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 Mark Cohen (mcohen@umn.edu), Director of Communications, University of Minnesota Law School, 229 19th Avenue South, 421 Mondale Hall, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

The University of Minnesota shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

©2018 University of Minnesota Board of Regents

Corrections and Clarifications
On page 55 of the fall issue, in the “Up & Coming Attorneys” section, Sam Diehl’s class year was incorrectly listed as 2001. Mr. Diehl is a member of the class of 2007.

WAYS TO GIVE
There are many ways to give back to the University of Minnesota Law School. For more information, visit www.law.umn.edu/giving. Or send your gift directly to the Office of Advancement, Law School, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55455.

LAW SCHOOL 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 z.umn.edu/give2law
One of the great joys of serving as dean of our Law School is that I see our mission in action every day. Simply put, the many ways in which our talented students, faculty, and alumni serve and engage with our local and global community are inspiring. As a leading U.S. law school, we must tackle important issues facing our communities and society, and provide our students with a foundation in service.

For our students, performing public service work can be personally rewarding while providing great preparation for life beyond law school. Last year, the class of 2017, in partnership with the Minnesota Justice Foundation, used their skills to serve communities in need by completing nearly 12,500 hours of legal public service work prior to graduation. Our students serve local and national nonprofit organizations and government agencies, with 31 percent of our students choosing public interest work during their 2L summer. In this issue of Perspectives, you will read about three Minnesota Law students who helped prepare a U.S. Supreme Court case, learning from alumni in public service while contributing to their agency’s work.

The University of Minnesota Law School’s nationally ranked clinical programs are another way in which students develop valuable experience while helping those in need with critical legal problems. With a choice of more than 20 clinics in a variety of legal issue areas, students have many opportunities to help real clients with acute legal needs. In the “Clinic Successes” feature of this magazine, you will read about Minnesota Law students who helped bring—and successfully settle—a class action lawsuit against a major computer manufacturer over its advertising practices. That settlement will result in payments of about $2 million to approximately 40,000 consumers.

Minnesota Law faculty are engaged in extensive public service, including authoring important scholarship, testifying before congressional committees, and serving as advisors for international bodies, including the United Nations and the International Criminal Court in The Hague. In one recent example, Professor of Practice JaneAnne Murray was awarded the 2018 University of Minnesota Outstanding Community Service Award for Faculty, the University’s highest honor for service to the institution and the community, for her clemency advocacy work on behalf of prison inmates.

Our alumni, through their commitment to public and community service, also play a key role in extending the Law School’s contributions to humanity. From nonprofit and government work to providing pro bono services and serving civic institutions, our alumni demonstrate an engagement whose foundation can be seen in their law school experiences. As our cover story on corporate social responsibility demonstrates, public service sometimes involves using skills and training to help businesses further the cause of social good (the subject of much of my own career and research).

Minnesota Law alumni also serve the community through philanthropy, including supporting the work of the Law School. Indeed, our students’ public service is made possible directly through your generous philanthropy and engagement, which sustains our “pipeline” of committed and prepared students looking to make a difference in our profession. Certainly no law school alone can solve injustice, but we are an integral part of the legal profession. With our outstanding clinical program, public interest programming and support, and commitment to cutting-edge scholarship, we will continue to make an impact.

Garry W. Jenkins
Dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law
1 **DEAN’S PERSPECTIVE**

Minnesota Law’s Legacy of Public Service

4 **AT THE LAW SCHOOL**

4 Third Annual MLK Convocation Addresses Implicit Racial Bias

6 Recent Clinic Successes

8 Marriott CEO Arne Sorenson ’83 to Deliver Law School Commencement Address

9 *Minnesota Journal of International Law Symposium* Explores “Justice After War”

10 Law & Inequality Symposium: The Summit for Civil Rights

11 Founder of We Are All Criminals Speaks at Law School

12 *Minnesota Journal of Law, Science & Technology Symposium* Delves into the Internet of Things

13 *Minnesota Law Review Symposium* Offers “A Prescription for Pharmaceutical’s Future”

14 New Law Library Exhibit Celebrates 40 Years at Mondale Hall

15 Chief Judge Cleary ’77 Donates Papers from Landmark First Amendment Case to Law Library

16 Career Conversation: Mee Moua ’97 Advises Students to Follow Their Passion • ISFL Conference Hosted by Law School

17 Annual Fund Giving

18 Impact of Giving: Driven to Support Tomorrow’s Lawyer-Leaders

19 Scholarship Stories: Fatjon Kaja ’19, Toni Ojoyeyi ’19, Tariq Miller ’19

28 **FACULTY PERSPECTIVE**

28 Faculty Awards, Grants, and News

30 Energy Transition Lab Director Recognized for Leadership

31 Faculty Works in Progress • Perspectives on Taxation

32 Professor Kevin Reitz, Robina Institute to Help Lead Grand Challenges Project • Faculty Bookshelf

33 Faculty Profile: Robert Stein ’61

34 **STUDENT PERSPECTIVE**

34 Student Profiles

37 Student Team Wins Annual Law School Basketball Title

38 Student News

40 Meet the First Graduate of the Law School’s S.J.D. Program

41 Law School Students Help Prep SCOTUS Election Case

42 Students Spend Spring Break Assisting Immigrants in Rural Midwest

43 TORT’s Top Gunner Flies High

44 **ALUMNI PERSPECTIVE**

44 Alumni Profiles

46 We ♥ TORT Reunion

48 Alumni News and Awards

49 Join the Lockhart Club

50 Class Notes

52 2017 Minnesota Lawyer Attorneys of the Year

53 Tributes

55 In Memoriam

56 Why I Give: Clara Ohr ’98
AT THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER

King Jr. Convocation at the Law School earlier this year, Dean Garry Jenkins asked those in the community—and statewide—to boldly confront racial injustice.

Titled “Facing North: Implicit Bias in Minnesota Courts,” the third annual MLK Convocation, held Jan. 25, featured Jenkins, Judge Pamela G. Alexander ’77 of Minnesota’s 4th Judicial District, and Professor Francis Shen, who is also executive director of education and outreach for the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Law and Neuroscience.

In his introduction, Jenkins noted King addressed the topic in a 1964 interview. Northerners, King said, are “devoted to an abstract principle of cordial interracial relations . . . but the truth is that deep prejudices and discrimination exist in subtle and covert disguises.”

Uncovering the causes of implicit bias is complex. But Shen, who conducts research at the intersection of science and the law, noted that the human brain is confronted with thousands of choices daily. “Your brain is a decision-making machine,” he said. “Because we make so many decisions, we need lots and lots of shortcuts.”

While many of these shortcuts keep us breathing and moving, others reinforce racial stereotypes. Nearly everyone does this. “Not me, I’m egalitarian,” Shen said, summarizing
the typical reaction. “I’m from Minnesota. I could never think that way. Yet the research suggests all of us . . . hold some of these decision-making shortcuts, these biases, that affect the way we think.”

For people of color, bias has led to police profiling, unfair charging decisions, and longer criminal sentences. In 1990, Alexander ruled that sentencing guidelines unfairly targeted African-Americans in requiring longer prison terms for people convicted of crimes involving crack cocaine than those involving powder cocaine. The Minnesota Supreme Court later upheld Alexander’s decision.

“When the police shootings happened here, that was not surprising to some of us because there have been issues in this state for quite some time,” Alexander said. Those issues include the 1920 Duluth lynchings of three black men.

Minnesota has been slow to confront racial injustice both inside and outside the courtroom because of its small minority population, Alexander said. But she believes the state can do it. “I have a lot of faith in Minnesota,” she added. “They are up to the challenge and do try and make change. The people who do that are lawyers. Y’all are the drivers.”

Specifically, she encouraged lawyers representing African-Americans to ask jurors about race. Alexander has heard some potential jurors say, when questioned, that they don’t like African-Americans and can’t be impartial.

Said Jenkins, “That is a sobering reality.” 

In recognition of the dangers related to implicit bias, the Committee for Equality and Justice of the Minnesota Judicial Branch has begun taking steps to reduce its impact in the state court system. In 2015, the committee created the nation’s first Implicit Bias Bench Card, a practical tool for judges to identify and mitigate implicit bias at various points of court proceedings. Furthermore, there are a number of implicit bias seminars offered around the state each year to judicial officers and employees. Pattern jury questions and instructions have also been updated to take into account both implicit and explicit bias, in the hopes of ensuring that those who serve on a jury understand the existence of such biases and are able to set them aside when deciding a case.
CONSUMER PROTECTION CLINIC

ON JAN. 8, 2018, U.S. DISTRICT Court Judge Joan Ericksen ’81 of the District of Minnesota granted final approval to a class action for which the Consumer Protection Clinic acted as co-counsel. The case, Ponce v. Lenovo Inc., will result in payments of about $2 million to approximately 40,000 consumers.

The clinic initiated the class action case against computer manufacturer Lenovo. The lawsuit alleged that the company falsely represented discounts on computers offered for sale on its website. Lenovo advertised on its website that consumers could obtain discounts from the “starting at” price by applying “instant savings” or using “e-coupons.” The Lenovo website highlighted the discount as a specific “You Save” amount. The complaint alleged that these statements were deceptive because the “starting at” reference prices were falsely inflated and not a price at which Lenovo regularly sold its computers.

Clinic students completed research on the facts and law, drafted a complaint, and participated in hearings on the matter along with co-counsel Kai Richter ’99, Brock Specht, and Michael Vanselow ’83. Students working on the case included John Haynes Hansen ’17, Chis Wysokinski ’16, Rufang Lu ’16, Shin Young Jo ’16, and Tyler Adams ’17. The class representative was Katie Ponce ’16.

RONALD M. MANKOFF TAX CLINIC

CLARIFYING QUALIFYING CHILD: Amy Hang ’18, a student attorney in the Law School’s Ronald M. Mankoff Tax Clinic, last fall won a favorable ruling for clients before the U.S. Tax Court in St. Paul on an issue that usually favors the IRS.

The case dealt with the “qualifying child” provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, which can be one of the most frustrating sections of the code for low-income taxpayers. A qualifying child can provide such taxpayers with exemptions and credits worth several thousand dollars—no small matter for the household’s finances. Many of the IRS’s “tests” to qualify a child are straightforward: for example, that the taxpayer is properly related to the child and that the child is under a certain age can be demonstrated by birth certificates. Where families frequently run into trouble, however, is demonstrating to the IRS’s satisfaction that the child lived with the taxpayer for more than half the year. Often, official records placing the child at the taxpayer’s home simply don’t exist. This is especially true in so-called nontraditional families—as in this case, where the clients were attempting to show that they were the primary caretakers for their niece and nephew.

In such cases, low-income taxpayers hit a roadblock: the IRS rarely accepts testimony or affidavits from witnesses as sufficient proof that the child lived with someone. The only option the taxpayer has in such a case is to take it to court, where a judge determines the weight and credibility of the testimony. Taxpayers that rely on their own testimony (especially when appearing without counsel), do not have a good track record of winning in court. In this case, however, Hang’s extensive preparation and thorough questioning helped her clients buck that trend.

“Our entire case relied on testimony in the courtroom,” said Professor Caleb Smith, who teaches the Mankoff Tax Clinic. “Amy really impressed me with her preparation and poise. It carried through into the courtroom, and carried the day for our clients. Her rapport with the client—and how much she wanted to help—really showed during the case, and helped in reaching a positive outcome.”

The case was adjudicated on Oct. 2, and the decision was immediately announced from the bench following closing arguments.

LONGTIME TAX CLINICIAN HONORED BY ABA: Retired Clinical Professor Kathryn J. Sedo last January was named a co-winner of the American Bar Association Tax Section’s prestigious Janet Spragens Pro Bono Award. The award is given to individuals who have, through years of service, demonstrated an ongoing commitment to pro bono activities, particularly in the areas of federal and state taxation. Sedo assisted low-income taxpayers for 35 years through her work at the clinic.

In her citation, Sedo was described as a “pioneer in the movement” for representation of low-income taxpayers. As the founding director of the Low Income Tax Clinic at the Law School, her lengthy career tracked the most significant moments in the history of the low-income taxpayer representation movement. She successfully litigated dozens of influential cases before the U.S. Tax Court and U.S. Court of Appeals on behalf of the low-income tax community.

JAMES H. BINGER CENTER FOR NEW AMERICANS

PROFESSOR CHAN A MINNESOTA LAWYER ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR: Professor Linus Chan, who teaches the Detainee Rights Clinic in the Law School’s James H. Binger Center for New Americans, was selected by Minnesota Lawyer newspaper as one of its 2017 Attorneys of the Year. Chan was honored in the “Partners” category, along with Twin Cities attorney Mai Neng Moua. The two were nominated by the Minnesota Asian Pacific American
Bar Association for their work on the “Minnesota Eight” case.

The Minnesota Eight refers to a group of Cambodian men who came to the United States legally in the 1980s as child refugees but later lost their green cards after being convicted of crimes. Because of a diplomatic dispute between the United States and Cambodia, they were released instead of deported. They checked in with Immigration and Customs Enforcement twice a year. In 2016, when they showed up for what had become a routine visit with ICE, they were arrested and told they would be deported.

The families of the Minnesota Eight—most of whom have never been to Cambodia and consider the United States their only home—have launched an aggressive public advocacy campaign on their behalf. Chan and Moua, both with deep experience in immigration law, have been instrumental in that effort. Two of the Minnesota Eight, represented by Moua, have had their deportation orders overturned; Chan and his students in the Detainee Rights Clinic were successful in obtaining the release of a third man.

Chan and Moua received their awards at Minnesota Lawyer’s 18th annual Attorneys of the Year reception, held on Feb. 7 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Minneapolis.

STUDENTS HELP BLOCK DEPORTATION OF 92 SOMALIS:
Students in the James H. Binger Center for New Americans and recent Law School graduates played key roles in a class action litigation effort that won a court order on Dec. 19, 2017, temporarily blocking the deportation of 92 Somali men and women. The lawsuit was filed by the Binger Center, University of Miami Law School, and other legal services organizations in U.S. District Court in Miami.

