Possible, and—a current passion—an environmental project with the Nature Conservancy to improve water quality by reintroducing mussels.

Reflecting on her 42 years at the Law School, Cooper says there have been far too many highlights to name just one. “I’m thankful that I did not follow a typical path,” she says. “My career kind of looks like the whole law school curriculum.”

By Kathy Graves, a writer based in Minneapolis

PROFESSOR LAURA COOPER: AN ATYPICAL PATH TO A REWARDING CAREER

Professor Hari Osofsky will be leaving the Law School at the end of this academic year to become the dean of Penn State Law School and School of International Affairs. Osofsky joined the Law School faculty in 2010. She was a founding director of the Energy Transition Lab and has served as director of the Joint Degree Program in Law, Science & Technology since 2013. In July 2016, she received the Distinguished Service Award from the Association for Law, Property, and Society.

intellectual property, copyright, trademarks, and IP and development law. Okediji is a foremost expert on international IP law and international economic regulation. She joined the Law School in 2003. Among her many other honors, in 2016 she was awarded the McKnight Presidential Professorship.
FACULTY PERSPECTIVE

SPRING 2017 FACULTY WORKS IN PROGRESS

Faculty Works in Progress (FWIP) lectures are held in the Lindquist and Vennum Conference Room, Room 385, from 12:15-1:15 p.m. on each Thursday listed below. For more information, contact Christa Daszkiewicz at cdaszkie@umn.edu.

JANUARY
19 Prentiss Cox ('90)
Law School
Street, Cox & Heaven: An Empirical Analysis of Public UDAP Enforcement
26 Martin Berglund
Uppsala University
Taxation of Foundations, Trusts, and Similar Fiduciary Relationships

FEBRUARY
2 Bert Kritzer
Law School
Polarization in American Politics: Does it Extend to the Federal District Court?
9 Robin Phinney
University of Minnesota Political Science
Collaboration and the Mobilization of Diverse Resources
16 Joachim Savelsberg
University of Minnesota College of Liberal Arts
On the Impact of Human Rights Trials: The Potential of Cultural Explanations
23 Ingrid Wuerth
Vanderbilt Law School
International Law in the Post-Human Rights Era

MARCH
7 Joe McGrath
University of Dublin School of Law
From Instrumental to Expressive Governance in White Collar Crime: A Case Study of Ireland
9 Joshua Page
University of Minnesota Sociology and Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice
A Constructed Reality: Desperation and Service in the Bail Industry
23 Taisu Zhang
Yale Law School
Cultural Paradigms in Property Institutions

APRIL
6 Robert Yablon
University of Wisconsin Law School
Campaign Finance Reform
13 Glen Cohen
Petrie-Flom Center for Health Policy and Harvard Law School
Evaluating NFL Player Health and Performance: Legal and Ethical Issues
20 Ciaran Walker
Eversheds Consulting
The Role of the Regulator in Improving Banks’ Governance and Risk Culture: A European Perspective
27 Bertrall Ross
Berkeley Law School
Unbiasing the Electorate: Mobilizing the Poor to Address Inequality

MAY
4 Mari Sako
Oxford University
How Do Plural-Sourcing Firms Make and Buy? The Impact of Supplier Portfolio Design

SPRING 2017 PERSPECTIVES ON TAXATION

Perspectives on Taxation is offered periodically through the semester. Lectures are held in the Lindquist and Vennum Conference Room, Room 385, from 12:15-1:15 p.m. For more information, contact Professor Kristin Hickman at khickman@umn.edu or 612-624-2915. One CLE credit is typically offered.

FEBRUARY
6 Pam Olson ('80)
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Tax Policy in the New Administration

APRIL
10 Steve R. Johnson
Florida State University
College of Law
Who Wins if There’s a Tie: The Taxpayer or the Revenue Authority
Professor Shen joined the faculty in 2012. He co-authored the first casebook on law and neuroscience (Aspen, 2014). He also serves as executive director of education and outreach for the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Law and Neuroscience.

At a time when sports-related concussions are attracting increasing attention, Professor Francis Shen has emerged as an influential figure in fashioning public policy to reduce risks of brain injury among Minnesota youths. Shen, who directs the Shen Neurolaw Lab at the Law School, recently received a Grand Challenges Grant from the University for a project that is assessing how the state’s 6-year-old sports concussion law is working. The law established requirements for coaches’ training, student and parent education, and protocols for return-to-play procedures if a concussion is suspected. The grant has allowed Shen to pursue the next step—evaluation—and he is building a statewide working group of athletic trainers and medical, neuroscience, and public health professionals to help guide the effort. Parents, teachers, principals, and youth athletes themselves will also provide input.

“The idea is to develop a ‘Minnesota model’ and become a national leader in preventing, recognizing, and responding to youth sports concussions,” Shen says. “To accomplish this, we will need insights from many disciplines and stakeholders. The Grand Challenges grant has launched the effort, and we are confident we will continue to gain more statewide support.”

Shen’s primary academic interest lies in how advances in neuroscience might change the law. It’s a narrow specialty, and one he never intended when he set out to get a J.D. After earning a B.A. in English and economics at the University of Chicago in 2000, he was accepted into an intensive dual J.D./Ph.D program at Harvard, where he would remain until 2008. His primary interest at the time was urban education policy. “If you had asked me in 2005 what I’d be doing today,” he says, “I would have told you I’d be a political science professor, probably studying education policy.”

Over the course of his eight years at Harvard, however, he had become intrigued by the mysteries of the human brain. In writing a dissertation on legal and policy responses to sexual assault, he began to see that mental wounds were oftentimes invisible. Advances in neuroscience had begun to shed light on the nature of these invisible injuries, and he shifted his academic focus. Shen saw that the acceptance of neuroscience into the law was at best a nascent concept—and one that he wanted to focus on.

Just as Shen was completing his graduate studies, he learned that a new program at the University of California, Santa Barbara, called the Law and Neuroscience Project, was looking for postdoctoral fellows. Shen applied, was accepted, and pulled himself off the job market for a political science professorship. Two years later, his postdoc work complete, Shen was ready to go onto the job market, as was his wife, Sophia Beal, a professor of Portuguese and Brazilian literature. “And—miracle of miracles—we landed here at Minnesota, where there is world-leading neuroscience, a great law school, and one of the nation’s best Portuguese departments,” Shen says.

Shen teaches a course in neurolaw (as well as courses in criminal law, evidence, education law, and an Introduction to American Law course for undergraduates), and he launched the Neurolaw Lab to conduct research with the aid of a team of research assistants. The goal of the lab, Shen says, is “to translate advances in brain science into better law and policy.” The examples of real and potential applications of neuroscience to law, he says, are numerous. In addition to concussions, Shen’s projects include exploring the legal implications of advances in dementia research, testing the veracity of criminal suspects with new brain-based tools, and enhancing cognition with electrical stimulation. Shen is also engaged in emerging criminal justice conversations concerning neuroscience.

“Our field is at a point where we’re trying to separate wheat from chaff and better understand where neuroscience can add value to law, while at the same time being wary of inappropriate or premature uses,” Shen says. “So many legal questions involve brain questions. Frustratingly, brain science doesn’t give us enough answers—yet. But I think it’s a safe bet that neurolaw will grow significantly in the years to come. I’m very fortunate to be at the University of Minnesota, where they’re willing to take a chance on something so cutting-edge.”
As a student at Faith University in Istanbul, Turkey, Muhammed Üzüm was part of that institution’s first class of law students. When he began studying there, in 2009, he focused on classes but soon saw a need in the Turkish legal community for a law journal, legal society, and moot court.

So Üzüm started all three.

In 2011, he co-founded Tanik Law Magazine and served as its editor for three years. That same year, he started Turkey’s National Moot Court Competition, recruiting professors to serve as jury members so students could gain courtroom-like experience. A year later, he co-created Tanik Legal Society, a student networking group.

“I wanted to help students prepare for a legal career,” he says.

As if all of that weren’t enough, Üzüm also co-founded Faith University Legal Clinic, an elective focused on consumer law. This, he says, was a “fabulous experience” because as a student attorney he was able to help poor people sort out hassles with big companies.

Before college, Üzüm caught the travel bug. As a teenager living in his hometown of Kahramanmaras, in the southeastern part of the country, he took bus trips with friends to Ankara, Adana, and other Turkish cities.

After graduating from Faith University in 2014—he had a near-perfect GPA—Üzüm wanted to improve his language skills while simultaneously seeing another part of the world. He succeeded. Since arriving in the U.S. to study English at Georgia Tech University, Üzüm has visited 11 states and the District of Columbia. “I like to see different places, especially natural scenery such as Niagara Falls,” he says.