The lawsuit cites inhumane conditions and egregious abuse of the 92 Somali men and women during ICE’s failed attempt to deport them a first time on Dec. 7. During that aborted flight, ICE shackled the immigrants and forced them to stay seated for two days, including 23 hours while the plane sat on a runway in Senegal. The suit alleges ICE agents kicked, struck, choked, and dragged some detainees down the aisle of the plane and put others in straitjackets. The deportees also were denied access to a working bathroom.

When the Dec. 7 flight was aborted, ICE returned the deportees to the United States, where they were held in detention centers in the South Florida area. ICE indicated it would put the deportees on a new flight to Somalia early on Wednesday, Dec. 20, despite fears that the deportees would be targeted for persecution by the anti-American, anti-Western terrorist group al-Shabab. Many of the men and women who were on the flight have had family members killed or threatened by al-Shabab. U.S. asylum law forbids the removal of individuals to countries where they would face a likelihood of persecution or torture.

A federal judge in Miami issued a temporary stay of the deportation order on Dec. 19. In late January, the judge ruled that the 92 Somali immigrants had the right to reopen their removal orders because they intended “to apply or re-apply for
asylum or withholding of deportation based on changed circumstances arising in the country of nationality or in the country to which deportation has been ordered.”

Law student Mary Georgevich ’18, working with Alexis Dutt ’18 and Tim Sanders ’18 and supervised by Binger Center director Ben Casper Sanchez ’97 and adjunct clinical professor Mirella Ceja-Orozco, spent several days during finals period creating a comprehensive database to track all 92 detainees and help coordinate the work of volunteer lawyers who converged at the ICE centers in Florida to screen detainees. The Minnesota team worked closely with two recent Binger Center graduates, Andrea Crumrine ’16 and Alex DeLeon ’16, both post-graduate fellows at Americans for Immigrant Justice in Miami, one of the organizations that joined the litigation. Crumrine and DeLeon interviewed Somali detainees and developed declarations used in the lawsuit.

Michele Garnet McKenzie ’96, deputy director of The Advocates for Human Rights, one of the Binger Center’s nonprofit partner organizations, gathered evidence on current conditions in Somalia for the lawsuit and helped coordinate the team’s responses to media inquiries.

Another important figure in the effort was recent Law School graduate John Bruning ’17, now with Kim Hunter Associates in St. Paul. In late November, just weeks after his admission to the bar, Bruning and Hunter filed five separate federal lawsuits in Minnesota on behalf of individual Somali clients who were slated to be on the Dec. 7 deportation flight. Bruning helped win court orders blocking ICE from putting three of his clients on that flight; his other two clients were in the Florida detention centers but protected by the Dec. 19 temporary restraining order. Bruning’s briefs from his five lawsuits now are being used by lawyers who will represent other Somali detainees in the next phase of the ongoing case.

MARRIOTT CEO ARNE SORENSON ’83 TO DELIVER LAW SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

ARNE SORENSON ’83, PRESIDENT
and chief executive officer of Marriott International Inc., will be the Law School’s 2018 commencement speaker.

Marriott International encompasses more than 6,500 properties across 30 leading hotel brands spanning 127 countries and territories. In 2012, Sorenson became the third CEO in the company’s history, having held several positions since joining in 1996, including president and chief operating officer, chief financial officer, and president of continental European lodging. He was elected to Marriott’s board of directors in 2011.

Sorenson co-founded Marriott’s Global Sustainability Council in 2007. The following year, he launched Marriott’s rainforest preservation partnership with the Amazonas Sustainable Foundation in Brazil. He also chairs Marriott’s Global Diversity and Inclusion Council.

Sorenson served as vice chair of the President’s Export Council and is the immediate past board chair for Brand USA, where he remains a member of the board. He is a member of the Economic Club of Washington, D.C., serving as chair of its Global Initiative, as well as a member of the Business Council, the board of the Warrior Scholar Project, and the board of trustees for The Brookings Institution. In November 2017, Sorenson joined the Microsoft Corporation board of directors.

Prior to joining Marriott, Sorenson was a partner with the law firm Latham & Watkins in Washington, D.C.

“Arne Sorenson exemplifies the lawyer-leader that we aim to produce at the Law School,” said Garry W. Jenkins, dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law. “Through his analytic skills and his penchant for collaborative work, he has risen to the top of the hospitality industry. Just as important, he is an engaged civic leader, serving vital government and nonprofit institutions.”

The Law School Commencement ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 12, at Northrop Memorial Auditorium.

The event’s first panel, moderated by Jessica Stanton, associate professor at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, introduced the concept of jus post bellum and what happens after war. Professor Gregory Fox, director of the Program for International Legal Studies at Wayne State University Law School, posited that in order to understand the legal climate in post-conflict states, we need to pay attention to actions of the U.N. Security Council. Paul Morrow, a postdoctoral scholar in the Program in Political Philosophy, Policy, and Law at the University of Virginia, discussed how nonstate actors make important contributions to postwar economic rebuilding and significantly influence the lives and livelihoods of local populations. Professor Ruti Teitel, co-director of the Institute for Global Law, Justice & Policy at New York Law School, advocated that, given the nature of modern warfare and the evident shift to wars of humanitarian intervention, contemporary thinking should no longer be limited to restorative justice—that it must encompass the forward-looking aims and the discourse of transitional justice.

The second panel, moderated by Professor Fred Morrison, concerned reconstruction and peace under transitional justice. U.S. District Court Judge John Tunheim ’80 discussed his participation in rule of law initiatives in places such as Kosovo. University Ph.D. candidate Holly Dunn discussed the linkages between addressing “everyday” harms and disputes amid the overarching goals of transitional justice. Ph.D. candidate Bridget Marchesi discussed the demands for and the beliefs surrounding transitional justice and the period immediately following peace agreements within the backdrop of Colombia.

The final panel, moderated by Samuel Heins ’72, former U.S. ambassador to Norway, dealt with whether occupation is war or peace. Professor Kristen Boon of Seton Hall University School of Law discussed her recent paper “Obligations of the New Occupier: The Contours of a Jus Post Bellum.” Professor Fionnuala D. Ó Aoláin spoke on the on themes of her paper “Gendering the Law of Occupation: The Case of Cyprus.” Professor Oren Gross discussed ending occupations based on how they had commenced, with a specific focus on the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank.

The event concluded with a keynote speech by Jens Iverson, assistant professor at the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies at Leiden University in the Netherlands. He argued that in order to better restrain the general use of force as well as the specific waging of armed conflict—and, perhaps more importantly, to improve any eventual transition from armed conflict to peace—a more forthright and comprehensive formulation and disclosure of war aims should be demanded from the outset and throughout any ongoing series of decisions to use force.

By Chris D’Silva ’18, symposium editor
ON NOV. 9-10, 2017, LAW & INEQUALITY: A JOURNAL OF THEORY AND PRACTICE, in partnership with the Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity and with support from the Kresge Foundation, welcomed civil rights, labor, political, and faith leaders from around the country to “The Summit for Civil Rights.” The Summit sought to create strategies to advance racial justice and economic opportunity and to form the groundwork for a new civil rights alliance, building on the history of the civil rights movement. Conversations at the Summit revolved around the persistent reality of racial segregation—50 years after the passage of the Fair Housing Act—and the resulting economic and educational harms.

The Summit’s first day laid the foundation for this new alliance. Following introductions, Catherine Lhamon, chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, delivered an opening keynote on equal opportunity and current struggles to protect civil rights, including dynamics at the federal level. The first session, “The Scourge of Segregation,” provided an overview of the harms of segregation, including to neighborhoods, schools, and local workforces. Next, “How We Got Here” explained why segregation has persisted—and, in many places, increased. Remarks from Derrick Johnson, president and CEO of the NAACP, closed the day.

The symposium also served as an opportunity to honor former Vice President Walter Mondale ’56 for his contributions to civil rights, including his pivotal work as co-author of the Fair Housing Act of 1968. At an honorary reception, U.S. Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina shared personal stories of then-Senator Mondale from the early years of their careers. Newly elected Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey attended and announced his commitment to desegregation and continuing the work of the civil rights legends in the room.

The Summit’s second day began with a conversation between Mondale and Clyburn. They recounted experiences from the push for civil rights, noting how their lessons could inform the new movement. The two were followed by Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, and a panel of national labor leaders, who discussed the need for and strategy of building a powerful alliance for the 21st century.
FOUNDER OF WE ARE ALL CRIMINALS SPEAKS AT LAW SCHOOL

The Robina Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice recently hosted a conversation on the collateral consequences of criminal convictions with Emily Baxter, founder and executive director of We Are All Criminals.

The nonprofit advocacy group seeks to challenge society’s perception of what it means to be a criminal and how much weight a record should be given.

At the April 17 program at the Law School, Baxter told attendees that due to skyrocketing incarceration rates in the last few decades, a quarter of the adult population of the United States today has a criminal record.

“Criminal records affect every aspect of life,” Baxter said, pointing out that a conviction can freeze individuals out of jobs, housing, the ability to travel, and countless other opportunities. She spoke in favor of a rational approach that mitigates the harsh collateral consequences of criminal convictions.

“We have all made mistakes in life; we have all violated the law,” Baxter said.

By Bailey Metzger ’18, symposium editor

1. Vice President Walter F. Mondale ’56 and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey
2. Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers
3. Left to right: University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler, Professor Myron Orfield, U.S. Representative James Clyburn, Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale ’56, and Dean Garry W. Jenkins
4. Derrick Johnson, president and CEO of the NAACP
5. Left to right: Lisa Rice, executive vice president of the National Fair Housing Alliance, Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale ’56, and Professor Myron Orfield

Professor Myron Orfield, director of the Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity, then issued a call to action, having attendees and speakers split into breakout sessions addressing three forms of strategy: litigation, legislation, and organizing. These sessions offered an opportunity to reflect on earlier discussions and establish a plan of action. The Summit concluded with the groups reporting back and taking the first steps toward creating a new, cohesive civil rights movement.

Law & Inequality’s forthcoming edition (volume 36, issue 2) will feature articles by Summit participants, including William Spriggs, Paul Jargowsky, Betsy Julian, and Julian Vasquez Heilig.

Emily Baxter, executive director of We Are All Criminals

law.umn.edu Perspectives SPRING 2018 11
ON MARCH 2, STUDENTS, professors, attorneys, and members of the public came together for “The Legal Landscape of the Internet of Things,” the second independently run symposium in the 19-volume history of the Minnesota Journal of Law, Science & Technology. The event explored the impact that the developing technologies which make up the “internet of things” (often abbreviated IoT) will have on the legal sphere.

The keynote speaker was Justin Grammens, a founding partner of the smart connected product development company Lab 651 and an instructor in the University of St. Thomas School of Engineering. In his address, Grammens gave an overview of IoT technology and shared his vision of a near-term future in which refrigerators remind us to buy milk and drones deliver blood and medical supplies to disaster areas.

The first panel, moderated by Professor Christopher Turoske ’98, director of Patent Law Programs at the Law School, was a lively discussion of the intellectual property challenges brought about by emerging IoT technology, including virtual reality and artificial intelligence. The speakers—Professor Sharon Sandeen of Mitchell Hamline School of Law; Professor W. Keith Robinson of SMU Dedman School of Law; and David Axtell, a partner with Stinson Leonard Street—considered the ways such technology is likely to influence the practice of law pertaining to trade secrets, patents, trademarks, and copyrights.

The second panel addressed cybersecurity and data privacy. Topics included securing IoT in health care through the use of blockchain; using computational law to protect devices from hacking threats; the changes facing information capture through the use of opportunistic privacy; and the role that IoT may play in criminal law. Visiting Professor Alan Rozenshtein moderated and presented; the other presenters were Eran Kahana, counsel at Maslon and a fellow at Stanford Law School, Professor Scott Shackelford of Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business, and Professor David Levine of Elon University School of Law.

The final panel, moderated by Professor Ralph Hall, MJLST’s faculty adviser, focused on regulation. Panelists’ views differed as to whether private standards, codes of conduct, and best practices—as opposed to legislative and agency controls—are best suited to address IoT’s changing needs and liability concerns. This panel consisted of Professor Gary Marchant of Arizona State University’s Sandra Day O’Connor School of Law, Professor Jane Kirtley, and Shannon Heim, shareholder at Moss & Barnett and member of the Governor’s Task Force on Broadband.

For more information on the symposium, please visit the MJLST website at scholarship.law.umn.edu/mjlst/.

By Daniel Green ’18, lead symposium editor
ON OCT. 27, 2017, THE MINNESOTA Law Review hosted its volume 102 symposium, “A Prescription for Pharmaceutical’s Future: Balancing Industry and Consumer Concerns in Pharmaceutical Drug Development.” This event convened local and national scholars, practitioners, and industry representatives from the fields of law and pharmacy to examine the most pressing issues in pharmaceutical drug pricing and access. Dr. Jonathan Jarow, senior medical advisor with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, delivered a keynote address on the agency’s constant balance between protecting the public and spurring innovation.

The program began with an overview of drug pricing data and its relation to societal structures, presented by Professor Ralph Hall. Michelle M. Mello, a leading empirical health law scholar and professor at Stanford Law School, delivered a keynote address on the agency’s constant balance between protecting the public and spurring innovation.

The first panel, “Investigating the Pricing Equation: A Law and Economics Analysis,” covered regulatory regimes and antitrust, patient cost exposure, the intersec-

The panelists were Professors Amy Kapczynski of Yale Law School, Jordan Paradise of Loyola University Chicago School of Law, and Nicholson Price of the University of Michigan Law School. The moderator was Professor Hall.

The third panel, “Pharmaceuticals Around the Globe: Access and Delivery Issues for Consumers,” covered the role of traditional medicines, the tension between innovation and affordability, and the international intellectual property regime. It featured Professor Margo A. Bagley of Emory University School of Law; James Love, director of Knowledge Ecology International; and Professor Jerome H. Reichman of Duke University Law School. Professor Fred Morrison served as moderator.

The Minnesota Law Review’s forthcoming Symposium Issue (Volume 102, Issue 6) will include articles written by several of the symposium participants. Video from the symposium is available at www.minnesotalawreview.org.