As an LL.M. student, Üzüm has enrolled in courses exploring human interaction with technology. One of his favorite classes was data privacy, taught by Professor William McGeveran. That class inspired him...
Minnesota Court of Appeals Judge Denise D. Reilly met with LL.M. students for a Q&A session about the Minnesota judicial system.

Student ambassadors welcome Goldy to the Law School on Campus Preview Weekend.

Left to right: Judge Smith, Gerald Kerska (’17), Justice Anderson (’79), Shemeko (Amy) Hang (’18), and Justice Lillehaug at the Maynard Pirsig Moot Court competition.

Members of winter service trips with the Binger Center for New Americans and the Asylum Law Project, left to right: Kirk Johnson (’19), Alex Lane (’19), Kayla Hoel (’19), Jacob Weindling (’19), Natacha Garcia (LL.M. ’18), Timothy Sanders (’18), teaching fellow Julia Decker (’14), James Perez (’18).

to eschew Google and Bing for internet searches. Instead, he uses the little-known DuckDuckGo because it doesn’t track user search histories.

“We should all be more sensitive to privacy,” Üzüm says.

Despite the challenges of living in a new city and studying in a second language, Üzüm has found time to start something new again. In February, he organized a Law School chess tournament. After graduation, he plans to take the New York bar exam.

And she succeeded, big-time.

As a chemical engineering major, Hultgren won departmental honors, made the dean’s list, and was admitted into the national engineering honor society Tau Beta Pi. Last year, before graduating, she learned about the Master of Science in Patent Law program at the Law School and signed up.

“I really like it,” she says. “I get to work with different technologies, even some outside my area of expertise. I’m pushing myself to learn new things.”

During a nine-month hiatus between her sophomore and junior years of college, Hultgren interned at Sappi Fine Paper North America. There she applied principles she’d learned in school to improve real-world papermaking processes and equipment and worked with plant engineers on ways to limit pollution.

But working in industry, she says, “wasn’t challenging enough for me.”

Studying the law has proven to be the intellectual challenge she was

SAMANTHA HULTGREN
M.S.P.L. CLASS OF 2017

AT AGE 13, SAMANTHA HULTGREN went on a rafting trip with her family. As they floated along wearing orange life jackets, the Minnesotans marveled at the natural beauty of the Colorado River and its ragged ravines. But they did more than just gawk. Thanks to the family patriarch, they learned how geological formations shaped the gorges.

When she was younger, Hultgren sometimes scooped up a handful of rocks to show her father. His response was straightforward: “What kind of rocks are these?”

Hultgren’s father is—no surprise—a geologist. His quizzical, searching nature rubbed off on her. In high school, she earned valedictorian honors. At the University of Minnesota Duluth, she wasn’t drawn to unearthing the secrets rocks held. Instead, she grappled with understanding how chemicals interact.
looking for because, in part, there is “no right or wrong answer.”

In addition to her rigorous courses, Hultgren teaches children the basics of electrical engineering, civil engineering, and robotics in after-school and home-school settings. “It’s a good refresher for me,” she says.

As a future patent agent, Hultgren is looking forward to keeping up on many different scientific fields. And as an intern at the Minneapolis law firm Faegre Baker Daniels, she’s doing that already.

HURRICANE ANDREW BLEW INTO Miami just two weeks after Kristen Ann Hathaway was born. While her Air Force pilot father flew an F-16 out of the storm’s way, Hathaway’s mother drove her and a cat to a friend’s house north of the city. When they awoke the next morning, Hathaway says, “the whole top of the car was gone.”

Because she was a rambunctious and talkative toddler, her mother nicknamed her “Hurricane Kristen.” Those verbal skills continued to outpace those of her peers. As a seventh-grader in St. Louis Park, Minn., Hathaway debated students who were five years older, earning a gavel on her letter jacket, which she proudly wore to school.

For college, Hathaway chose an inexpensive yet highly ranked regional school—the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Although she majored in political science, her goal was always law school. “To me, my undergraduate major didn’t matter,” she says.

Hathaway chose the Law School because its clinical opportunities far outpaced those at other schools. As a 2L, she participated in the Federal Immigration Litigation Clinic. This year, she’s serving as student director of the clinic. She recently traveled to St. James, Minn., to educate undocumented workers on their rights. With graduation approaching, she has a laserlike focus on her legal specialization: public defense.

A summer spent working at the South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense solidified Hathaway’s intent. She labored on a pair of high-profile cases, drafting pretrial motions and assisting in trial preparation and strategy. One of her clients was Dylann Roof, the white man convicted of murdering nine black parishioners in a Charleston church in 2015.

“Public defenders are a very special type,” she says. “We fight for people when no one else will.”

Roof was convicted in federal court; a state trial is pending. Hathaway worked with public defenders in preparation for the state trial, which she opposes. “In my opinion, it’s double jeopardy,” she says.

Hathaway also helped defend a South Carolina man convicted of killing his girlfriend and a police officer.

After graduation, Hathaway hopes to work as a federal public defender in San Diego or in the Hennepin County Public Defender’s Office, where she served as a clerk.

DURING THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE finals, Luke Wolf rarely looks away from his books. Sometimes the native of St. Paul’s West Side keeps at it from sunrise to late in the day. When he starts to lag, Wolf reminds himself that there are tougher ways to make a living.

In 2013, Wolf joined his father in North Dakota’s oil fields during the height of the Bakken boom, waking up in an RV at 5:30 a.m. daily to work construction. His father, a carpenter by trade, got Wolf the gig. He stayed one summer, then returned to the University of Minnesota to resume his undergraduate studies in history.

“When you pour concrete 12 hours a day, studying that long doesn’t seem as bad,” he says.


Although Wolf toyed with the idea of earning a doctorate in history, an undergraduate honors course on torts made him reconsider. The course, which encouraged students to think like lawyers, opened his eyes to a legal career.

At the Law School, he was surprised to find that he loved contract law, a course taught by Professor Daniel Schwarcz. “He’s animated,” Wolf says. “It’s clear he cares a lot about teaching.” That class propelled him toward a focus on civil litigation. Since September, he’s worked in the Civil Practice Clinic on several divorce cases. But family law will not be a future focus.

Wolf has his sights on the U.S. Department of Justice. He’s been accepted into the DOJ’s Federal Tort Claims Act Litigation Section for a 10-week externship in Washington,
D.C., this summer. After graduation in 2018, he hopes to clerk for a federal judge or a Minnesota Supreme Court justice and then return to the DOJ via its Honors Program.

In his free time, Wolf likes rock climbing. It’s a skill he picked up while earning Eagle Scout honors from the Boy Scouts of America.

KALYSSA MAILE’S FAMILY HAS deep military ties. Her father was stationed at McClellan Air Force Base near Sacramento, Calif., when Maile was born. Her brother fought in Fallujah, Iraq, as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Maile plans to continue the tradition by working as a judge advocate general—in civilian terms, an attorney—in the U.S. Navy.

“I always thought about serving and attending law school,” she says. “I wasn’t sure how they would work together.”

This summer, Maile will participate in a Navy JAG internship program in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. If the experience meets her expectations, she’ll enlist after graduation. She chose the Navy because lawyers there spend time learning a variety of specialties, including criminal prosecution and defense.

As an undergraduate at University of Alaska Anchorage, Maile majored in economics. But her real passion was public policy. From 2012 to 2014, she interned on the Alaska Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education, as well as in the office of a state senator. For the next two years, she worked as a legislative aide and committee staffer. One of her big projects: helping overhaul Alaska’s code of military justice.

Although she’s been away from Alaska for nearly a year, Maile keeps up to date on political debates there by listening to podcasts. It’s something she does while cooking, riding the bus, or stocking the freezer at her once-a-month volunteer gig at Good Grocer, a nonprofit natural foods store in south Minneapolis.

One of Maile’s favorite Law School classes in her first year has been legal writing. Early attempts at the craft didn’t result in stellar briefs, but tough edits improved her papers. And for that, she is grateful. “It’s like putting together a puzzle,” she says.

So how will a bookish law student with an enthusiasm for public policy fare in the physically rigorous U.S. Navy Officer Candidate School? Likely, quite well. Not too long ago, Maile was winning Alaska weightlifting competitions. Thanks to her parents—for years, they coached the women’s USA Powerlifting team—Maile began weightlifting at age 11.