By Caroline Bressman ’18, symposium articles editor
NEW LAW LIBRARY EXHIBIT CELEBRATES 40 YEARS AT MONDALE HALL

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Walter F. Mondale Hall and provides a fitting occasion to celebrate the rich tradition of legal education that thrives within its walls. To commemorate the anniversary, as well as the many achievements made possible by the Law School’s 1978 relocation to the West Bank, the Law Library has opened a new exhibit, “A Foundation in the Law: Celebrating 40 Years at Walter F. Mondale Hall.” The items on view—which include building designs, public campaign materials, letters, photos, and an architectural model—have been selected from the Library’s extensive archival collection to showcase the development of plans for a modern law school building and the fostering of community that developed in the Law School’s new home.

By the late 1960s, building proposals for a facility on the University’s West Bank campus had been developed by the Law School in response to the limited space of Fraser Hall, which had been dedicated in 1929. Throughout the early 1970s, an ambitious building campaign engaged the University, the Minnesota Legislature, and alumni. Professor Robert Stein ’61 led the Law School effort to bring this transformative plan to fruition. Construction commenced with a groundbreaking ceremony in February 1976, and the building was dedicated in April 1978. The Law School’s new home was a dynamic space that facilitated enhanced and modernized classroom instruction, greater faculty/student interaction, the expansion of library services and legal clinics, and many other important improvements.

To support the Law School’s mission to remain at the forefront of legal education, a major expansion in 2001 added significant space for advanced legal centers and institutes, student activities and journals, faculty offices and classrooms, and the Law Library rare book collections. At a memorable ceremony in May 2001 attended by Vice President Walter Mondale ’56, President Jimmy Carter, Dean E. Thomas Sullivan, and many distinguished alumni, the building was rededicated as Walter F. Mondale Hall in honor of the Law School’s illustrious graduate and great friend. A selection of photographs in the
new exhibit pays tribute to Mondale and his deep involvement in the life of the Law School over the past six and a half decades.

“A Foundation in the Law: Celebrating 40 Years at Walter F. Mondale Hall” is open in the Library’s Riesenfeld Rare Books Research Center this spring semester. The exhibit was created by Ryan Greenwood, curator of rare books and special collections, with the assistance of Ian Moret and Patrick Graybill. For more information or directions, please contact Ryan Greenwood (rgreenwo@umn.edu; 612-625-7323).

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

IN DECEMBER 2017, MINNESOTA COURT OF
Appeals Chief Judge Edward J. Cleary ’77 generously donated illuminating material about one of the early hate speech cases heard by the U.S. Supreme Court: R.A.V. v. City of St. Paul (1992). This gift is a significant addition to the Library’s unique and extensive archives.

As recounted by the court, in the predawn hours of June 21, 1990, a juvenile identified in court records as R.A.V., along with several other teenagers, constructed a cross by taping together broken chair legs and burned it inside the fenced yard of an African-American family. R.A.V. was charged with violating St. Paul’s Bias-Motivated Crime Ordinance.

Cleary, then an assistant public defender, was appointed to defend R.A.V. Michael Cromett ’78 assisted Cleary on the defense. Ramsey County District Court Judge Charles A. Flinn Jr. ’65 dismissed the charge prior to trial on grounds that the ordinance censored expressive conduct in violation of the First Amendment. The Minnesota Supreme Court then reversed and remanded the case. Cleary appealed the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, and Ramsey County attorney Tom Foley ’72 represented the City of St. Paul in that proceeding.

Several other Law School alumni and professors were involved in the amicus briefs that were filed in support of one side or the other. For example, briefs of amici curiae urging affirmance were filed for the State of Minnesota et al. by Minnesota Attorney General Hubert H. Humphrey III ’69 and for the Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith by Allen Saeks ’56.

In a unanimous opinion, the Supreme Court held that the ordinance was facially unconstitutional in that it prohibited otherwise permitted speech solely on the basis of the subjects the speech addressed. R.A.V. and the other defendants were later convicted of violating federal civil rights statutes. Their convictions were upheld in the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals case United States v. J.H.H. (1994), in which the court held that statutes prohibiting all threats of violence and intimidation made in connection with exercise of federally guaranteed civil rights or privileges did not violate the First Amendment.

During the Law School’s 125th anniversary in October 2013, R.A.V. was chosen from 150 cases that Law School alumni were involved in as the case that was most influential in shaping the legal system. The donated material includes Cleary’s copies of the petitions, transcripts, briefs, and related correspondence, as well as the annotated typescript and proofs of Cleary’s award-winning book Beyond the Burning Cross: The First Amendment and the Landmark R.A.V. Case (Random House, 1994).

By Michael Hannon, Law Library faculty member and associate director for access services and digital initiatives
IN A CONVERSATION WITH LAW
students about “life after law,” Mee Moua ’97—governance coach, nonprofit consultant, and former Minnesota state senator—discussed her path through life, law, politics, and beyond.

The program, presented by the James H. Binger Center for New Americans, was one of a series of candid conversations with successful professionals aimed at helping law students chart their own career paths.

A refugee born in Laos, Moua was the first Hmong American woman elected to a state legislature in the United States. She is currently the principal of Interdependent Group, where she provides coaching to newly elected officials, as well as a law and policy and racial healing circle facilitator with the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Moua said she decided to go to law school after a less than enjoyable bout with organic chemistry convinced her that medical school was not for her. “If I could not please my father by becoming a doctor, I was going to please my mother by becoming a lawyer,” she said.

Moua started out working briefly at a large law firm, but found her heart was not in it. Tapping into her extended immigrant family, she formed a campaign staff and ran for the Minnesota Senate.

“I really just wanted to have a platform to speak on issues,” she said. “But we did too did a job with the campaign, and lo and behold, I won.”

After three terms in the state senate, Moua had had enough of politics and opted not to seek reelection. Her next chapter was as a nonprofit executive, serving for five years as president and executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice. In her current venture, Moua pursues her passion for democracy building, heart leadership, and making visible the interconnectedness among peoples.

In answer to one student's question about whether to pursue public policy work that could positively impact large groups of people or to concentrate on a career path working directly with individuals in need of assistance, Moua advised doing both or concentrating on the thing that you are most passionate about doing. If you don’t like what you’re doing, “there is a misalignment of your gift and your impact,” she said. “You are already doing the right thing by wanting to make a difference, you just need to find your vehicle.”

Moua warned the students about the growing divisiveness gripping the country. “We are not prepared to deal with the demographic shift coming,” she said. “It’s up to your generation to figure out how to deal with that in a way that is not self-destructive or leads to an implosion.”

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Law School recently hosted the North American Regional Conference of the International Society of Family Law (ISFL).

The two-day conference, co-sponsored by the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, featured more than 60 speakers and panelists. The theme of the gathering, held April 27-28, focused on “Inequality and the Future of Family Law.”

Faculty from the Law School who presented at the conference included Professors Brian Bix, June Carbone, Barry Feld ’69, Jill Hasday, Perry Morsearty, and Laura Thomas.

Hosting a regional ISFL conference demonstrates the strength of the family law program at the Law School. Family law is one of 11 concentrations that Minnesota Law students can choose from. Students who enroll have the opportunity to hone their practical skills in a number of clinical programs involving family-related matters.

“We have a tremendous family law program here at the Law School,” said Carbone, who organized the conference. “Serving as a host site is just one of the many ways we have become a leading program in the family law field.”
YOUR GIFT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Every year, thousands of alumni and friends come together to make a real difference in the life of the Law School and our students through their support of the Annual Fund. Join them today.

“Law school is an expensive investment, and 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.”

Sukanya Momsen ‘16

“The Human Rights program has given me the opportunities to network and perform fieldwork in Washington, D.C., and Belfast, Northern Ireland. To come out of law school with these significant and well-rounded experiences makes me feel prepared to work in this worthwhile field.”

Amanda McAllister ‘17

Francis Shen is a pioneer in the developing field of law and neuroscience. His innovative work is translating advances in brain science into better law and policy.

Francis X. Shen
Associate Professor of Law
McKnight Presidential Fellow

z.umn.edu/give2law
IMPACT OF GIVING

The Law School takes great people and helps them become great lawyers and leaders.

JOHN MATHESON
LAW ALUMNI DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF LAW; FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, CORPORATE INSTITUTE; DONOR TO THE LAW SCHOOL
SCHOLARSHIP STORIES

DONOR SUPPORT MAKES SO MUCH POSSIBLE AT THE LAW SCHOOL, INCLUDING MUCH-NEEDED SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING FOR OUR DESERVINGStudents.

FATJON KAJA ’19
DEAN’S DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP; ROBINA SCHOLARS FUND

FATJON GREW UP IN ALBANIA
and left at age 17 to spend his senior year in New York. His family remains in Albania and support from classmates and faculty helps him feel more at home. “Faculty make the time to have a cup of coffee with you, and you know they are looking out for you,” he says.

PAST EDUCATION:
Bachelor’s and master’s degrees in economics from City College of New York, plus some doctoral work.

MEMORABLE CLASS:
Consumer Protection Clinic

FUTURE GOALS:
Fatjon wants to be “in the room where it happens” in a variety of settings. He plans to gain some corporate experience, work outside the United States, and eventually return home as a public servant. “Albania is still struggling to establish democratic institutions,” he says.

IMPACT OF SCHOLARSHIPS:
“Someone was selfless enough to say, ‘I made it and I want to give to the school without even knowing the person who will receive it.’ That makes me grateful and also makes me reflect on a tomorrow when I am in a position to do that.”

TONI OJOYEYI ’19
FREDRIKSON & BYRON SCHOLARSHIP

TONI DREAMS OF A CAREER IN
the Foreign Service, and the Law School felt like a logical step toward that goal. “I have several mentors in Foreign Service that all practiced law first, and going to law school will prepare me for the kind of thinking I will need to do as a Foreign Service officer,” she says.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE:
Toni lived in the Dominican Republic between college and law school. She participated in the Law School’s Human Rights Litigation and International Advocacy Clinic, where she worked on the United Nations Universal Periodic Review session in Sri Lanka. Last summer, she served as an intern at the Transitional Justice Institute in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

FAVORITE CLASS:
Transitional Justice with Professor Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, which Toni took after her experiences in Belfast. “I enjoyed the dialogue and the extremely informed lectures,” she says.

COMMUNITY SERVICE:
Toni is a vice president with the Asylum Law Project and traveled to Washington, D.C., to work pro bono with organizations that advocate for those seeking asylum.

GRATEFUL GOPHER
TARIQ MILLER ’19
DEAN’S DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIP

TARIQ READ ALEXIS DE Tocqueville’s Democracy in America in high school.

“We were examining American society and what institutions are in place to protect against majority tyranny,” he says. “That was when I realized how important law can be in protecting individual liberties.”

His most rewarding experience outside class is the Civil Practice Clinic, where he worked on three cases this year under the supervision of Professor Laura Thomas, director of the Law School’s clinical program.

“She is incredibly knowledgeable and engaging and willing to help with issues, but she lets you take control of your own cases and push them forward at the pace you dictate,” he says. “I learned a lot that I would not have learned if I had just taken a class.”

Tariq will serve as student director of the clinic next year.

He plans to work in business or commercial litigation after graduation, and says scholarships allow him to pursue a career he finds rewarding.

“There is no pressure to go down a certain path,” Miller says. “I can choose what I am passionate about.”

law.umn.edu Perspectives SPRING 2018 19
Not so long ago, many in corporate America subscribed to the theory of shareholder primacy, agreeing with Milton Friedman’s 1970 assertion that companies are responsible, first and foremost, for making as much money as possible without breaking the law. Then, however, Hershey and Johnson & Johnson had not yet been asked to disclose their palm oil sources. Volkswagen had not agreed to a $14.7 billion settlement over diesel emissions cheating. Avis and Hertz had not been prompted by protesters to end ties with the National Rifle Association.

The concept of corporate social responsibility, or CSR, has changed, evolving rapidly as environmental, social, and governance issues expand far beyond climate change and sustainability, and Twitter-enabled consumers demand more from corporate citizens. As Larry Fink, CEO of $6.3 trillion asset management behemoth BlackRock, wrote in his 2018 letter to corporate leaders, “Society is demanding that companies, both public and private, serve a social purpose. To prosper over time, every company must not only deliver financial performance, but also show how it makes a positive contribution to society.”

What some call a massive shift is redefining CSR for tomorrow’s world, and Law School alumni are part of it.

The Power of Capital

“I KNEW I WANTED TO WORK IN SOCIAL JUSTICE. I wanted to make a difference somehow, but I was not clear on my path until I met Professor David Weissbrodt,” says Alya Kayal ‘93, who credits him with teaching her how to view human rights through a legal lens. “How do companies have a global impact? What can they do to address the community’s concerns in a meaningful way? He opened my eyes to how this can be done.”

Since 2017, Kayal has been a partner specializing in verification and client engagement for London-based Affirmative Investment Management (AIM), a fixed income...
impact investment firm. She began pursuing social justice as a student, participating in the South African divestment movement and aiding a U.N. subcommission on discrimination and minority protection. After graduating, she worked on an international child labor practices study for the U.S. Department of Labor. But in 1994, she noticed that Calvert Investments was recruiting for a human rights analyst. That made her curious. “Why would an investment firm want a human rights analyst?”

She answered her own question by signing on, pioneering that role in the early days of what used to be called socially responsible investing. Back then (pre-Google), research meant clipping periodicals and newspapers, and her job was difficult to explain to family and friends. But she persisted, eventually becoming vice president for sustainability research.

“Technology has obviously changed drastically since then, but the way we look at environmental and social issues has also changed,” she says. Climate change, immigration and migrant labor issues, gun control, and women’s empowerment have joined more traditional causes, and the ability to mobilize mainstream capital to address the world’s major challenges has mushroomed.

“We’ve seen real growth in sustainable, responsible, and impact investing, which is now over $8 trillion [more than one of every five dollars under professional management] in the U.S. and almost $23 trillion globally,” adds Kayal, who was policy and program director at US SIF: The Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment before joining AIM. Investors, especially millennials and women of all ages, are seeking sustainable solutions, she says. “They want to use their investment dollars to move the needle and support more positive social and environmental outcomes.”

The idea that one must sacrifice financial returns to invest sustainably is “flat-out wrong,” Kayal says. Solid research shows that companies with strong environmental and social records are sound investments. Transparency and intentionality are key. “We are also seeing the growth of green, social, and sustainable bonds for projects with clear positive sustainability impact.”

This is not just a trend, but evidence that society and markets are moving in the right direction. “Young people in particular realize that we are facing serious challenges. Now they have a way to address those challenges that we didn’t understand very well years ago,” she says. “Some people work for nonprofits, some work on the ground in human rights—this is just a different way to make a difference. Using capital to make a positive societal impact is an incredibly powerful tool.”

---

**The Role of Leadership**

YEARS OF EXPERIENCE HAVE TAUGHT BONNIE

Raquet ’82 to distill CSR initiatives to their essence: to be effective, they must represent the company’s values and be championed by its leaders. “They cannot be just a response to criticism. CSR must be closely aligned with the company’s mission. The more authentic its work, the more meaningful the organization becomes to its constituents”—regardless of whether the company is public or private, for-profit or not, she says. “The ownership structure is not as important as the leadership.”

Raquet was recently named board chair of Thrivent Financial; she’s the first woman to hold that position at the not-for-profit company. She previously worked for 29 years at privately held Cargill, where, after many years as corporate counsel, she oversaw CSR in her role as vice president for corporate affairs from 2000 until her retirement in 2011.

“I learned some important things in my transition there, sometimes the hard way. One was how important civil discourse is to the people criticizing you. You must engage with them. You bring the stakeholders to the table and you talk,” she says, recalling environmental activism’s formative days. Cargill, a global food processor and manufacturer, often dealt with supply chain factors. When it encountered opposition in its South American operations, for example, enlisting the valuable ideas of critics allowed the company to partner with potential detractors and promote mutually beneficial initiatives.

Since the 1990s and early 2000s, however, the focus of CSR has changed. Environmental and sustainability issues have become more normalized and people and community issues much more important. In 2017, Thrivent and its members donated more than 14 million volunteer hours and $280 million in total outreach to make a difference in local communities.

Created when century-old Lutheran fraternal organizations merged, Thrivent has always embraced a socially responsible mission: to help people use money wisely and live generously. Having extended its services to all Christians in 2013, it is currently attending to diversity and inclusion. “We have to stay focused on what people need at any given moment, and we have to stay flexible enough and listen hard enough to be responsive,” says Raquet.

The CSR path is less uphill than it used to be, she adds. “Companies are more vertically aware. They don’t just listen to their critics or owners. They listen much more carefully.”
to those they serve.” The speed of knowledge has increased exponentially through technology, which millennials wield with confidence. They also insist on using their work—and their workplace—to make a difference.

Raquet predicts that things will continue to change, and quickly, which will require corporations to change, too. “We used to talk about it as whitewater—something we needed to get through in order to get back to clear sailing. Now we understand that we are in permanent whitewater. That makes leadership increasingly important.”

**The Strength of the Brand**

**CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY STARTS AT THE TOP**

embeds itself in the culture, and ultimately influences shareholders, who pay more attention to good citizenship than they used to. Perhaps no one is more aware of this phenomenon than Peter Carter ’91, executive vice president and chief legal officer at Delta since 2015.

“We are constantly asking ourselves how we can continue to be a company that not only provides a financial return to our shareholders but also meets their high expectations for our role as a corporate citizen,” says Carter, who was previously trial partner and board chairman at Dorsey & Whitney in Minneapolis. He left behind beloved work and clients because he could not resist the opportunity to join the leadership team at a dynamic company in a highly competitive marketplace.

The challenge has kept him hopping, as the maelstrom resulting from Delta’s recent decision to rescind a discount agreement with NRA members might attest. The company typically refrains from taking sides in politically charged debates.

“We have to consider our brand and core values when addressing those kinds of questions,” says Carter. “As a corporate citizen, we focus on several issues. Education is one. Veterans’ issues are another. We have a generous profit-sharing program, and we are also committed to investing in the communities where our 80,000 employees live. That is built right into the Delta rules of the road.”

Like the other alumni interviewed for this story, he suggests that the days of shareholder primacy are waning, at least in certain sectors. Companies that focus only on financial metrics can lose sight of their core values, thus undermining long-term success.

“A key reason why Delta has been successful is its culture. We call it the virtuous circle. If we invest in our people, they will take care of our customers, who will then take care of our investors,” he explains. “Our shareholders understand that, and because our culture is so important, we’ve never really received any criticism from them. It’s a little bit of ‘both/and.’”

Delta has long been committed to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues. In 2007, for example, it became the first U.S. airline to launch a carbon offset program. In Carter’s view, such initiatives are increasingly important to shareholders. “They are thinking about sustainability in a long-term way. Are practices such that a company is able to generate free cash flow not just today but 10 or 15 years from now? Is it worth investing a gazillion dollars if the business requires resources that will disappear tomorrow?”

As millennial voices rise, the idea of corporations as responsible corporate citizens will continue to evolve. “Millennials identify with the brands they use, and they expect those brands to conduct business in a certain way,” Carter says. “That’s clearly a trend we recognize, and it’s a unique attribute, it seems. Corporations are going to have to respond.”

**The Triple Bottom Line**

**THE DAUGHTER OF AN URBAN PLANNER, ELIZA CLARK ’05**

Clark ’05 entered law school aiming to become a litigator in land use cases. But legislative lobbying and a stint at the business consultancy Tunheim led her into policy and strategic communications work, where she often advised clients on environmental sustainability. “There was no road map for corporate sustainability back then. We were making it up as we went along,” she recalls.

Much has changed. Clark, director of sustainability and environmental at Andersen Corporation in Bayport, Minnesota, since 2013, is a founder of both the Sustainable Growth Coalition and Sustainability Practitioners Roundtable and was co-chair of the 2018 Super Bowl sustainability committee. Roles such as hers are diverse, encompassing legal and compliance matters as well as green initiatives, employee volunteerism, and corporate philanthropy.

“CSR is now a robust practice area with lots of strategies for tackling it,” says Clark, noting that her litigation training helps her explore multiple perspectives and navigate the point/counterpoint nature of sustainability issues. Considering the environmental, social, and economic impacts of Andersen’s business is her job. “Since the Green
Revolution, brands have begun to understand that a stronger sustainability reputation will help them sell more products and recruit more talent, and consumers are applying increased pressure as well.”

The triple-bottom-line approach—people, planet, profit—is becoming more embedded in the corporate world. “Companies have gotten smarter about where they focus and what issues are most relevant—where they have the most negative impact, and where there is the most potential for positive impact,” Clark says. Andersen is unique in that it can address sustainability not only in its workplace and community efforts but also in the production of its primary products, windows and doors. When more young people want to join her team than Clark can accept, she reminds them that meaningful work exists throughout the company.

Privately held Andersen’s CSR ethic is well-entrenched. The 115-year-old company has donated $75 million, built 1,000+ Habitat for Humanity houses, and helped build Eco Village, a net zero affordable housing development in Wisconsin. It is also progressing on its plan to reduce solid waste and water and energy use 20 percent by 2020.

“Our primary focus is on action,” says Clark. “We practice what we preach.”

The Beneficial Future

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION WAS HIS FIRST passion, says Michael Vargas ’13. But in his endeavor to learn employment law, he figured he should also understand the corporate governance side, which caught his fancy instead. He now specializes in CSR at Rimon Law in Palo Alto, California, and has learned a lot.

“My boss handed me a client who wanted to become a benefit corporation,” Vargas says. “I didn’t know what that was, so I had to figure it out. It was fascinating.” Benefit corporations—for-profit entities whose legally defined goals include social benefits as well as profit—use business as a force for good. Authorized in 33 states and the District of Columbia, they were the brainchild of B Lab, a nonprofit organization founded in 2007 that also provides separate “B Corp” certification (akin to “Fair Trade” for coffee or “USDA Organic” for milk). More than 2,000 B Corps and nearly 5,000 benefit corporations now exist.

The concept jumped in popularity when Delaware climbed aboard in 2014, explains Vargas, who co-chairs the ABA’s Joint Committee on Social Entrepreneurship and Social Benefit Entities. He hopes that B Corps will eventually dwarf traditional corporations, which—in industries such as banking and gas and oil, say—will become the niche, but admits that’s probably a stretch.

“There’s always going to be that solid wall of people who don’t see CSR as a priority, who think that ‘for profit’ means for profit alone. If it does change, it won’t be due to the B Corps but instead to a massive societal shift in our beliefs, when we see the corporation not just as a profit generator but as an institution invested with economic and social value, and run by human beings with a social conscience,” Vargas says.

Studies already show investor behavior fueling an overwhelming movement toward CSR and ESG, despite claims that executives talk the talk without walking the walk, he adds. About $600 million was invested in funds incorporating ESG factors in 2008, but that “ridiculously small” amount has exploded, reaching $22 trillion in 2016. Institutional capital investments are growing by leaps and bounds, too.

“If investors care about this, it will impact how corporations and directors behave,” he says. “Companies are paying attention to social responsibility for its own sake, and as means to greater profitability. It turns out CSR is actually essential to achieving growth.”

Consumer pressure can disrupt a small company with a single tweet gone viral. “Protecting a company’s public image is incredibly important in today’s world,” says Vargas, who works with small startups and private companies but sees growing need for CSR-savvy lawyers at large firms and as in-house counsel. “Our job is to make sure that companies’ actions are aligned with their values, and that they’re following legal formalities. Occasionally we have to put the brakes on things that impact shareholders. We might explain how firing employees will impact a community as well as their public reputation, for example. We make sure that they’re looking at the big picture.”

Vargas sees a bright future for CSR. “There are lots of CEOs out there who want to give back to the community, who want to be stewards of the environment and stay true to their personal values,” he says. Moreover, 75 percent of law grads want to work for companies that prioritize sustainability and ethical work environments. He counts himself among them, having found that corporate work aligned with one’s values is not only intellectually interesting, but also inherently rewarding. As he puts it, “Using business to help people is so much more fulfilling.”

Cathy Madison is a Twin Cities writer and the author of The War Came Home With Him: A Daughter’s Memoir.
WHOSE INTEREST IS A CORPORATION SERVING?

Who is charged with representing those interests? Students in all of Professor Claire Hill’s classes, from corporate law and mergers and acquisitions to law and economics, must grapple with the answers to those questions as they study the changing face of corporate social responsibility.

“Our students tend to start off with a certain sense of corporate good citizenship. That’s almost a given,” says Hill, co-author with Professor Richard Painter of Better Bankers, Better Banks: Promoting Good Business Through Contractual Commitment (University of Chicago Press, 2015). “But there also is an increasing awareness, including in the business world, that profit maximization for shareholders and only for shareholders is not a viable way to go in today’s society.”

Profit maximization and CSR are converging, she says, and that movement is gathering force. Large companies have promoted sustainability for years, and pension funds have long pursued socially responsible investments. Now, however, more mainstream institutional investors are coming on board, corporate reputations more often depend on good behavior, and laws are being enacted that encourage or require corporations to consider ethics when conducting their business.

“My theory is that if you get a combination of events and people in position to stoke awareness, it’s not quite a perfect storm, but it’s a gathering storm,” Hill says. “Social responsibility is a continuum. You need to do what the law says, but is the law enough? Apparently not. We are getting an increasing sense of what kind of harm can be done.”

Hill cites examples of corporate behavior that was either illegal or heedless of the consequences to broader society. “The Volkswagen defeat device was shocking. And Wells Fargo with its ghost accounts? What were they thinking? Where is the empathy in all this? If corporations can enjoy the advantages of incorporation, they have to behave decently.”

International standards of corporate conduct involving human rights and sustainable development are also evolving, says Associate Clinical Professor Jennifer Green, an international human rights law specialist who has worked on human rights cases in U.S. courts since 1990. Her goal is to give students opportunities to explore the various ways of approaching CSR.

While many argue that rough distinctions exist between business law and human rights legal standards, Green firmly believes they are all part of the same piece.

In many aspects of business—foreign investments, trade policies, government purchasing policies—efforts must be made to hold companies accountable when things go wrong. “To improve human rights in the world, you need a relevant legal framework,” she says.

Major developments since the 1990s have helped establish forward momentum. Green cites the apparel industry, blood diamonds, oil drilling, human trafficking, and forced labor as examples, although the cases that result from alleged corporate human rights violations are often protracted. Her clinic students are working on a case against Exxon alleging complicity in security force violations that occurred 18 years ago. But progress is evident, thanks to multiple factors.

What does it mean to be a good corporate citizen? Driven by a range of demands—whether from customers who want to know where their sweatshirts are made or investors who care that manufacturers use renewable resources—businesses are developing more responsive policies and procedures. But they also must balance internal and external forces: changing internal corporate norms, consumer pressure, government standards, international development standards, multi-stakeholder initiatives. “Different factors carry more weight in different industries. There is no one magic solution,” Green says.

Both professors are cautiously optimistic about CSR’s future. “I find it fascinating how my students are pulled in so many different directions,” Green says. “When considering what they can do with their law degree to make a difference, they have a range of opportunities.”

—Cathy Madison
WHEN NEHA JAIN JOINED THE INTERNATIONAL
Criminal Court in The Hague for six months last year as a visiting professional, taking time to wade in and get used to the water was not an option. She was assigned to a case charging former Ivory Coast president Laurent Gbagbo and his main associate with crimes against humanity, and the prosecution was in the midst of presenting its case. Although she had not had the luxury of familiarizing herself with the technicalities, she dove in, working with the judges on every aspect of the proceedings.

Such a plunge was not a first for Jain, however. A Law School faculty member since 2012 and the holder of a 2016-18 McKnight Land-Grant Professorship, Jain has amassed a dossier of international experience that would overwhelm many. The strong human rights focus implanted by her boarding school background guided her as she began studying law in Bangalore at age 17. During her second year at the National Law School of India University, she had an opportunity to work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in New Delhi. The relief organization was, Jain says, “cash-strapped and resource-poor, so I was immediately put to work checking the status of refugees. I processed a lot of cases in a very short time. When I saw the situations these refugees were fleeing, I began to think about what could compel a person to leave everything they’ve ever known and move somewhere where they were alienated in every way. Many didn’t even speak the language when they arrived.”