“I grew up in the gym,” she says. “I never thought it was something women couldn’t do.”

Adds Maile, “It gave me confidence.”

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

STUDENT NEWS AND AWARDS

NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION TEAMS MAKE STRONG SHOWING AT REGION TOURNAMENT

The Law School’s National Moot Court Competition teams achieved outstanding results at the Region 14 tournament at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, in November, sweeping the best brief awards and sending one team on to the national finals.

Members of the Respondent team (3Ls Andrew Leiendecker, Sean Rinehart, and Samuel Thompson) advanced to the regional championship round, where they lost a close argument to a team from host Drake. The Law School team wrote the best Respondent brief, and team member Leiendecker finished among the region’s top ten orals. The team advanced to the national finals in New York, where it reached the Sweet Sixteen round before being eliminated.

The Petitioner team members (3Ls Rudolph Dambeck, Brittany Gefroh, and Andrew Knaak) were undefeated until the regional semifinals, where they lost to their classmates on the Law School Respondent team. The Petitioner team wrote the best Petitioner brief in the competition.

The teams were coached by adjunct faculty co-advisers Cicely Miltich (’11) and Kyle Hardwick (’13). Other local attorneys and Clinical Professor Brad Clary (’75) judged practice rounds and provided additional feedback. In the last 35
STUDENT NEWS AND AWARDS

years, out of the 70 Law School teams in the competition, 50 have qualified for the regional quarterfinals, 33 have qualified for the regional final four, and 20 have gone on to the national finals. This year’s Respondent group was the 11th team in the last 15 years to go to New York.

JOSHUA PRESTON (‘19), CAITLIN OPPERMAN (‘18), PROF. FRANCIS SHEN CO-AUTHOR AMA JOURNAL OF ETHICS ARTICLE

In its December 2016 issue, the AMA Journal of Ethics published an article co-authored by Law School students Joshua Preston (‘19) and Caitlin Opperman (‘18), along with Professor Francis Shen and other student members of the Shen Neurolaw Lab. Preston was the lead author on the article, “The Legal Implications of Detecting Alzheimer’s Disease Earlier,” which touches on several ramifications of the increasing use of early-detection technology to diagnose and treat the condition.

Preston is in the first year of a joint J.D./M.A. in bioethics at the Law School. He is also a research fellow at the Center for Science and Law at Baylor College of Medicine. Opperman earned her undergraduate degree in psychology and worked as a clinical psychometrist before enrolling at the Law School. The article’s other student co-authors are Jaleh McTeigue, a former researcher at Los Alamos National Laboratory and an undergraduate at Mount Holyoke College; University of Minnesota neuroscience undergraduates Jordan Dean Scott Krieg and Mikaela Brandt-Fontaine, who both plan to attend medical school; and University psychology undergraduate Alina Yasis, who intends to pursue graduate studies in neuroscience. All are current (in McTeigue’s case, former) research assistants in the Shen Neurolaw Lab.

“This article highlights the fact that students can come to the Law School and actually publish with professors, and the Law School’s emphasis on interdisciplinary learning and research made its publication possible,” Shen commented. “The project was especially noteworthy because the lead author is a 1L and another author is a Mount Holyoke student who sought to work with our lab after reading about neurolaw. We are establishing the Law School as a national leader in this exciting new area.”

SHANNON JANKOWSKI (‘17) AND AMANDA MCAILISTER (‘17) AWARDED HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOWSHIPS

Third-year students Shannon Jankowski and Amanda McAllister were chosen to receive 2016-17 Benjamin B. Ferencz Fellowships in Human Rights and Law. The fellowships, which are awarded by World Without Genocide, an organization based at Mitchell Hamline School of Law in St. Paul, are named in honor of international human rights advocate Benjamin B. Ferencz. Ferencz, 96, prosecuted members of the Nazi Einsatzgruppen—mobile killing squads responsible for the deaths of more than a million Jews during the Holocaust—at trials in Nuremberg, Germany, in 1947, receiving convictions for every one of the accused. He has dedicated his life to advocating for justice and peace around the world.

As Ferencz Fellows, Jankowski and McAllister will focus on expanding information in Minnesota about the work of the International Criminal Court, which prosecutes perpetrators for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. Both attended the court’s annual Assembly of State Parties in The Hague, serving as rapporteurs for the American NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court. That experience, said Jankowski, “provided invaluable exposure to the organizational, political, and diplomatic challenges inherent in advancing an international mechanism for global justice. It also offered tremendous insight into the work of attorneys and advocates fighting to combat human rights abuses and promote international justice.” McAllister called it “an informative look at many of the realpolitik obstacles to the administration of justice at the global level,” adding, “I am grateful to the many human rights activists and scholars who shared their insights, perspectives, and stories during side events on important issues such as crimes against humanity in North Korea, accountability for war crimes in Syria, and the importance of state commitments to combat impunity.”
Third-year students Rachel Molsberry and Katie Ziomek were awarded two-year postgraduate fellowships through Equal Justice Works, a nonprofit organization whose mission is “mobilizing the next generation of lawyers committed to equal justice.” Molsberry will spend the term of her fellowship at Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid’s office in Willmar, Minn., working to develop a medical-legal partnership. Ziomek will work for the Battered Women’s Justice Project in Minneapolis.

Molsberry will receive her J.D. in May with concentrations in health law and bioethics and labor and employment law. As a student, she has been involved with the Environmental Law Moot Court Competition Team, Law Council Honor Code Committee, Native American Services Project, and Law School Mentorship Program, among others, and she has clerked for the University’s Office of Health Information Privacy & Compliance. Ziomek will graduate from the Law School with a concentration in health law and bioethics. She has served as student director of the Community Mediation Clinic and the Intellectual Property Moot Court and has clerked for the Minnesota Department of Human Rights and the Battered Women’s Justice Project.

Allen Cook Barr (’17) was named the winner of the 2017 Scribes Law Review Award for his note, “Guardians of Your Galaxy S7: Encryption Backdoors and the First Amendment,” published in the Minnesota Law Review (Vol. 101, Issue 1). The prize has been given annually since 1987 by Scribes: The American Society of Legal Writers. Barr received his award March 25 at a dinner hosted in his honor at the National Conference of Law Reviews in Jacksonville, Fla.

Barr summarizes his note as follows: “Since the widespread integration of encryption into the iPhone in 2014, law enforcement has increasingly called for backdoors—the ability to access information on a device even if law enforcement is unable to obtain the password. [My note] examines the First Amendment implications of requiring software developers to write such backdoors into their products. It argues that strict scrutiny precludes legislation that would mandate backdoors for every device. Nevertheless, law enforcement is not left without options, as there are potentially several means by which government entities can gain access to device information on a case-by-case basis.”

“Legal writing is hard. It requires thinking about abstract principles of law and applying them to concrete—and often complicated—facts,” said Professor Christopher Soper, director of legal writing at the Law School. “Allen’s note is excellent, and deserving of this national award, because it explains these abstract principles and applies them to a very complicated factual situation in a clear, step-by-step process. Allen’s writing and analytical skills exemplify what we teach at the Law School.”

The National Jurist named Nadia Anguiano-Wehde (’17) one of its “Law Students of the Year.” The magazine asked more than 200 law schools for “stories of their most devoted students with unparalleled attitudes” and selected 25 individuals from among the nominees, based on such factors as leadership, focus, and commitment to justice. Anguiano-Wehde is the top honoree (of five) in the Midwest region. Last year, Rajin Olson (’16) was similarly recognized.

During two years working in the Federal Immigration Litigation Clinic, Anguiano-Wehde led a pair of litigation teams, including one that represented a Latin American child fighting for asylum. "Nadia’s work for this client was unsurpassed
in terms of her determination, skill, and compassion,” wrote Laura Thomas, clinic director. “She dedicated more hours to this one client than are required of our clinic students during an entire year.”

During the 2016 winter break, Anguiano-Wehde organized a trip with other law students and a supervising attorney to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s detention center in Dilley, Texas. There, she logged 15-hour days leading Spanish-language legal rights presentations and, wrote Thomas, “developing crucial client declarations for use in immigration court hearings.”

“I cannot overstate the impact that the Binger Center for New Americans has had on my legal education,” said Anguiano-Wehde. “I’ll forever be indebted to Professor Ben Casper Sanchez (’97) for teaching me how to be a lawyer and really fight for clients who’ve entrusted you with an immensely important part of their lives.”

As a Law School student, Anguiano-Wehde also served as lead managing editor of the Minnesota Journal of International Law and was a Robina Public Interest Fellow. After graduation, she plans to clerk for the U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson and later for Judge Jane Kelly on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit.

Alysha Bohanon (’17)

“Alysha Bohanon (’17) was named the winner of a 2017 Distinguished Legal Writing Award from the Burton Foundation—one of just 10 students from U.S. law schools to be so honored. In the 18 years since the award’s creation, nine Law School students have been winners.

Bohanon’s winning entry—a note titled “Tweeting the Police: Balancing Free Speech and Decency on Government-Sponsored Social Media Pages”—explores

“whether a government entity may remove … abusive comments from its page without violating the commenter’s right to free expression” and proposes “a new framework for contested speech cases, under which courts would first determine whether the audience can clearly distinguish between the government and private speakers.”

Bohanon is editor-in-chief of the Minnesota Law Review and a student legal writing instructor. She graduated summa cum laude from the University in 2014, earning degrees in journalism and English. After receiving her J.D., she’s interested in pursuing commercial litigation, insurance, and health law.

The Burton Foundation was established by William C. Burton, a former New York state attorney general and a strong advocate of plain language in legal writing. The Law School’s previous Burton honorees are Andrea Miller (’15), Phillip Walters (’12), Eva B. Stensvad (’11), Noreen E. Johnson (’09), Emily C. Melvin (’08), Dan Robinson (’07), David Leishman (’06), and Kari M. Dahlin (’01).

LAW SCHOOL TEAM WINS INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW COMPETITION FOR SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR

A team of Law School students won the 2017 Clara Barton International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Competition, which is conducted by the American Red Cross. Students Peter Grenzow, Brendan Delany, and Amanda McAllister, all 3Ls, traveled to Washington, D.C., for the event, which the Red Cross describes as a “simulation-based, experiential legal competition designed to expose rising professionals to the practice of IHL and to real world challenges facing IHL practitioners during armed conflict.”

The Law School team defeated UCLA in the semifinals and the U.S. Air Force Academy in the finals. The semifinal topic centered on the legality of autonomous weapons. In the finals, participants simulated a war crimes trial at the International Criminal Court.

The team members are an accomplished group. Grenzow was named “best oralist” in the IHL competition; he earned a pair of undergraduate degrees from the University in 2013, majoring in Spanish studies and political science. Last year, Delany won the 2016 Admiral John S. Jenkins Prize for Excellence in Military Studies for his essay “Just Wars with Unjust Allies: Use of Force and Human Rights Considerations on the Russian Intervention in Syria.” In December, McAllister was awarded a 2016-17 Ferencz Fellowship in Human Rights and Law.

In a joint statement, Grenzow, Delany, and McAllister thanked the Human Rights Center and Professors Fionnuala Ñi Aoláin and Oren Gross “for their pivotal role in our preparation.” Added the team, “Our success at this competition is a direct result of the excellence of our international law program and faculty.”

A team from the Law School also took first place in last year’s Barton competition.
ON APRIL 14, THE LAW SCHOOL’S Theatre of the Relatively Talented staged its 15th annual production, The TORT Producers, at the Ted Mann Concert Hall. The writing committee, led by Drew Heiring (’17), put a Law School twist on the popular movie musical The Producers. Tim Joyce (’17) and Bill Coberly (’17) took the stage as Max and Leo, two law students who hatch a plan when they realize that some of the most successful Law School alumni did not get their start with OCI or judicial clerkships, but as producers of TORT flops. Through a series of hijinks, they try to tank the show to launch their careers. Cameo appearances were made by Judges John R. Tunheim (’80) and Joan N. Ericksen (’81), as well as Senator Amy Klobuchar. Making his TORT debut was Dean Garry W. Jenkins, who was joined by Assistant Dean Erin Keyes (’00), Professor Brad Clary (’75), Professor Judith T. Younger, and Nubia Esparza. Vice President Walter Mondale (’56), a TORT regular, also joined students on stage.

More than 50 students were involved in the writing, arranging, production, and performance of The TORT Producers. Executive board members for 2016-17 were Alexis Dutt (’18, director), Alex Van Rysselberghe (’17, music director), Natasha Yenina (’17, head choreographer), Nick Smith (’18, tech director), Amy Johns (’18, producer), Mandy Theissen (’17, head costumer), Bethany Davidson (’18, stage manager), Julia Barlow (’17, treasurer), and Hannah Anderson (’17, VIP liaison).

TORT was generously supported by Stinson Leonard Street, Faegre Baker Daniels, Fredrikson & Byron, Robins Kaplan, the Law School’s Office of Advancement, Kaplan Bar Review, Themis Bar Review, and LexisNexis.

By Alexis Dutt (’18)
ALUMNI PROFILES

ANNAMARIE DALEY HAS ENJOYED a long career as a commercial litigator in Minneapolis, so it may come as a surprise to learn that when Daley was in law school, she never had any intention of practicing law.

“The career I had my eyes set on was to be a trade negotiator for the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C.,” she recalls.

A farm girl from Lewiston in Winona County, in southeastern Minnesota, Daley had earned a Bachelor of Agricultural Administration degree along with a B.A. in political science from the University in 1980, and then entered law school with the goal of doing international trade deals for the Agriculture Department. Fate intervened in the form of a Minneapolis fiancé, however, and the rest is history.

Despite the fact that her USDA dreams never materialized, however, Daley has managed to keep alive an ongoing connection to agriculture, among other industries, as a corporate litigator. One of her first cases involved breach of contract at a sunflower-seed processing facility.

“And from there I went to a case involving turkeys. I’ve had a chicken antitrust case, a milk antitrust case. I’ve had different cheese cases, frozen beef, corn, and I currently have two cases—one in Oregon and one in Montana—involving wheat.”

Daley is a partner with Jones Day in Minneapolis. She was previously a partner at Barnes and Thornburg for six years and with Robins Kaplan for 16. She’s handled complex commercial litigation throughout her career.

Despite her busy professional life, Daley has maintained a steady connection to the Law School. She was a cabinet member of the school’s capital campaign committee several years ago and also has served as president and a board member of the Minnesota 4-H Foundation at University of Minnesota Extension.

In February, Daley participated in a
Career Center event at the law school, talking with students and alumni about the importance of mentoring.

“I’m a firm believer in giving back, especially as a female attorney,” she says. “I recognize the people who helped me in my career and the value that I gained as a result of their assistance and their guidance, and I just hope that in some small way I can help others in the same way.”

CARL JOHNSON HAS BEEN photographing nature in Alaska ever since he moved there 18 years ago to practice law, and his works have won awards and appeared in numerous exhibitions. But he had never compiled a book until recently, when Where Water Is Gold: Life and Livelihood in Alaska’s Bristol Bay was published by Braided River.

For the last six years, Johnson has been serving as a division chief in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Office of Subsistence Management in Anchorage, focusing his efforts on making sure that resources on federal land are managed properly to ensure that traditional ways of life are maintained.

Where Water Is Gold provides a look at one area, Bristol Bay, and the people who live there.

Johnson says that his interest in documenting Bristol Bay was sparked before he joined the Fish and Wildlife Service. For a little more than a year, he was a staff attorney at Trustees for Alaska, a nonprofit environmental law organization that had filed suit against the state, contending that the effluent from a large-scale mineral exploration project threatened the entire Bristol Bay watershed.

“When I left that firm, I wanted to stay engaged in the issues that I was coming to understand about the Bristol Bay region,” he says. “That’s where the idea for the book came from.”

Johnson traces his interest in photography to the 1980s and a four-year U.S. Navy tour when he volunteered to be a ship’s photographer. He continued to pursue photography as a hobby while an undergraduate at the University from 1990 to 1994, then ventured into nature photography over the next two summers, when he worked as a guide in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. He enrolled in the Law School in 1996 and served as photographer for the student newspaper of the time, Quaere. After getting his J.D. in 1999,
When Roshan Rajkumar looks back on his three years at the Law School, one experience stands out above all others: his role, as president of the Law Council, in bringing about the dissolution of the student bookstore.

Rajkumar was the first two-term president of the Law Council, and it was during his first term that the council discovered serious financial mismanagement by the Friendly Law School Bookstore, a student-run corporate entity whose revenues were used to fund student groups. Rajkumar recalls that it took two years to untangle the mess and move Law School book sales to the University of Minnesota’s bookstore.

“In going through the process of dissolving the bookstore, I learned a literal practical application of avoiding bankruptcy—how to manage paying out debt at less than dollar for dollar and negotiating settlements with creditors,” he says. “It was fascinating in that I learned a lot about business when I didn’t have a business background.”