A new understanding of how war and conflicts determine life choices led Jain to embrace a broader vision, supplementing human rights with other international law courses. While pursuing advanced degrees at the University of Oxford, where she was a Rhodes Scholar and Jowett Senior Scholar at Balliol College, she encountered another formidable opportunity: a six-month stint in Cambodia. “It is a developing country, and they threw us all into the deep end. The [Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia] tribunal was in its infancy, we were bringing the first indictment against the accused, and we had to figure everything out. We needed all hands on deck,” she recalls. “It was really fun to be there.” By the time Jain was accepted at the International Criminal Court, she was hardly unprepared. Prior to joining the Law School, she had served as a visiting scholar at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg, Germany, and authored *Perpetrators and Accessories in International Criminal Law* (Hart, 2014). In 2016, she was a fellow at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study in South Africa and at the Danish National Research Foundation’s Centre of Excellence for International Courts. She had also received a grant that gave her a semester off teaching and $50,000 in research funds. She worried that she might be twiddling her thumbs in The Hague, but colleagues insisted that she would not only be busy, she would learn plenty.

“What has struck me and stayed with me, as I saw victims testifying, is the extreme vulnerability of people, institutions, and states. I’m very fortunate to be part of the response, however small.”

“It was much more than I expected,” she says. “The most challenging thing was coming to grips with the factual detail. I had to absorb a vast amount of information under severe time pressure.” As part of the team assigned to assist the Trial Chamber, she attended hearings, prepared notes, drafted documents, and did legal research. “The judges are fantastic, but their tenure at the court is limited, which is where the legal officers and other court staff come in. They have the corporate memory and can supply specialized knowledge that complements the judges’ broader experience and expertise,” Jain explains. Her team
included people from South Africa, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, and Brazil—just a sampling of the approximately 100 nationalities represented at the ICC—and the judge they worked for hailed from the Caribbean. “It was fascinating to see how people who come from such different places and ideas can still work together so well.”

The ICC’s work in genocide, war crimes, and crimes of aggression and against humanity often involves controversial areas of international law. Connecting high-level officials to violations is a challenge. Jain points out that murder, torture, and rape, for example, are usually the direct actions of one person or a small group; proving how leaders far up the chain could personally participate in the killings of hundreds of people is extremely difficult. “Because these legal areas are quite new and sometimes deliberately ambiguous, it’s hard to arrive at a consensus,” Jain says. “We are trying to figure out what should guide the judges in their decision-making process. For instance, it is important in criminal law not to hold people responsible for actions that were not a crime when they were committed. That violates a fundamental right; the accused must be given sufficient notice.”

ICC trials are long—some last nearly a decade—and include highly sensitive and classified information. Jain, limited to a six-month stint, found it “really frustrating to leave when you are so fully immersed. Suddenly it is your last day, and you are scrambling to draft something, but the day after that, you are totally locked out. You can keep up with the case, but only in ways that a journalist can.”

Back in the academic world, she is still processing what she learned and how it will influence her future. While she recognizes that scholarly pursuits often benefit from a lack of real-world distractions, it’s easy for those in academia to “lose sight of how what you do impacts many people on a daily basis,” she says. “When you are sitting there in the court, looking at witnesses, knowing why things are the way they are when people on the outside don’t, the work becomes real again. Human beings are at the center of the story. Often we, as academics, tend to live in our heads. When we are not in the midst of a major conflict, it’s easy to forget that these are real stories, real lives, real people, and that what we do has a bearing on this.”

One of few experts in her field, Jain is considered a rising star. “I am thrilled that she is a member of our faculty. She is going to lead the way for the next generation of great scholars,” says Professor Robert Stein ’61, a former Law School dean (1979–94). Jain is well liked as a teacher, he notes, but “what impresses me most is how she tackles very difficult and challenging issues in her writing. When you have events in so many countries, such as Rwanda, where leaders have encouraged the execution of ethnic minorities, what should be the criminal law principles to hold people accountable at different levels of responsibility? She has thoughtful and profound ideas that are being put out for public and scholarly review, and her scholarly reach is ambitious. We are so fortunate to have her here.”

Professor Robert Kudrle, of the University’s Humphrey School of Public Affairs, concurs. “She is an extremely impressive person and exemplary faculty member,” he says, citing Jain’s extensive knowledge of international criminal law and autonomous weapons systems, her energy and natural speaking ability, and her willingness to engage with local and global communities. “The University has had for many years a big reputation in human rights, and her skills and interests complement those of a great cluster of scholars.”

“I’m very lucky to be able to work on this. It’s a hard field, and not everyone gets to do it,” says Jain. It is not the most uplifting work, she admits, and coping mechanisms are necessary. A sense of humor helps, as does collaborating with equally committed colleagues. “What has struck me and stayed with me, as I saw victims testifying, is the extreme vulnerability of people, institutions, and states. I’m very fortunate to be part of the response, however small.”

Working in South Africa during the 2016 U.S. elections, Jain was asked to comment on America’s often-disparaged presidential choice. “I thought it was quite ironic to be the spokesperson, considering that I am not eligible to vote. But if you have lived and worked in countries long enough to see them completely collapse, to see failed states where a fourth of the population has been wiped out, you realize that, by comparison, America seems pretty healthy,” she says. “Democracy has its challenges, but it’s functioning, and no one is dead. This work does relativize things a lot. I’ve seen countries rise and fall in the sweep of history, and institutions and societies get destroyed in a matter of months, but there are also extraordinary stories of resilience and recovery. I find a lot of hope in that.”

By Cathy Madison, a freelance writer and editor based in the Twin Cities
Eugene Borgida participated in a panel discussion about mitigating implicit bias in the criminal justice system, held at the Minneapolis Jury Assembly Room at the United States Courthouse in downtown Minneapolis. Opening remarks were made by U.S. District Court Judge Wilhelmina Wright.

Linus Chan was selected by Minnesota Lawyer newspaper as one of its 2017 Attorneys of the Year. Chan was honored in the “Partners” category, along with Twin Cities attorney Mai Neng Moua. The two were nominated by the Minnesota Asian Pacific American Bar Association for their work on the “Minnesota Eight” case.

Brad Clary ’75 was chosen to receive a 2018 University of Minnesota Award for Outstanding Contributions to Graduate and Professional Education. This honor, the University’s highest teaching award, was given to just eight of the institution’s 3,800-plus professors. Recipients were chosen for excellence in instruction; involvement in students’ research, scholarship, and professional development; development of instructional programs; and advising and mentoring of students.

Thomas Cotter’s scholarship was cited in an opinion handed down by the Arizona Court of Appeals in Doe v. Mahoney, a case involving the question of whether an internet service provider was required to disclose the identity of a blogger who published statements that the complaining party contended were defamatory.

Kristin Hickman was tapped to serve as special adviser to the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.
The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), housed within the Office of Management and Budget at the White House, is the federal government’s central authority for the review of executive branch regulations, approval of government information collections, establishment of government statistical practices, and coordination of federal privacy policy. Recently, the Department of the Treasury and OIRA crafted a new Memorandum of Agreement providing for OIRA review, and thus more transparency and accountability, for tax-based regulatory actions. Hickman, a leading national authority in tax policy and administrative law, will join OIRA’s in-house team to help implement the Memorandum of Agreement and expedite OIRA review of tax-based regulations.

Alexandra Klass’s scholarship on energy law was cited in a decision issued by the Illinois Supreme Court involving the ability of a merchant transmission line company to apply for a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Illinois Commerce Commission to build a multistate electric transmission line.

Brett McDonnell received a 2018 award for excellence in legal education, presented by the Association of American Law Schools Section on Business Associations. McDonnell was honored with the section’s Outstanding Mentor Award, which recognizes nominated section members who have demonstrated exemplary mentoring skills.

William McGeveran testified before Minnesota’s Legislative Commission on Data Practices, composed of bipartisan members of the state’s House of Representatives and Senate. He was invited by the commission to discuss existing and proposed state law concerning the handling of personal data by internet service providers and to respond to questions from commission members.

Stephen Meili presented his research on the constitutionalization of the right to asylum at the University of Oxford’s Refugee Studies Centre and at the Newcastle Law School in
Newcastle upon Tyne, England. Meili argued that the proliferation of provisions guaranteeing a right to asylum in constitutions around the world provides broader protection to asylum-seekers than the U.N.’s 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the principal international agreement governing the treatment of persons fleeing persecution. Meili also argued that a more robust use of the constitutional right to asylum may be particularly appropriate during a time of increasing nationalism and antiglobalization. Meili’s research on the topic was recently published in the Fordham International Law Journal.

JaneAnne Murray was awarded the 2018 University of Minnesota Outstanding Community Service Award for Faculty by the Office for Public Engagement, a unit of the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost. The award is part of a program that honors faculty, staff, students, and University-affiliated community partners who have made significant, demonstrable, and direct contributions to society’s well-being. Murray was also elected to the board of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the nation’s premier nonprofit bar association of lawyers, both public and private, dedicated to criminal defense. The NACDL was founded in 1958 and has thousands of direct members and 40,000 members through affiliates.

Daniel Schwarcz testified at a hearing on the “Federal Role in the Insurance Industry” before the Housing and Insurance Subcommittee of the House Financial Services Committee in Washington, D.C. His testimony suggested that the federal government has an important role to play in monitoring state insurance regulation, preventing the aggregation of systemic risk in the industry, and engaging with international standard-setting organizations. Schwarcz also returned for a second testimony before the same committee to provide expert analysis on a bill that would exempt a new category of savings and loan holding companies—from federal supervision.

Ellen Anderson ’86, director of the Institute on the Environment’s Energy Transition Lab, will be recognized for her years of leadership in Minnesota’s clean energy sector at the Environmental Initiative Awards on May 23. The annual awards program honors leaders and projects that have achieved extraordinary environmental, economic, and public health outcomes by harnessing the power of partnership. Anderson is being recognized as a “critical collaborator.” During her years in the Minnesota Senate (1993–2011), Anderson built respectful relationships that led to the foundation of numerous bipartisan coalitions. As a result, she helped pass such landmark legislation as the Next Generation Energy Act and the Renewable Energy Standard. From 2012 to 2014, Anderson served as senior advisor on energy and environment to Gov. Mark Dayton.

Today, as director of IonE’s Energy Transition Lab, Anderson works to develop and implement solutions to the world’s biggest energy challenges through collaborative teams of university researchers and industry, government, and community leaders.

Barbara Welke was chosen to receive a 2018 University of Minnesota Award for Outstanding Contributions to Graduate and Professional Education. This honor, the University’s highest teaching award, was given to just eight of the institution’s 3,800-plus professors. Recipients were chosen for excellence in instruction; involvement in students’ research, scholarship, and professional development; development of instructional programs; and advising and mentoring of students.

Susan Wolf was appointed to the external advisory panel for TOPMed, the Trans-Omics in Precision Medicine Program. TOPMed is a large-scale national program generating whole genome sequencing and other –omics data on more than 100,000 participants. In addition, TOPMed is the major precision medicine activity at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health and complements the federal All of Us Research Program, a key element of the Precision Medicine Initiative.
Faculty Works in Progress 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**
18 Daniel Katz  
Chicago-Kent College of Law  
Crowdsourcing Accurately and Robustly Predicts Supreme Court Decisions
25 Yaron Nili  
University of Wisconsin Law School  
Beyond the Numbers: Substantive Gender Diversity in Boardrooms

**FEBRUARY**
1 Brett McDonnell  
Law School  
From Duty and Disclosure to Power and Participation in Social Enterprise
8 Tammi Walker  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Law  
Fixing What’s Wrong with How Universities Adjudicate Sexual Misconduct Claims: How Procedural Changes Can Encourage Cooperation
29 Bernard Levinson  
University of Minnesota  
The “De-Jewing” of Biblical Law under National Socialism (1934-1945): Gerhard von Rad’s Struggle Against the Ideological Transformation of the Discipline

**MARCH**
15 Mark Lemley  
Stanford Law School  
Law, Virtual Reality, and Augmented Reality
22 Usha Rodrigues  
University of Georgia School of Law  
Law and the Blockchain
8 Rebecca Stern  
Uppsala University  
Does Paposhvili Matter? Exploring the Impact of Recent Case Law from the European Court of Human Rights on Medical Expulsion Cases
22 William Cavert  
University of St. Thomas College of Arts and Sciences  
The Smoke of London: Energy and Environment in the Early Modern City
29 Bernard Levinson  
University of Minnesota  
The “De-Jewing” of Biblical Law under National Socialism (1934-1945): Gerhard von Rad’s Struggle Against the Ideological Transformation of the Discipline

**APRIL**
5 Richard McAdams  
University of Chicago Law School  
New Light on the Trial of Billy Budd
12 Jean Galbraith  
University of Pennsylvania Law School  
The Role of Reporting Requirements in International Law

**MAY**
2 Adam B. Thimmesch  
University of Nebraska College of Law  
South Dakota v. Wayfair, Inc. & The State of Tax Nexus
THE LAW SCHOOL’S ROBINA Institute of Criminal Law and Criminal Justice and its co-director, Professor Kevin Reitz, have been selected to take part in a new interdisciplinary research project under the auspices of the University’s Driving Tomorrow Grand Challenges program. The two-year project, entitled “Identifying and Addressing Disparities in the Criminal Justice and Health Care Systems,” will also involve researchers from the University’s medicine, sociology, and pediatrics departments; it is part of the Grand Challenges focus area Fostering Just and Equitable Communities.

While considerable recent attention has focused on mass incarceration, the majority of the criminal justice population is supervised through community supervision, particularly probation. Minnesota is a leading exemplar: it has the nation’s sixth-lowest incarceration rate and seventh-highest community supervision rate. Probation and supervised release violations represent a large share of prison admissions, are a key driver of Minnesota’s rising incarceration rate in recent years, and disproportionately impact people from racial and ethnic minority groups.

Individuals involved in the justice system are known to have high rates of chronic disease, mental illness, and substance use disorders. Despite the considerable health risks of those with criminal justice contact, the way their lives intersect with broader health disparities in our communities has been largely ignored. Reitz and his co-researchers aim to use Hennepin County as a strategic case study to better understand this intersection. They will use a mixed-methods approach to understand the health and health-care patterns of community supervisees, the impact of individuals’ well-being on completing community supervision requirements, and the impact of health and criminal justice disparities on communities of color in Minnesota.

In addition to Reitz, the project’s co-principal investigators are Professors Tyler Winkelman, M.D. (medicine), Rebecca Schlafer (pediatrics), and Michelle Phelps (sociology). They will be assisted by administrators, researchers, government officials, and community partners. The project will result in evidence-based policy and programmatic recommendations to help communities achieve lasting changes in health and supervision practices that are more just and equitable.
Professor Stein, a nationally recognized authority in estate planning, trusts, and probate law, is an academic fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, an academician in the International Academy of Estate and Trust Law, a fellow in the American College of Tax Law, and of counsel to the law firm of Gray Plant Mooty.

The list of Robert Stein’s positions at the University of Minnesota is impressive—and lengthy. Faculty member, associate dean, and dean of the Law School. Vice president of administration and planning and acting general counsel for the University. President of the University Alumni Association. University representative to the NCAA. Member of a remarkable number of committees, task forces, and advisory groups on topics ranging from labor policy to ethics, athletics to academic freedom.

Stein held most of these positions prior to 1994, when he became executive director and chief operating officer of the American Bar Association. After 12 years managing a 900-person staff at the ABA, Stein says, “I came back to the Law School to teach, and I just love it. I get to talk about ideas with brilliant young people all day long. Life couldn’t be better.”

“I’m having such a wonderful time,” Stein says. “People always ask, ‘What’s your dream job?’ Well, I’ve got it.”

Professor Stein, a south Minneapolis native, was the first person in his family to go to college. He was also the Law School’s first summa cum laude graduate—and was just 22 when he earned his J.D. He practiced law for three years in Milwaukee before answering what he terms “a recurring call” from the Law School to teach. “I loved practice, but I quickly discovered I loved law teaching and scholarship even more,” he says.

Last year, Stein received another high accolade that reflects his penchant for going above and beyond: the University President’s Award for Outstanding Service. And his influence at the Law School remains robust. “Many of our ongoing relationships with law schools in other countries can be traced to Bob’s direction and efforts,” says Dean Garry W. Jenkins. “Our school relies on his experience, insight, and advice in a great many areas.”


He continues to serve on the board of directors of the American Friends of Uppsala University, where he has proposed creating an immigration law clinic.

“I’m having such a wonderful time,” Stein says. “People always ask, ‘What’s your dream job?’ Well, I’ve got it.”

By Kathy Graves, a writer based in Minneapolis.
CHRISTINA KAPPES'S PARENTS fell in love at Michigan State University. He was a German studying agronomy; she was a Guatemalan studying chemistry. After earning Ph.D. degrees, the couple moved to his country to start a family.

At their Frankfurt home, the couple spoke German, but also English and Spanish. When Herr Kappes’s job required a move to Paris for three years, they added French to the mix. Today, Christina Kappes, 25, is a Berlin-based attorney hoping to make her mark in labor and employment law. To do that, one language is key.

“English is a must,” she says.

Before settling into a career, many German lawyers travel abroad to earn an LL.M. Some go to the United Kingdom, others to the United States. For Kappes, America was the easy choice. “My whole family came to the U.S.,” she says. “I am just keeping up the tradition.”

As a teenager, Kappes read Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, the 18th-century philosopher and writer, in a German literature class. In essays, she analyzed his work. “That’s when I discovered I really liked writing a lot,” she says. “That’s a skill that’s really important in law school.”

In 2016, Kappes graduated from the Faculty of Law at Humboldt University of Berlin, earning one of the top scores on the bar exam in the states of Berlin and Brandenburg. That same year, she co-authored an academic paper on the benefits of including nonunion employees in collective bargaining agreements.

When she returns to Berlin this summer, Kappes will begin a two-year traineeship (required of all German attorneys) that includes stints working with a judge, prosecutor, administrative agency, and a law firm. After that, she must pass a second bar exam.
At the Law School, Kappes has studied employment discrimination, labor law, and employment law, among other subjects. Those courses will aid Kappes in the years ahead, especially if she works in the private sector. “There are many law firms in Germany with international clients,” she says. “I’ve gained a better understanding of the U.S. legal system. I have more confidence now.”

BEKAM MERDASSA
M.S.P.L. CLASS OF 2018

BEKAM MERDASSA’S FASCINATION
with mechanics began in childhood. His family lived on a hill near Addis Ababa Bole International Airport in Ethiopia, giving him a perfect view of incoming flights. As he watched jets approach the runway, he wondered what powered those giant birds, keeping them afloat for perfect landings.

After emigrating to Minnesota, where five of his seven siblings live, Merdassa fulfilled his childhood dream, earning an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering at the University of Minnesota. That led to engineering jobs at several diesel truck and farm equipment manufacturers: Cummins, Caterpillar, Navistar, and John Deere.

Merdassa enjoyed the work, but he had other passions, too, including a desire to develop STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) learning experiences for children. “I always felt conflicted about the corporate sector,” he says. “I don’t want to be resigned to focus on a narrow set of engineering challenges.”

So in recent years, Merdassa embarked on a self-financed sabbatical, volunteering at community organizations and studying product development. He also enrolled in formal training, earning a master’s degree in engineering management at the University of Minnesota Duluth in 2016.

“I always loved the topography of Duluth,” he says. “It has lots of bike trails. The restaurants and bars on the lakefront are terrific.”

In 2017, Merdassa enrolled in the Master of Science in Patent Law program at the Law School. He plans to use his M.S.P.L. degree to help tech startups manage intellectual property or join a young company as a professional who can tackle technical challenges and also guide intellectual asset management strategy.

His entrepreneurial zeal is already
Chris Ruska
Class of 2018

The U.S. Legal System Isn’t the Only Law Chris Ruska Knows. The 3L, who came to the Law School as a transfer student, is also an expert on The Laws of the Game, soccer’s official rulebook. Since age 12, Ruska has been a soccer referee, raising yellow cards at players during matches at nearly every level of play: high school, college, and pro.

“It’s my way of giving back to the game,” he says.

Ruska began playing soccer at age 5, mostly as a goalie. When it came time to choose a college, the Grafton, Wisconsin, native could have continued playing, but only at a small school. But he had bigger academic dreams: the University of Wisconsin—Madison. He earned majors in political science and theater, and, in his senior year, helped organize Badger homecoming activities. When he wasn’t in the classroom, he built sets for plays, including Agatha Christie’s The Mousetrap, and interned in the office of the attorney general at the Wisconsin Department of Justice. That experience solidified a desire to study law.

At the Law School, Ruska has gravitated to civil litigation, thanks in large part to his positive experience at the Robins Kaplan Civil Practice Clinic. He credits Professor Laura Thomas with improving his briefs and oral arguments. “She doesn’t sugarcoat it,” Ruska says. “I appreciate the honest and clear feedback.”

In 2017, Ruska won a spot on the Law School’s National Moot Court Competition team. His three-person squad advanced to the national finals in New York. He’s also served as a judicial extern for two federal judges—John R. Tunheim ’80 and David T. Schultz—at the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota.

This spring, Ruska appeared in the Theatre of the Relatively Talentless production of Top Gunner, a parody of Top Gun and other 1980s movies. Ruska enjoyed the dancing component.

“I get to throw people into the air,” he says happily.

After graduation, Ruska hopes to land a pair of law clerkships and later work as a civil litigator, or possibly in transactional law. He also plans to continue officiating soccer games. Last year, he was chosen the state’s best referee.

Says Ruska, “I’m going to try and do both until I have to pick one.”

Torie Abbott Watkins
Class of 2019

A Lot of Young Adults Spend their 21st Birthdays in Bars. Torie Abbott Watkins celebrated her 21st birthday driving three hours of Texas highways to her parents’ house. She ate dinner with Mom and Dad, then cuddled up with LSAT study questions.

The next day would determine her future.

After driving another hour—her folks lived on a hobby farm in tiny Alvord, in central Texas—Watkins was ready for the LSAT. She earned high scores and, after mulling multiple offers, chose the Law School, which offered a generous scholarship.

Watkins has come a long way from her rural roots. As a kid, she had horses named Boots, Coco, and Joe. She was president of the local Future Farmers of America chapter and showed a Shorthorn heifer at the Fort Worth Stock Show Rodeo. When college rolled around, Alvord’s valedictorian chose Baylor University in Waco over the sprawling University of Texas at Austin.

The reason? “The dorm at UT has its own zip code!” Watkins says.

At Baylor, a much smaller school, she toyed with the idea of social work, but later switched to journalism, writing her senior thesis on government whistleblowers Daniel Ellsberg and Edward Snowden. Titled “Freedom or Safety: An Examination of the First Amendment and National Security,” the paper received high marks.

Since enrolling at the Law School, Watkins’s interest in social justice issues has flourished. As a 1L, she participated in the Asylum Law Project in El Paso, Texas, researching issues related to immigration status. As a 2L student attorney, she has represented clients in debt collection, divorce, and unemployment cases as part of the Robins Kaplan Civil Practice Clinic.

Watkins is so passionate about advocating for clients that she returned early from Christmas vacation. “I love being in the courtroom,” she says.

Her commitment hasn’t gone unnoticed. Next year, Watkins will serve as student director of the clinic. She also works as a student instructor in the legal writing program, but her goal is to be a litigator. This summer, she’ll take another step in that direction by clerking at the Ramsey County Attorney’s Office.

“Criminal [law] is how you get into the courtroom,” she says.
DURING HIS FIRST YEAR AS AN AmeriCorps volunteer at Sixteenth Street Community Health Center in Milwaukee, Eduardo Castro had a revelation. Many patients, including those suffering from lead poisoning, needed legal help.

Castro, the son of an emergency room physician and an OB/GYN-perinatologist, convinced clinic leadership to team up with Legal Action of Wisconsin so that clinic visitors could be assessed for possible connections between their health issues and their legal needs.

“As a child of doctors, I’m doomed to always think like one,” he says. Growing up, Castro didn’t want to be a doctor, but he wasn’t sure what profession to pursue. He did like sports, though. In high school, despite a spare 5-foot-8-inch frame, he excelled at football, playing both quarterback and defensive back.

“I enjoyed the strategy,” he says, explaining how he anticipated plays by noting what direction a lineman moved after the snap of the ball.

At Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, Castro continued thumping football opponents in the New England Small College Athletic Conference. In the classroom, he flirted with majoring in government, but a history course on U.S. race riots prompted a change of focus. For his senior history thesis, Castro explored Latino history in Wisconsin’s largest city. Titled “En La Unión Está Fuerza: Social Activism and Latino Identity in Postwar Milwaukee,” the paper was awarded a prize.

Milwaukee proved to be a turning point in Castro’s young life. His hands-on experience at the health care clinic convinced him to pursue a J.D. degree. Helping people, he found, proved rewarding. “This is something I want to do,” he says.

Before immersing himself in the law, Castro moved to New York City for a year, working in the office of the deputy mayor for health and human services. The November 2016 election prompted him to leave the East Coast. “I just needed to go back to the Midwest,” he says.

At the Law School, the 1L is a Robina Public Interest Scholar, a member of the Latino Law Students Association, the Law School Diversity Committee, and an Asylum Law Project volunteer.

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

STUDENT TEAM WINS ANNUAL LAW SCHOOL BASKETBALL TITLE

The Law School held its annual students vs. faculty and staff basketball game at historic Williams Arena on April 16. The student team emerged victorious for the second straight year, taking both championship games and claiming the coveted trophy. The student team included Gabriel Flaa ’20, Kelly Brandenburg ’20, Luke Gagnon ’18, and Michael Gale-Butto ’20. The faculty and staff team featured Professor Christopher Soper, Professor Linus Chan, Professor Paul Vaaler, Professor Francis Shen, Communications Specialist Luke Johnson, and Facilities Manager Garrett Howe.
LAW SCHOOL Mock Trial Team Wins Regionals, Competes in Texas Finals

A mock trial team from the Law School bested 22 other teams in regional competition to earn a trip to the finals of the prestigious Texas Young Lawyers Association National Trial Competition. The regional event, one of 14 held around the country, took place Feb. 9-11 in Fargo, North Dakota.

The winning team members are Phillip Guebert, Kareem Tawfic, and Joe Janochoski, all members of the 3L class. They defeated teams from the University of Wisconsin, University of South Dakota, Washburn University, University of North Dakota, and University of Iowa. The second University of Minnesota team—3Ls Mike Sikora and Rachel Cardwell and 2L Deanna Thompson—also had a very strong regional showing, finishing in fifth place following victories against the University of South Dakota, University of North Dakota, and Creighton University. A third team from the Law School, consisting of Max Hall (3L), Adam Setra (3L), and Frances Fink (2L), was able to participate under noncompeting “bye” status because the regional bracket contained an odd number of schools. They defeated the University of St. Thomas in their only round. All three teams are coached by Craig Buske ’10, Craig Roen ’87, and Jared Reams ’13.

At the TYLA Nationals in Austin, Texas, the team had the opportunity to face off against teams from the best trial advocacy programs in the country. Wake Forest University School of Law ultimately took the 2018 national title. This was the third time in the past six years that a Law School team has qualified for the national finals of the TYLA mock trial event.

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

FRANK GUENTHNER ’18 WINS BURTON AWARD FOR LEGAL WRITING

The Burton Foundation has announced that Frank Guenthner ’18 is the winner of a 2018 Distinguished Legal Writing Award—one of only 15 students from U.S. law schools to be so honored. In the 19 years since the award’s creation, Law School students have received it 10 times. Guenthner’s winning entry—

“Reconsidering Home Rule and City-State Pre-emption in Abandoned Fields of Law”—discusses the interplay of city and state power and the role of pre-emption when state governments attempt to prohibit controversial city ordinances without replacing them with affirmative statewide policies.

Assistant Clinical Professor Christopher D. Soper, the Law School’s director of legal writing, says Guenthner’s award continues the Law School’s tradition of producing nationally recognized legal writing. Only two other law schools have won more Burton awards, he notes.

“Frank followed the path we make available at the Law School that helped him develop as a writer,” Soper says. “He excelled in his first-year legal writing course; taught in that same course as a student instructor as a 2L and as a 3L; completed our law journal note-writing course; participated in one of our moot courts; and took upper-level classes such as judicial writing and appellate advocacy. His winning note is another great example of the resources we devote to help our law students produce excellent writing.”

Guenthner is thankful to the Law School’s legal writing program and the Minnesota Law Review for...
giving him the tools to put together the note. “I feel very fortunate to have had them as resources in my development as a writer, and I’m elated to share with them in this success,” he says.