In retrospect, he says, the experience was personally invaluable. At the time, he had his sights set on becoming a criminal prosecutor—he even clerked for two years in the Hennepin County District Attorney’s office. But after the bookstore flap, he came to consider commercial law equally intriguing, and after getting his J.D. in 2000, that’s precisely the career path he took. Today, Rajkumar is a partner in the Minneapolis office of Bowman and Brooke, where he is a commercial litigator.

The lesson that practical experience can provide priceless benefits is one that has stuck with Rajkumar. He is one of the adjunct professors who teach the Law in Practice class for second-semester 1Ls, an opportunity for students to apply their knowledge of legal doctrine to the practice of law through various simulations.

He maintains a strong connection to the Law School in other ways as well. He is a member of the Law School Board of Advisors and is co-chair of the board’s Alumni and Student Engagement Committee. He’s the alumni representative on the Law School Diversity Committee, as well.

Rajkumar also provides pro bono legal service for his church, the Basilica of St. Mary in downtown Minneapolis, where he sings in the choir.

Adam Hansen admits that he has a love/hate relationship with writing.

“I love it when it’s working, but when it’s not, I can get frustrated and throw things at my computer,” he says. “In the final analysis, though, I think the love wins out—because when it goes well it’s so rewarding.”

Hansen is talking about writing because he is an appellate lawyer—and writing is a big part of the job. He’s been perfecting his craft for the last eight years, has recently launched his own appellate law firm in Minneapolis, and is now passing on his knowledge to first-year students at the Law School.

Hansen is in his second year of teaching legal writing, a course that’s intended to provide students with the basics of the craft. But more than giving students the nuts and bolts, Hansen says, he aspires to instill in them the awareness that legal writing is something that is difficult to ever really master.

“What I say to them is that if you’re serious about putting writing at the center of your career, it’s a lifelong process,” he says. “You just try get better and better at it; you try to improve a little bit on each piece that you do.”

Hansen’s own progression as a writer began with daily exposure to appellate matters during two clerkships following graduation from law school—for Chief Justice Eric Magnuson of the Minnesota Supreme Court and Judge Kermit Bye of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit. He then joined the Minneapolis/San Francisco firm of Nichols Kaster, which handles mostly employee and consumer cases on the plaintiff side, and quickly gravitated to appellate work there.

His work helped secure a number of landmark decisions, including one at the U.S. Supreme Court. In Perez v. Mortgage Bankers Association, the court ruled in favor of employees and against the banking industry in resolving that federal agencies may revise their interpretative rules without going through notice-and-comment rulemaking.

After several years at Nichols Kaster, Hansen decided to venture out on his own, and in June 2016 he opened the Minneapolis-based appellate law firm Apollo Law, which concentrates solely on appellate work on behalf of employees and consumers.

By Dick Dahl, a freelance writer/editor based in St. Paul
JUDGE MICHAEL J. DAVIS (’72) WINS SARAH T. HUGHES CIVIL RIGHTS AWARD

The Federal Bar Association honored Senior Judge Michael J. Davis (’72) of the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota with the 2016 Sarah T. Hughes Civil Rights Award. Named for the first woman to serve on the federal bench in Texas, the award is presented each year to an attorney or judge whose career achievements have made a difference in advancing the causes that were important to Judge Hughes: civil rights, due process, equal protection, social concerns, and the rights of women.

“For 45 years, Judge Michael J. Davis has had a passion for equal access and equal justice for all,” the Federal Bar Association said in its award citation. “His lifelong commitment to and pursuit of equal access and equal justice for all shows through his work with the Legal Rights Center, Neighborhood Justice Center, Hennepin County Public Defender’s Office, and throughout his 11 years as a state court judge in Hennepin County. This flame burned bright as the editor-in-chief of the comprehensive and influential Minnesota Supreme Court Racial Bias Task Force report issued in 1993. Judge Davis is the first African American judge appointed to the District of Minnesota and, in 2008, he became the first African American chief judge of the district. He has made groundbreaking achievements and sustained a body of work in the area of civil rights, due process, and equal protection.”

CATHY HAUKEDAHL (’79) AND JONATHAN BYE (’83) HONORED FOR PRO BONO SERVICE

The Hennepin County Bar Association selected Cathy Haukedahl (’79) and Jonathan Bye (’83) as recipients of its 2017 Pro Bono Publico awards, which recognize significant contributions to pro bono services in the state’s largest county.

Haukedahl, winner of the Distinguished Service Award for career-long pro bono work on behalf of the community, serves as executive director of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, a nonprofit focused on providing legal services for low-income people. She led MMLA through the financial turmoil of the Great Recession and was instrumental in expanding its domestic violence court projects and developing its medical-legal programs.

Before joining MMLA, Haukedahl worked for the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office as solicitor general, a nonprofit focused on providing legal services for low-income people. She led MMLA through the financial turmoil of the Great Recession and was instrumental in expanding its domestic violence court projects and developing its medical-legal programs.

Bye, winner of the Award for Excellence for a Private Attorney, which spotlights current or recent excellence in service by individuals, is a partner at Lindquist & Vennum. A colleague at the Minneapolis-based firm calls him the “face of pro bono.” For 20-plus years, Bye chaired or co-chaired Lindquist’s Public Service Committee.

In the community, Bye has been an active member of the Volunteer Lawyers Network, serving on the board of directors for more than a decade and chairing the board since 2009. He’s also been active with the Hennepin County Pro Bono project, helping create the District Court Referral Project, where judges can directly refer clients to VLN for services.

TIMOTHY MULROONEY (’94) APPOINTED JUDGE IN MINNESOTA’S 2ND DISTRICT

Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton appointed Timothy Mulrooney (’94) to serve as a district judge in the state’s 2nd Judicial District, which encompasses Ramsey County. In making the appointment, Dayton praised Mulrooney for the “commitment to justice and service” he had demonstrated throughout his “exceptional career.”

Mulrooney had been a judicial referee in the Family Court Division of the 4th Judicial District Court (Hennepin County). Previously, he was an attorney and shareholder at the Minneapolis firm Henson & Efron, an assistant Hennepin County attorney, an assistant Minneapolis city attorney, and a judicial law clerk to Judge Richard B. Solum (’69) of the 4th Judicial District. Before attending the Law School, Mulrooney earned his B.A. from the University of Notre Dame. He serves...
Emily Eschweiler (’02) Named Director of State’s Attorney Regulation Boards

The Minnesota Supreme Court appointed Emily J. Eschweiler (’02) to lead the three boards that oversee the court’s attorney regulatory functions. In this position, Eschweiler will serve as the director of the Minnesota Board of Law Examiners, the Board of Continuing Legal Education, and the Board of Legal Certification. She has served as the assistant director and counsel for the three boards since 2011. Eschweiler succeeds Margaret Fuller Corneille, who had held the post since January 1987.

“The Supreme Court is extremely pleased that Emily Eschweiler has agreed to take over this important position. Emily has tremendous expertise in the work of these boards, and is committed to improving how these boards serve attorneys and the people of Minnesota,” said Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Lorie S. Gildea.

As director, Eschweiler will provide consultation and advice to the boards, supervise personnel, develop budgets for each board and office, oversee the Minnesota Bar Examination, direct the process by which CLE courses are accredited, oversee attorney registration, and monitor the process by which attorneys are certified as specialists in Minnesota, among other responsibilities.

Eschweiler began working for the three boards as a staff attorney in 2006. Before that, she practiced law in the areas of commercial litigation, insurance defense, and corporate transactions.

Kathryn Hoffman (’06) Named Executive Director of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy appointed Kathryn Hoffman (’06) its new executive director. Hoffman was an attorney with MCEA for the previous six years, most recently serving as legal director. In her new role, she will lead a team of environmental attorneys, experts, and policy advocates who work to protect Minnesota’s environment and natural resources.

MCEA board chair Alan Thometz praised Hoffman’s work, saying, “Kathryn’s accomplishments with mining issues in northern Minnesota as well as her leadership in the successful Sandpiper Pipeline litigation reflect the tactical, thoughtful, and science-based approach to environment protection and management she will bring as executive director.” He also cited her efforts in building coalitions to protect such important areas of the state as Lake Superior and the headwaters of the Mississippi River.

Prior to joining MCEA, Hoffman spent four years as an attorney with Minneapolis-based Zelle Hofmann. In addition to her J.D. from the Law School, she holds a master’s (’05) in public policy with a concentration in science, technology, and the environment from the University’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Anne Dutton (’16) to Receive Equal Justice Works Fellowship

Anne Dutton (’16) was awarded a two-year postgraduate fellowship through Equal Justice Works, a nonprofit organization whose mission is “mobilizing the next generation of lawyers committed to equal justice.” Dutton will spend the term of her fellowship working at the Center for Gender & Refugee Studies at UC Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco, representing child asylum seekers in jurisdictions that deny children’s claims at rates significantly above the national average. She will also foster development of pro bono attorneys in these jurisdictions, providing training and ongoing support for the legal and psychosocial complexities of representing child survivors of trauma. The fellowship will begin in the fall of 2017.

Having earned her J.D. magna cum laude last year, Dutton is on track to receive her M.S.W. from the University’s School of Social Work in May. While at the Law School, she was a Robina Public Interest Scholar, an articles submissions editor for the Minnesota Law Review, and student director of the Federal Immigration Litigation Clinic. In March 2016, she was a member of the three-student Law School team that won the annual Clara Barton International Humanitarian Law Competition. The following month, she argued before a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in a case that could affect thousands of asylum seekers.
The Offices of Advancement and Admissions partnered throughout the winter to host receptions in key markets around the country. The goal of these events was to keep alumni engaged and connected to the Law School, as well as to introduce perspective members of the class of 2020 to the alumni networks in each region. The Law School is grateful to our event hosts, as well as regional alumni ambassadors who helped promote and ensure the success of these events.

1 Alumni and admitted students were hosted by Esta Stecher (CLA ’79) and Lisa Rotenberg (’85) in New York City.
2 Ami Richardson (’97), Charlene Johnson (’84), and Dean Garry W. Jenkins at an alumni reception held in Washington, D.C.

NOVEMBER 2, 2016
WASHINGTON, D.C.
Alumni and admitted students gathered at the offices of BakerHostetler for a reception hosted by regional alumni ambassadors Kevin Sheys (’87) and Dan Foix (’98) and former U.S. Ambassador to Zimbabwe Tom McDonald (’79).

NOVEMBER 26, 2016
NEW YORK
Esta Stecher (CLA ’79) and Lisa Rotenberg (’85) hosted, supported by regional alumni ambassadors Sitso Bediako (’08), Lauren Bergstrom (’13), Lindsay Molinan (’09), Stephanna Sztokowski (’14), and Matt Povolny (’07). Remarks were made by the hosts, Povolny, and Dean Jenkins.

JANUARY 26, 2017
CHICAGO
Hosted by R. Hugh Magill (’85) at Northern Trust Company, the Chicago reception featured remarks by Magill, John Hartmann (’87) of the Board of Advisors, and Dean Jenkins.

JANUARY 31, 2017
SAN FRANCISCO
Hosted by George Tichy (’67) at Littler Mendelson, the Bay Area reception featured remarks by Tichy, Jennifer Ciresi (’07) of the Board of Advisors, and Dean Jenkins.

FEBRUARY 23, 2017
LOS ANGELES
Hosted by Renae Welder (’96) at the City Club Los Angeles. Featured remarks were made by Welder, Robert Barton (’09), and Dean Jenkins.

MARCH 9, 2017
NAPLES ALUMNI & DONOR RECEPTION
Alumni and donors in Naples, Fla., and the surrounding region attended a reception hosted by Eloise and Elliot (’61) Kaplan. Dean Jenkins provided updates from the Law School and Jane Godfrey (’91) fielded a Q & A on the topic of Planned Giving and Estate Administration.

MARCH 16, 2017
SCOTTSDALE ALUMNI RECEPTION
Alumni and donors in and around Scottsdale, Ariz., were welcomed into the home of and Gail and Denny (’66) Mathisen to socialize and connect. Remarks were made by Dean Garry Jenkins and Jane Godfrey (’91).
1970
Michael Wolff was included in St. Louis Magazine’s 2016 “Power List” of 100 influential people in the St. Louis area. He is a dean emeritus of Saint Louis University School of Law, having served as dean from 2013 to 2017. He served as a justice on the Missouri Supreme Court from 1998 to 2011, including two years as chief justice (2005-07).

Richard T. Ostlund was featured in the March 2017 issue of the Minnesota edition of Attorney at Law magazine. The article discussed Ostlund’s selection by the ABA’s commercial litigation division as the principal author of a new topic (fiduciary duty litigation) in the fourth edition of Business and Commercial Litigation in Federal Courts (Thomson West, 2016). Ostlund is a shareholder at Anthony Ostlund Baer & Louwagie in Minneapolis.

1972
Michael J. Davis, a senior judge for the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota, received the Federal Bar Association’s Sarah T. Hughes Civil Rights Award for his work promoting civil and human rights.

1979
Cathy Haukedahl was awarded a Pro Bono Publico Award for Distinguished Service by the Hennepin County Bar Association in recognition of her career-long work on behalf of the community. She is the executive director of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid.

1981
Kevin Busch was re-elected to the board of Moss & Barnett in Minneapolis, where he is partner and chair of the commercial and banking transactions department.

1982
William C. Hicks was elected a board member of Messeri & Kramer in Minneapolis. He works in the firm’s collections and creditors’ remedies group.

1983
Jonathan Bye received a Pro Bono Publico Award of Excellence from the Hennepin County Bar Association in recognition of his excellent private sector pro bono and community work. He is a partner at Lindquist & Vennum in Minneapolis and serves as a board member for the Volunteer Lawyers Network and the Hennepin County Bar Foundation.

Ryan Wilson retired from the U.S. Navy after serving 31 years and was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal by the secretary of defense.

1984
Kurt Erickson joined Littler Mendelson’s Minneapolis office as a shareholder. Previously, he was a principal with Jackson Lewis, also in Minneapolis, and a longtime assistant attorney general in Minnesota.

1986
Annette B. Kuz received the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Legal Services Enterprise Award for her work on the chief of engineers report for the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Study. She was also inducted into the Burnsville, Minn., High School Hall of Fame.

1990
Keith Ellison was re-elected as the U.S. Representative for Minnesota’s 5th Congressional District. He serves Minneapolis and surrounding suburbs.

1991
Chad Baruch is a candidate for president-elect of the Texas State Bar Association. He is a partner at Johnston Tobey Baruch in Dallas and focuses on civil appellate law.

Peggy Middlestead was promoted to counsel at Faegre Baker Daniels in Minneapolis. She focuses on real estate law.

Michael Weaver joined Dorsey & Whitney’s Minneapolis office as a partner in the firm’s corporate group. He focuses his practice on agribusiness and renewable energy industries. Previously, he was a partner at Lindquist & Vennum, also in Minneapolis.

1992
Ben M. Henschel achieved board certification as a family law trial advocate. He is a founding partner of the Minneapolis law firm Henschel Moberg Goff.

Kevin Wolf joined Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld’s Washington, D.C., office as a new partner in the firm’s international trade group. Previously, he served for seven years as the assistant secretary of commerce for export administration in the Obama administration.
1993

Lee Lastovich won a 2017 Client Choice Award, an award given by International Law Office and Lexology for excellent client service. He is a principal and litigation manager at Jackson Lewis in Minneapolis.

Bill Stock was installed as the national president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. He presented at the annual conference of AILA’s central Florida chapter. He also participated in a National Press Club debate and discussion on the legal considerations of “sanctuary cities.” He is a partner at Klasko Immigration Law Partners in Philadelphia.

1994

Brett H. Ludwig was appointed to a 14-year term as a judge for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. He is based in Milwaukee. Before joining the court, he worked as a partner at the law firm of Foley & Lardner in Milwaukee.

Timothy Mulrooney was appointed by Governor Mark Dayton to be a district court judge in Minnesota’s 2nd Judicial District. He is chambered in St. Paul. Previously, he was a judicial referee in the Family Court Division of Minnesota’s 4th Judicial District in Hennepin County.

1995

Debbie Ellingboe is the new business litigation group leader in the Minneapolis office of Faegre Baker Daniels.

Jerami Kemnitz joined Fredrikson & Byron in Minneapolis as an officer in the firm’s e-discovery strategy and advocacy, data protection and cybersecurity, and litigation groups.

1996

John Dragseth was named a Litigation Trailblazer by the National Law Journal for his federal appellate work. He is the principal and co-chair of Fish & Richardson’s appellate group.

1998

Kari Dahlin became an associate at Bassford Remele in Minneapolis, focusing on commercial litigation and medical device and pharmaceutical litigation.

2000

Tara Norgard was elected president of the Minnesota chapter of the Federal Bar Association for 2016-17. She was also listed among the Top 50 Women Minnesota Super Lawyers for 2016.