The Burton Foundation was established by William C. Burton, a former New York state assistant attorney general and a strong advocate of plain language in legal writing. The nine previous Law School legal writing honorees are: Alysha Bohanon ’17, 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.

INTERNATIONAL MOOT COURT TEAM WINS COMPETITION IN MUMBAI
On its first trip outside U.S. borders, the Law School’s International Moot Court Competition team took first-place honors in the D.M. Harish Memorial Government Law College International Moot Court Competition, held Feb. 9-11 in Mumbai, India. (The team, which focuses on issues in international law, typically competes in events held in the United States.) At the Mumbai event, the 19th annual D.M. Harish competition, 24 teams participated, including groups from Duke University, Northumbria University, Queen Mary University of London, Nepal Law Campus, Sri Lanka Law College, and many Indian institutions. The case theme for this year’s competition was a dispute concerning alleged acts of corruption in the hosting of a major international sports event and international tax fraud.

The members of the winning Law School team, all 2Ls, are Nicole Georgette Marling, Dante Cade Harootunian, and Li Xu. Marling and Harootunian argued, while Xu helped write the brief and took a research exam in India. After succeeding in the preliminary rounds, the team advanced to the semifinals, where it faced the highest-scoring team from the prelims. A victory there advanced the team to the championship round, which was held in Mumbai University’s grand neo-Gothic Convocation Hall and presided over by five judges of the Honorable Bombay High Court.

In addition to winning the championship, members of the team garnered two individual honors: Marling was awarded Best Advocate in the championship round, while Harootunian was named Second Best Advocate in the nonchampionship rounds. The team is coached by adjunct faculty member Geoff Larson, who has served in that role for the past 10 years.

TWO LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS SELECTED AS ACS NEXT GENERATION LEADERS
Bess Boever ’19 and Charles Niemann ’19 were named American Constitution Society Next Generation Leaders.

Every year, ACS selects a small group of students from its nearly 200 chapters to be part of its Next Generation Leader program. Students who have demonstrated commitment to ACS engagement and strong leadership qualities are selected through a competitive application process.

It is very rare for the ACS to select two students from the same school during the same year, according to Meghan J. Paulas, director of ACS Student Chapters.

Next Generation Leaders receive unique access to ACS career development resources and networking opportunities.
MOS ATTORNEYS ARE PROUD TO serve as judges, but Mohammed Al Mulhim wasn’t.

The native of Al-Hofuf, Saudi Arabia, was just 23 years old and a recent graduate of Imam Muhammad ibn Saud Islamic University when he began working as a Grievances Court judge in Riyadh.

“I realized I wasn’t qualified to decide cases between people,” he says. “I didn’t have sufficient training. I did not see myself as a judge.”

So he quit.

When his wife began studying physical education at St. Catherine University in St. Paul not long afterwards, Al Mulhim saw an opportunity to deepen his legal knowledge. He enrolled in the Law School’s LL.M. program, graduating in 2014 with a 3.56 GPA. A year later, the Law School launched a Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.) program, and Al Mulhim, hungry for still more legal education, registered as its first student.

Although the S.J.D. degree—the equivalent, in the legal world, of a Ph.D.—is not common in the United States, it is often pursued by legal scholars from other countries. The Law School’s S.J.D. program currently has enrollees from South Korea and Qatar, in addition to Saudi Arabia.

“Students in our program are required to produce original, significant research,” says Kara Galvin, director of international and graduate programs. “We have amazing scholars from all over the world who spend time here to earn their degrees.”

To gain admittance to the Law School S.J.D. program, students must have earned an LL.M. degree from an American university. To graduate, S.J.D. candidates need to complete 24 credits of coursework and 24 credits of thesis work, along with other requirements.

Al Mulhim’s nearly completed dissertation, “Judicial Independence in Saudi Arabia: Prospects and Challenges,” is a deep dive into Saudi jurisprudence. While writing the document, which runs to more than 200 pages, he’s consulted frequently with Professor Bob Stein ’61, the Everett Fraser Professor of Law and a 2016 recipient of the University’s Distinguished Global Professor award. Throughout every stage of the project, Stein has offered helpful critiques.

“Even if I write one page, he says, Come to me and let’s discuss it,” Al Mulhim says. “He’s not just a professor. He treats me like a son.”

Stein is proud of his protégée.

“We want the first student in the program to set a high bar and he will do that,” he says.

When first studying at the Law School as an LL.M. candidate, Al Mulhim was involved in several activities, including co-founding the Saudi Student House at the University and working as a community human rights monitor for The Advocates for Human Rights in Minneapolis.

After earning his S.J.D. later this year, Al Mulhim plans to return to King Faisal University Law School—he’s previously taught administrative and constitutional law classes there—and establish a human rights center. He hopes the center will host lectures and conferences on labor, orphan, and women’s rights.

“I want to raise awareness,” Al Mulhim says.

In the meantime, the S.J.D. program will continue to grow, likely attracting students from around the world., says Galvin.

By Todd Melby, a freelance writer and radio producer based in Minneapolis
WHEN THE U.S. SUPREME COURT issues its eagerly anticipated ruling clarifying the limits of imposing political-speech restrictions at polling places, the opinion will be of more than just academic interest to three 3Ls at the Law School.

While clerking in the Civil Division of the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office, Amy Hang, Theo Heckel, and Jordan Rude had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help research and draft the respondent’s brief in Minnesota Voters Alliance v. Mansky. The trio worked directly with the lawyers handling the case, senior assistant Hennepin County attorney Dan Rogan, who argued the case before the Supreme Court, and assistant Hennepin County attorney Beth Stack ’07.

The case, a challenge to a 105-year-old Minnesota law prohibiting the wearing of political badges, buttons, and other “insignia” in polling places, has been working its way through the courts for seven and a half years. The original lawsuit was brought by a man who went to a polling place wearing a T-shirt emblazoned with a Tea Party logo along with a button that said, “Please I.D. Me.” A poll worker initially stopped him, questioned his apparel choice, and asked him to cover the T-shirt and button. He refused, but was still allowed to vote.

In February 2017, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit upheld the law (and an earlier ruling by a U.S. District Court judge), concluding that the application of the statute was reasonable and consistent with the state’s legitimate interest in preserving polling place decorum and neutrality.


Stack, who is also an adjunct professor of legal writing at the Law School, said that despite exams, holiday plans, and a school break, Hang, Heckel, and Rude all chipped in substantial time doing legwork for the brief.

“I call out [Rude] in particular because we wound up filing a brief with an appendix attached, and the appendix was all his work product,” Stack said. “It’s a review of the speech regulations in polling places in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia. He did a tremendous job to collect all that information and categorize it.”

According to Stack, each of the clerks developed individual specialty areas. “For example, Theo Heckel was our resident historian,” she said. “He spent a lot of time over at the State Law Library doing his research. The statute that was challenged was passed in 1913. Back then, they used to publish large chunks of the legislative record in the newspaper, so he was reading 100-year-old newspapers trying to chart the statute’s progress.”

All three of the law clerks made the trek to Washington, D.C., to attend the oral arguments on Feb. 28. Not yet lawyers, they had to stand in line with members of the public to get a seat in the courtroom.

Heckel enjoyed the opportunity to watch a case that he helped prep be argued. “As I left the courtroom, I felt proud and grateful to have been a member of such a talented team. I would not have had this opportunity were it not for the Public Interest Residency Program,” he said.

Rude said that it was “almost surreal” to hear Supreme Court justices asking questions about issues that he and others on the team had researched and discussed.

Hang said her involvement with the case was an amazing experience that she will cherish for the rest of her legal career and life. “I recognize how rare and how unique it was to have had a SCOTUS experience at all and so early on in my legal career,” she observed. “I distinctively remember sitting in the Supreme Court courtroom and thinking to myself, ‘This is why I went to law school and this is why what lawyers do matters.’”
AS MANY STUDENTS ACROSS THE country flew off to warm tropical beaches and other fun-filled destinations to celebrate their spring break, a small cadre of dedicated Law School students and a Humphrey School graduate student embarked on a six-day road trip to such exotic locales as Le Sueur, Minnesota, and Brookings, South Dakota.

These five intrepid students generously gave up their vacation time to help service the legal needs of immigrants in the rural Midwest. The Law School’s James H. Binger Center for New Americans organized the trip and provided the training.

The participating Law School students were 1Ls Xinge He and Tae Eun Ahn; 3L Chelsea Bodin; and LL.M. student Zakaria Almulhim. Joining them was Benjamin Gronowski, who is in the process of obtaining a Master of Human Rights degree at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Deepinder Mayell and Kjerstin Yager—director and coordinator, respectively, of the Binger Center’s Education and Outreach Program—accompanied them on the trip.

Why did the Center select southwestern Minnesota and South Dakota as the destination for the service trip? “We sought out communities where we knew there was a need for immigrant services,” Mayell explained. “We planned the trip around those areas. The meatpacking and dairy industries are strong out there.”

Highlights of the trip included:
- assisting detainees being held in two county jails;
- performing legal screenings in rural Minnesota and South Dakota;
- meeting with ACLU officials at the ACLU’s Mankato, Minnesota, office to discuss the work that needs to be done to improve immigrants’ access to justice.

All told, participants provided assistance to 75 families in the community screenings and screened another 24 individuals at the two county jails.

While the Binger Center has coordinated day trips to rural areas to help immigrants before, this was the first multi-day trip.

Mayell said the trip was a wonderful and worthwhile experience. “We were able to address a very significant and growing need that’s coming from rural communities where many immigrants live and have a very limited access to services,” he explained.

He described the trip as a really valuable experience. “I was really moved by the immigrants’ efforts to stay here,” she observed, adding that she felt a special connection as an international student herself.

Ahn said participating in the Binger Center program helped her to empathize with different people who are having difficulties in life.

LL.M. student Almulhim called the trip an “eye-opening experience.”

3L Bodin said, “We had a few exhausting days, but knowing we were advocating for individuals who typically have very limited access to legal services was a constant reminder that we were making a difference. ... I did not have a background in immigration law prior to our trip, but I know the knowledge and skills cultivated along the way will serve me well in my career moving forward.”

Mayell also noted that the immigrants were very pleased with the service they received. “People love that we were there,” he said. “They were very grateful and impressed by the team that went out.”

The Binger Center documented the trip on Instagram, including posting poignant video updates using the Instagram “Stories” function.

“We incorporated social media into this trip as a way to capture our students’ experience working as a legal team,” said Yager. “A lot of people probably do not immediately think of rural Midwestern communities when they think of immigration, so we wanted to change that image and take followers along for the trip.”

The Binger Center team (from left to right): Benjamin Gronowski, Xinge He ’20, Zakaria Almulhim LL.M. ’18, Chelsea Bodin ’18, Tae Eun Ahn ’20, Binger Center Education and Outreach Director Deepinder Mayell

STUDENTS SPEND SPRING BREAK ASSISTING IMMIGRANTS IN RURAL MIDWEST

The Binger Center team (from left to right): Benjamin Gronowski, Xinge He ’20, Zakaria Almulhim LL.M. ’18, Chelsea Bodin ’18, Tae Eun Ahn ’20, Binger Center Education and Outreach Director Deepinder Mayell
TORT’S **TOP GUNNER** FLIES HIGH

**ON APRIL 6 AND 7, THE THEATRE** of the Relatively Talentless (TORT) performed its 16th show, *Top Gunner*, at the Ted Mann Concert Hall. This year’s show spoofed the 1980s classic *Top Gun*. Set in the Law School in 1986, *Top Gunner* follows Maverick (Tommy Hansfield ‘20), Goose (Dustin Hilliard ‘20) and Iceman (Ken McGurran ‘18) as they compete for spots on the coveted Mock Trial Team. The team is led by Professor Jester (Devin Driscoll ‘18), Charlie (Marisa Tillman ‘20), and Hollywood (Katie Sreenan ‘19), who have to try and corral these oversized law student personalities into successfully winning the Mock Trial Championship.

Cameo appearances were made by Professor Robert Stein ‘61, Dean Garry W. Jenkins, Professor Scott Dewey, Nubia Esparza, senior coordinator of diversity and student programs, Professor Brad Clary ‘75, Professor Laura Thomas, Professor Francis Shen, Professor Mitchell Zamoff, Chief Justice Lorie Gildea, Judge Mark Kappelhoff, and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey.

TORT is created by the hard work of more than 60 law students. The writing, production, acting, and music are all done by students. This year’s board included Alexis Dutt ‘18 (director), Tim Sanders ‘18 (music director,) Hadley Simonett ‘19 (co-choreographer), Abigail Hencheck ‘19 (co-choreographer), Kate Kelzenberg ‘18 (head writer), Emily Ortlieb ‘19 (stage manager), Bethany Davidson ‘18 (costumer), Nick Smith ‘18 (tech director), Rebecca Rosefelt ‘19 (assistant tech director), Amy Johns ‘18 (co-producer) and Ellen Levish ‘19 (co-producer).

This year’s production was made possible by generous donors and sponsors. *Top Gunner* was presented by Stinson Leonard Street. Other sponsors included Faegre Baker Daniels, Fredrikson & Byron, Robins Kaplan, the Law School’s Office of Advancement, Kaplan Bar Review, Themis Bar Review, Barbri, and LexisNexis.

By Amy Johns ‘18
Justice Natalie E. Hudson, no skill is more important for a lawyer—or judge—to possess than the ability to write well. “If you want to be a lawyer, you have to be a good writer,” she says. It probably helps when you love writing as much as Hudson does, and apparently always has. Ask her about her days as a Law School student, when she served on the Minnesota Law Review staff and was editor-in-chief of the Law School’s student newspaper, Quaere, and it’s the first thing she mentions. “The Law School has always had an outstanding legal writing program, and they still do,” Hudson says. “I really enjoyed Quaere, which the Law School has since discontinued, and writing for the Law Review. Certainly, over the course of my career, writing skills have been paramount, and the Law School gave me a solid foundation.”

Hudson grew up in Roseville, Minnesota, and then headed to Arizona State University, where she initially envisioned a career in social work. But she changed her mind after talking with a cousin who was studying at Arizona State’s law school. “It became clear to me that in terms of making fundamental changes in our society and having an impact on the laws that govern our democracy, law is the vehicle through which we do that,” she recalls.