Jill Radloff was named managing partner of Stinson Leonard Street in the firm’s Minneapolis office. She is the first woman to serve as managing partner in Minneapolis.

2001

China Boak Terrell spoke at Washington College on Feb. 1, 2017. Her talk was called “Bread Alone: How the Food Environment Can Bring Positive Change to Low-Income Urban Communities.”

2002

Jean Farmakes was elected a shareholder of LHB Inc., a Minneapolis and Duluth, Minn., architecture, interior design, and engineering firm. She is the firm’s general counsel.

2003

Susan E. Reed hosted a discussion at Kalamazoo Valley Community College in Kalamazoo, Mich., on post-election immigration law, including the state of the laws currently and the prospects for the future. She works as the managing attorney with the Michigan Immigration Rights Center.

2004

Stuart Nelson was named a principal of Fish & Richardson in Minneapolis. He is a member of the firm’s patent group.

Drew Schaffer joined Bassford Remele’s housing and general litigation groups in Minneapolis.

Julia Singh joined the Chicago office of Greenberg Traurig as counsel in the firm’s corporate and securities practice. Previously, she was a partner at Chapman and Cutler, also in Chicago.

Eva Weiler became managing partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon’s Orange County, Calif., office. She defends corporations in science-focused multidistrict litigation, class actions, and coordinated proceedings.

2005

Steven Emme joined Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld’s Washington, D.C., office as senior counsel in the firm’s international trade group. Previously, he served as a senior advisor to the assistant secretary of commerce for export administration.

2006

Lisa Hird Chung was named a partner at Duane Morris in San Diego. She practices employment law and litigation.

Kathryn Hoffman became the executive director of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy in St. Paul. She has worked with the organization since 2010, first as a staff attorney and most recently as its legal director. She has also been a faculty director for the Law School’s environmental law clinic since 2015.

2007

Andrew Borene will be the chairman emeritus of the 2017 Cyber Security Summit, a public-private collaboration that gathers to discuss security trends and solutions. This year, the summit will take place Oct. 23-25 in Minneapolis. He is a partner at Booz Allen Hamilton in Washington, D.C.

Ethan S. Klepetar was named a new partner at Hellman Shearn & Arienti in Great Barrington, Mass. He focuses his practice on business and commercial law, commercial financing, nonprofit law, and real estate.
Rebecca Lucero became the public policy director of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits in St. Paul. Previously, she was the policy and advocacy manager for Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity.

Jessica Marsh has joined Jackson Lewis in Minneapolis as counsel. She represents employers in labor and employment law matters.

2008 Mahmoud Fadlallah was named a new partner at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld in Washington, D.C. He focuses his practice on global investigation and compliance with international sanctions, export controls, and anticorruption laws in the application of U.S. law to non-U.S. entities and operations.

Andrew Gibbons was named a partner at Stinson Leonard Street in Minneapolis. He focuses his practice on energy, environmental, and natural resources regulatory and transactional matters.

Brad West was promoted from vice president to principal at Pritzker Group Private Capital in Chicago.

2009 Sarah Johnson Phillips was named a partner at Stoel Rives in Minneapolis. She is a member of the firm’s energy development practice and works primarily with project developers for renewables.

Vishnu Ramaswamy was elected a member attorney at Dickinson Wright in the firm’s Washington, D.C., office.

Anne Hoyt Taff became the director of community impact and community affiliates at Minnesota Philanthropy Partners in St. Paul.

2012 Adam Hoskins married Laura Mortensen on July 30, 2016, at Annunciation Church in Minneapolis.

2013 Stuart Campbell joined Moss & Barnett in Minneapolis. He is a member of the firm’s litigation team.

Anne Dwyer spoke in December about her work as health counsel for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee at Prumo’s Emerging Health Care Leaders event in Washington, D.C.

Noah Lentz married Katherine Young at Water Power Park in Minneapolis on Sept. 24, 2016.

2014 Anthony Bégon joined the Dallas firm of Bell Nunnally & Martin as an associate and member of its litigation practice area.

Tucker Chambers joined Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis as an associate in the firm’s litigation practice.

2015 Emily Bodtke joined the Minneapolis office of Faegre Baker Daniels as an associate on the products liability litigation team. Previously, she clerked in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit.

Alexander Hagstrom joined Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis as an associate in the firm’s business and commercial litigation practice.

Jennifer Warfield became an associate at Faegre Baker Daniels in Minneapolis in the firm’s real estate group.

2016 Nicholas Anderson joined Johnson, Killen & Seiler in Duluth, Minn., as an associate.

Courtney Baga joined Faegre Baker Daniels in Minneapolis as an associate focusing on complex commercial litigation.

Steven Conley joined Faegre Baker Daniels in Minneapolis as an associate in the corporate group.

Olivia Cooper joined Brownson & Linnihan in Minneapolis as an associate. She focuses on insurance coverage, asbestos defense, and regulatory law.

Catherine Cumming became an associate at Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis in the firm’s real estate practice.

Jingwei Huang joined Wong, Wong & Associates in New York City as an associate.

Amber Kraemer became an associate at Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis in the firm’s banking and finance practice and corporate practice groups.

Samuel Jackson joined Cummins & Cummins in Minneapolis office as an associate in the labor and employment group.

Joe Mahoney became an assistant state’s attorney in the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office in Chicago.

Jonathan Nemani joined Faegre Baker Daniels in Minneapolis as an associate focusing on corporate law.

Mark Rosenfeld joined Faegre Baker Daniels in Minneapolis as an associate in the employee benefits and executive compensation practice group.

Kim VandenAkker joined Varnum as an associate in the Grand Rapids, Mich., office. She focuses on business and corporate services and labor and employment relations.

Zachary White joined Day Ketterer in Canton, Ohio, as an associate focusing on litigation and education law.

JANUARY 7, 2017
BEIJING WINTER RECEPTION

Alumni and current students attended a reception hosted in Beijing by the Law School’s chapter of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association. The reception provided an opportunity for students to meet and learn from the Law School’s Chinese alumni, who have become leading attorneys in a variety of fields, from international law firms’ Chinese offices to government agencies and successful China-based firms.
TOP 100 SUPER LAWYERS

Each year Minnesota Lawyer magazine recognizes Minnesota attorneys for their achievements with Attorney of the Year awards. The award winners this year were chosen for their leadership, involvement with major cases, excellent service to clients, and work in public service.

1974
Edward Cassidy was recognized for his pro bono work on Weary v. Cain, a Louisiana case in which the U.S. Supreme Court reversed a death row inmate’s conviction. He is a shareholder at Fredrikson & Byron in Minneapolis.

1984
Cathryn Middlebrook was recognized for her role in persuading the Minnesota Supreme Court to rule Minnesota’s test refusal statute unconstitutional in State v. Trahan and for her work with the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission in helping to reform the state’s drug sentences. She is the chief appellate public defender for Minnesota.

1989
John Dornik was recognized for his persistent work helping the family of two children seriously injured in a plane crash finally reach a settlement after 13 years. He is a shareholder at Siegel Brill in Minneapolis.

1993
Susan Ellingstad was recognized for her advocacy on behalf of FedEx drivers to be recognized and compensated as employees rather than contractors. She is a partner at Lockridge Grindal Nauen in Minneapolis and she leads the firm’s employment law practice.

1995
Julie Allyn was recognized for her work resolving the Jacob Wetterling disappearance case. She is an assistant United States attorney for the District of Minnesota.

1994-2002
John Dragseth (’96), Michael Kane (’94), and William Woodford (’02) of Fish & Richardson in Minneapolis were recognized for their win at the U.S. Supreme Court for their client Halo Electronics. The court reversed a district court decision that had denied punitive damages to Halo in a patent infringement suit.

FEBRUARY 13, 2017 WE ♥ TORT REUNION

Theatre of the Relatively Talentless alumni gathered to meet this year’s TORT board, cast, pit band, and crew to share memories, their love of TORT, and to celebrate 15 years of the TORT musical production. The group raised more than $1,000 to support this amazing and cherished creative outlet for Law School students.

Hosts for the event were Sarvesh Desai (’14), Rachel Gartner (’08), Brad Hammer (’12), Amy Johns (’18), and the Office of Advancement.

1 Walter Prescott (’17), Andrew Glasnovich (’16), Gaowen Li (’17)
2 Alumni and current students mingled and relived their favorite TORT memories.
3 Andy Doran (guest), Daniel Iden (’12), Kathy Wood (’12), Kaitlyn Dennis (’15), Kyle Kroll (’16)
4 Rachel Gartner (’08), Rachel Brucker (’09), Allison Lange Garrison (’10), David Couillard (’10), Gary Shipp (guest)
TRIBUTES

MYRON H. BRIGHT
CLASS OF 1947

In 2008, the Law School established the Honorable Myron Bright Scholarship Fund, which provides support to new students with academic promise.

MILES LORD
CLASS OF 1948

In 2008, the Law School established the Honorable Myron Bright Scholarship Fund, which provides support to new students with academic promise.

MILES LORD, AN OUTSPOKEN judge whose two decades on the U.S. District Court were marked by frequent controversy and banner headlines, died in Eden Prairie, Minn., on Dec. 10, 2016. He was 97.

Lord presided over a number of “huge cases that reformed the law and set a new standard for judicial courage,” former Vice President Walter Mondale (’56) told the Associated Press. “When he got onto something, he really didn’t care about the consequences. He wanted to do what was right.”

Lord also served as Minnesota’s attorney general and as a U.S. attorney for the District of Minnesota. Following his retirement from the federal bench, he founded the Lord & Associates Law Office, a personal injury firm.

Lord is best remembered for the Reserve Mining case, involving taconite pollution of Lake Superior, and the Dalkon Shield case, in which A.H. Robins was held liable for injuries to thousands of women who used its intrauterine device.

RICK PLUNKETT
CLASS OF 1984

RICK PLUNKETT, WHO FOUNDED the Minnesota Justice Foundation during his 1L year at the Law School, died Nov. 2, 2016, at his home in Rochester, Minn.

While an undergraduate at the University, Plunkett served as president of the Minnesota Public Interest Research Group. After graduating with honors from the Law School, he practiced law for five years before joining his family’s cable, banking, and real estate businesses in the Rochester area.

In founding MJF, Plunkett set the course for an organization that has dedicated itself to meeting the legal needs of low-income Minnesotans for more than three decades. This year, its 35th, MJF will establish a distinguished service award in Plunkett’s name.

“Rick was in touch with me as recently as August to plan a clerkship that would study and write a paper on police practices that result in deadly confrontations,” said Janine Laird, MJF’s executive director. “He was interested in creating new public policy calling for the least violent intervention possible. It was clear to me that he still had the fire and enthusiasm that he brought to organizing MJF 35 years ago.”

MYRON H. BRIGHT, WHO SERVED a record 48 years on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit, passed away Dec. 12, 2016, in Fargo, N.D. He was 97. He had been hearing cases until a few weeks before his death. Fellow judges and other court observers praised his brilliance, congeniality, compassion, and dedication to equal rights for all.

From 1947 to 1968, Bright practiced with Wattam, Vogel, Vogel, Bright and Peterson in North Dakota, primarily as a litigator. In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed him to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit, where he served as an active circuit judge until June 1, 1985; he then continued as a senior circuit judge, considering more than 6,000 cases in all. Bright was also a distinguished professor of law at Saint Louis University School of Law in St. Louis, Mo., and he authored dozens of articles and a leading casebook on objections at trial.

His groundbreaking work with jurist-in-residence programs around the U.S. has ensured that law schools and law students are attuned to the work of the courts. In 2014, Bright published an autobiography: Goodbye Mike, Hello Judge: My Journey for Justice.
IN MEMORIAM

CLASS OF 1947
Myron H. Bright
December 12, 2016
Fargo, N.D.

CLASS OF 1948
Miles Lord
December 10, 2016
Eden Prairie, Minn.

CLASS OF 1950
Richard H. Darby
October 18, 2016
Winona, Minn.

George E. Harding
September 24, 2016
Golden Valley, Minn.

CLASS OF 1951
Richard A. Bodger
February 4, 2017
Minneapolis, Minn.

CLASS OF 1952
Elliot O. Boe
November 6, 2016
Fergus Falls, Minn.

Walter A. Egeland
November 14, 2016
Two Harbors, Minn.

Abraham Rosenthal
January 14, 2017
Minneapolis, Minn.

CLASS OF 1955
Douglas N. Odegaard
December 20, 2016
Phoenix, Ariz.

CLASS OF 1956
John R. Hetland
February 16, 2017
Orinda, Calif.

CLASS OF 1957
Thomas R. Butler
January 17, 2017
Sun City, Ariz.

Leo J. Harris
January 25, 2017
St. Paul, Minn.

Lowell H. May Jr.
October 10, 2016
Minnetonka, Minn.

CLASS OF 1959
Charles D. Nyberg
February 1, 2017
Phoenix, Ariz.

CLASS OF 1960
Robert T. Gustafson
February 13, 2017
National City, Calif.

CLASS OF 1961
Richard R. Hansen
September 28, 2016
St. Paul, Minn.

CLASS OF 1964
James M. Neville
November 21, 2016
St. Louis, Mo.

CLASS OF 1965
Bruce C. Kruger
November 2, 2016
Minneapolis, Minn.

CLASS OF 1966
Mentor C. Addicks Jr.
November 12, 2016
Falcon Heights, Minn.

CLASS OF 1967
Larry B. Leventhal
January 17, 2017
St. Paul, Minn.

Jerold O. Nelson
November 29, 2016
St. Paul, Minn.

Jan D. Stuurmans
June 19, 2015
Wayzata, Minn.

John J. Swenson
November 18, 2016
Los Angeles, Calif.

CLASS OF 1968
Frank R. Krohn
November 11, 2016
Oak Brook, Ill.

CLASS OF 1969
Daniel V. Noble
February 14, 2017
Maple Grove, Minn.

CLASS OF 1970
Paul J. Luedtke
September 25, 2016
Cumberland, Wis.

CLASS OF 1982
Gemma E. Graham
November 2, 2016
Minneapolis, Minn.

Thomas G. Squire
September 30, 2016
St. Paul, Minn.
WHY I GIVE...

SITSO BEDIAKO  CLASS OF 2008

Sitso Bediako had a great time as a law student. “I enjoyed the whole experience: the classmates, the professors, and the challenge,” he says. In fact, he has such fond memories of his time at the Law School that he has been a steadfast annual donor since graduating in 2008.

Sitso received multiple scholarships, including the Edmund Morris Morgan Scholarship, Royal A. Stone Memorial Scholarship, and Dean’s Elite Scholarship. This has inspired him to maintain a deep involvement in his alma mater, both as an annual donor and a volunteer: “I give and stay involved with the Law School because I am in awe of the amazing work of my classmates and our alumni, and I want to contribute to the next generation of talented lawyers and leaders.”

HOMETOWN: White Plains, N.Y.

CURRENT JOB: Associate at Lowey Dannenberg Cohen & Hart.

WHAT YOU WON’T FIND ON HIS RESUME: Sitso was a co-producer for TORT’s 2008 production, Robin Hood, Esq., and while he is not currently pursuing a career in the performing arts, he does sing as a tenor in his church’s choir. Sitso also volunteers with a local soccer league, coaching a team of third- and fourth-graders.

PASSIONS: Sitso was not immediately drawn to law school. It was his work with Horizons for Homeless Children that taught him the value of being an advocate. He decided that a law degree would give him the skills he needed to have the greatest impact in society and in people’s lives.

COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS: Sitso is a member of the American Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. He sits on the Law School’s Board of Advisors and is active in University of Minnesota alumni outreach in the New York metropolitan area. He is also a member of his local PTA.

FUN FACT: Sitso’s daughter was born in January of his 2L year, and during that second semester, she would come to school with him and sit in on Professor Brad Clary’s (’75) evidence class. She is 10 years old now and is working on her argumentative skills. Says Sitso: “She may have learned too much from her law school experience…”
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 Law School at 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55455.

PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE ANNUAL FUND
Student scholarships, clinics, journals, the Law Library, and faculty support are just a few areas that benefit from this current-use fund. It allows the Law School to provide core support while also giving us the flexibility to meet our greatest needs.

To make a gift, visit give.umn.edu/lawschool
Hundreds of alumni returned to Mondale Hall from all over the country to reunite with classmates and professors, connect with other alumni, meet Dean Jenkins, and celebrate milestone anniversaries. This year’s activities included an ethics credit CLE (available for viewing at our University of Minnesota Law School YouTube channel), all-alumni and milestone class receptions, and an alumni and faculty luncheon. Thank you so much to all who attended this incredible Law School tradition. We look forward to seeing you at future Spring Alumni Weekends!

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE WEEKEND ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT COMMUNITY.LAW.UMN.EDU/SAW.