After receiving her J.D. at the Law School, Hudson embarked on a legal career that has been unusually diverse. She worked in a Legal Services office, a large Minneapolis law firm, and as dean of student affairs at Hamline University School of Law before being named St. Paul city attorney in 1992. In 1994, she moved to the Minnesota Attorney General’s office, working mostly in the Criminal Appellate Division.

Eight years later, Gov. Jesse Ventura appointed her to the Minnesota Court of Appeals. In 2015, Gov. Mark
MARK VOLPE
CLASS OF 1983

MARK VOLPE, A NATIVE OF EDINA, Minnesota, who is now the managing director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, shares a story about the day he decided to go to law school. The event that day was an audition with a West Coast orchestra. Volpe had recently earned a degree in clarinet performance from the prestigious Eastman School of Music and was seeking to follow the same career path as his father, Clement, a trumpeter in the Minnesota Orchestra for more than 40 years. Volpe waited his turn with other aspirants and, when it came, prepared to play a passage from Beethoven’s Pastoral Symphony. “I began playing,” he recalls, “and after about 45 seconds they said, ‘Next!’ It was at that point that I decided to go to law school.”

While Volpe did indeed abandon his aspirations of being a musician and went on to get his J.D. from the Law School in 1983, he came to realize that he missed the musical world. By the time he got his law degree, he’d settled on the idea of getting into orchestral music administration—and the rest, as they say, is history.

He started his career that year as general manager of the Baltimore Symphony, returning home two years later to become vice president and general manager of the Minnesota Orchestra, where he and his father enjoyed a new relationship. “I was my dad’s boss for a couple of years. Every day—it was one of our rituals—he’d ask me for a raise.”

After two years he took a job as executive director of the Detroit Symphony. Then, in 1997, he moved to Boston for the top administrative job at a symphony orchestra that is, arguably, the greatest in the United States. He’s held the job ever since, making him the longest tenured orchestral managing director in the country.

He may also have the most demanding orchestral management...
job in the country. In addition to the symphony itself, BSO Inc. encompasses the Boston Pops Orchestra; Tanglewood, the orchestra’s summer home in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts; and the Tanglewood Music Center, its acclaimed summer music academy. The orchestra also owns a major piece of prime real estate in Boston’s Back Bay and 530 acres in the Berkshires.

“The scale of this thing is certainly bigger than any other American orchestra,” Volpe says. “Basically, what I do is provide leadership and try to keep everything together.”

For his next act, Volpe says he’s looking forward to new responsibilities as the Boston Symphony embarks on a major property development project. He also says he’s considering a change in his personal life: “I’m thinking of playing music again,” he says. “I just miss it too much.”

Schaffer had served the agency, the largest civil legal aid provider in the state, as staff attorney and managing attorney for 11 years before entering private practice in 2016. But when former director Cathy Haukedahl ’79 announced her retirement in early 2017, the job came open, and when it was offered to Schaffer, he found that he couldn’t say no.

“I was presented with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to become the executive director of a place that I loved, doing the work that I love,” he says.

Schaffer’s devotion to public-interest law can be traced back to law school, to the days when he was a 2L working in adjunct professor Larry McDonough’s Housing Clinic. As a 3L, he became the clinic’s student director.

“That really opened my eyes to the world of helping people who have the chips stacked against them and changing the odds for them,” he says. “I wanted to be a courtroom attorney; I wanted to be a litigator; I wanted to help people. And I got all of that from my experience at the Law School.”

After getting his J.D. in 2004, Schaffer took a job in a small criminal defense firm. Although he enjoyed the work, he says, he wanted to do poverty law litigation. In late 2005 he got his chance, joining Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid as a staff attorney. He became the organization’s managing attorney in 2013.

Schaffer says the work performed by Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid and its 70-lawyer staff falls into many practice areas, including disability rights, housing, immigration, family safety, and public benefits, among others. But he also points out that, due to perennially limited resources, the agency is forced to turn away 60 percent of the people who request help.

“It’s yeoman’s work,” he says. “It’s normal, everyday stuff, but it’s keeping people healthy, safe, and stable in their lives. That’s what we do every day.”

This year’s Theatre of the Relatively Talentless cast invited alumni who have been a part of previous TORT productions to We ♥ TORT. More than 60 people attended the celebration and reunion event, which gave law students and alumni a chance to meet each other, reminisce, and bond over their shared experiences as law students who sing and dance. TORT is a law student-run musical production in its 16th year. We ♥ TORT was organized and hosted by the 2018 TORT producers and the Office of Advancement.
Schaffer says he enjoys using the skills he gained at the Law School to take on the challenges he now faces as executive director. “My job is to engage the public and tell people about Legal Aid and what it does,” he says. “Hopefully, that will lead to more support and more resources for Legal Aid.”

ALEIDA ORTEGA CONNERS
CLASS OF 2013

ALEIDA ORTEGA CONNERS admits that coming to Minnesota for law school in 2010 was a bit of a culture shock. She’d spent the first seven years of her life in Cuba and the next 15 in Miami after her family emigrated there. As an undergraduate at Florida International University in Miami, Conners knew she wanted to go to law school. She also knew she wanted to get out of South Florida—at least for a time.

“In its own way, South Florida lacks diversity, and I knew that I wanted to experience something else for a change,” she recalls. “And the Law School had a really great program and great professors.”

The evidence suggests that Conners has thoroughly adapted to her new, often snowy, surroundings. She met her future husband, Ryan Conners ’13, at the Law School, graduated magna cum laude in 2013, and immediately joined the Minneapolis law firm of Fredrikson & Byron, where she has developed a corporate practice helping businesses expand into Latin American markets.

Conners considers her practice an ideal amalgam of her interest in business and her Latin American background and fluency in Spanish. A major focus of her work, she says, is cross-border mergers and acquisitions, and she often serves clients as their outside general counsel in other commercial matters.

“I really enjoy navigating the differences between the way we do business here and the way Latin America does business and being a bridge between those two,” she says. “And what I really like about M&A work is that you can learn so much about a business during the two or three months that you’re working on that deal, because you’ve got to learn their operation inside out.”

While her practice is a busy and demanding one, Conners has also made a professional commitment to bar activity helping other Hispanic lawyers. In April, she assumed the presidency of the Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association, announcing a theme focusing on member engagement, including encouraging members to become more active with committee work and making more programming available to them.

She is also active in the Hispanic National Bar Association, which in February named her one of 33 “Top Lawyers Under 40” in the U.S. for her professional excellence, commitment to the Hispanic community, and dedication to the legal profession.

“I’m glad I chose the Law School; it gave me a solid foundation for my practice, and Minnesota has proved to be a wonderful place to develop a practice and raise a family.”

By Dick Dahl, a freelance writer/editor based in St. Paul
KARIN L. MCCARTHY ’94 APPOINTED JUDGE IN MINNESOTA’S 10TH DISTRICT

Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton appointed Karin L. McCarthy ’94 to serve as a district court judge in the state’s 10th Judicial District. In making the appointment, Dayton praised McCarthy’s breadth of experience and her “strong commitment to justice in our state.”

McCarthy had served as an assistant county attorney for Washington County since 2005. Her most recent work there was in the criminal division, where she primarily handled felony cases. Previously, she was a staff attorney at Tubman, a nonprofit organization that provides support services to women, children, and families in crisis; an attorney for the Family Violence Network; an associate at the firm of Caswell & Associates in Oakdale, Minnesota; and an adjunct professor at William Mitchell College of Law. McCarthy also serves as chair of the St. Croix Valley chapter of Minnesota Women Lawyers, a member of the St. Catherine University Alumnae Council, and is president of the Cottage Grove Public Safety Board.

The 10th Judicial District is in east-central Minnesota, encompassing Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Pine, Sherburne, Washington, and Wright Counties. McCarthy will be chambered in the city of Anoka.

NANCY E. BRASEL ’96 NOMINATED TO FEDERAL BENCH

President Donald J. Trump nominated Nancy E. Brasel ’96 to a seat on the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota. Brasel currently serves as a judge in Minnesota’s 4th Judicial District, a position to which she was appointed by Gov. Dayton in 2011. Over the past seven years, she has presided over cases in the juvenile, adult criminal, and civil divisions.

Prior to that appointment, she spent three years as an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of Minnesota, where she prosecuted more than 80 defendants for narcotics, firearms, and financial crimes. Before that, Brasel was a partner at Greene Espel in Minneapolis, where her practice focused on business and employment litigation.

After graduating magna cum laude from the Law School, Brasel clerked for Judge Donald P. Lay of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit. Brasel earned her B.A. from Trinity University, where she was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, and her M.A. from the University of Texas at Austin. While pursuing her J.D. at the Law School, she was inducted into the Order of the Coif and served as a managing editor of the Minnesota Law Review.

MATTHEW KRUEGER ’06 SWORN IN AS U.S. ATTORNEY IN WISCONSIN

On Feb. 22, Matthew D. Krueger ’06 was sworn in as the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. Krueger was nominated by President Trump and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on Feb. 15.

Before taking office, Krueger was an assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. He had served in that role since 2013, first in the civil division and then in the criminal division. He prosecuted a variety of federal crimes, including firearm offenses, health care fraud, and other financial crimes. He previously worked as an associate at Sidley Austin in Washington, D.C. He also served as a Bristow Fellow in the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Solicitor General. He clerked for Judge Paul V. Niemeyer of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit.

Krueger received his B.S., with honors, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He graduated summa cum laude from the Law School, where he served as editor-in-chief of the Minnesota Law Review.
JOIN THE CLUB.
MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

The Lockhart Club leadership annual giving society brings together generations of alumni and friends who generously express their support of the Law School through an annual gift of $2,000 or more. Together, this group makes a significant impact at the Law School and beyond—on its students, faculty, and community members.

All Lockhart Club members will be recognized in Law School publications, on the donor wall, and at events; are invited to the annual Lockhart Dinner; and receive a Lockhart member lapel pin.

Lockhart GOLD offers graduates of the last decade the opportunity to join the Lockhart Club at prorated levels based on graduation year.

For more information about benefits and how to join, visit www.law.umn.edu/giving.
1963
Jonathan Rose presented his newly published book, Maintenance in Medieval England, at the Biennial London Chaucer Conference and the British Legal History Conference in London and spent several weeks at the Max Planck Institute in Frankfurt, Germany, as a visiting researcher.

1974
Mike Freeman was named the 2017-18 president of the National District Attorneys Association.

Edward S. Wilson, a judge in Minnesota’s 2nd Judicial District, was awarded the 2017 Community Service Award by the Minnesota District Judges Foundation.

1981
Kevin Busch was named “Lawyer of the Year” for 2018 in the field of financial services regulation law in Minneapolis by Best Lawyers.

1983
Arne Sorensen was named the 2018 Hospitality Executive of the Year by the Penn State School of Hospitality Management. He is currently the president and CEO of Marriott International.

Daniel Wold was appointed executive vice president of Old Republic National Title Insurance Company in Minneapolis.

1984
Martin Munic was appointed by Gov. Mark Dayton as the public employer representative to Minnesota’s public sector labor law board. He continues to be the senior assistant Hennepin County attorney heading the office’s labor and employment team.

1986
Annette B. Kuz received the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Lester Edelman Spirit of Arrowhead Award as Legal Services Manager of the Year for exemplifying excellence in service to clients, excellence in leadership, and significant contributions to the USACE legal services community.

1987
Alain Baudry was elected partner at Kutak Rock in Minneapolis.

Mark Jacobson joined Cozen O’Connor in Minneapolis as a member of its commercial litigation department.

1988
Troy Bader was appointed CEO of Dairy Queen. Previously, he was COO. He has been with Dairy Queen since 2001.

Karen Fairbairn Nath was named interim executive director of Legal Assistance of Olmstead County.

1989
Susan Stokes was appointed assistant commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

1990
Linda Benjamin joined Covert Media in Los Angeles as COO and head of business and legal affairs.

1993
Andrew Friedman joined Shulman Rogers in Potomac, Maryland, in the firm’s white collar, securities enforcement, and government investigations practice group.

Kelly Putney was elected COO at Bassford Remele in Minneapolis.

William Stock participated as a panelist at the 8th Biennial Global Immigration Conference in London. His panel, entitled “U.S. immigration and visa policy in the Trump era—what has changed and what has not?”, reviewed key administrative, legislative, and judicial trends.

1994
Troy Timmerman was appointed a judge in Minnesota’s 5th Judicial District.

Daniel Rosen was appointed by Gov. Mark Dayton to a second term as a member of the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board.
1996
Juan Avila was elected a shareholder at Arthur, Chapman, Kettering, Smetak & Pikala in Minneapolis.

1998
Daniel Friedman was elected president of the Nebraska chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Clara Ohr was appointed general counsel of East Coast Power & Gas in New York.

Chris Turoski was appointed director of Patent Law Programs at the Law School.

2000
Yende Anderson was awarded a 2018 Bush Fellowship. Her focus will be on addressing the shortage and lack of diversity of primary care physicians in the Upper Midwest.

2002
Marshall Lichty joined Lawyerist.com as its editor-in-chief and a member of its executive team. He also joined GroundSource as its chief growth officer and general counsel.

Nicole Saharsky joined Gibson Dunn as a partner in the firm’s Washington, D.C., office.

2003
Kendra Brodin joined Briggs & Morgan in Minneapolis as director of lawyer talent. She is also serving as the 2017-18 president of Minnesota Women Lawyers.

Mary Pat Byrn joined Viltala Law Office in Minneapolis as a partner.

2004
Alison McClory was named to the 2018 “40 under 40” list by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal.

2005
Stuart McFarland was appointed senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary of SUPERVALU.

Brittany Pearson joined Barnes & Thornburg in Minneapolis as a partner. She practices family law.

2006
Bryan Freeman joined the litigation group at Maslon in Minneapolis. He focuses his practice on insurance coverage and general commercial litigation.

Jessica Hutson Polakowski was named to the 2017 Rising Stars list by Wisconsin Super Lawyers.

2007
Shaheen Karolia joined Allen & Overy in New York as an associate.

2008
Annie Eiden was elected a shareholder at Godfrey & Kahn in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Chris Hoff was promoted to principal at Fish & Richardson in Minneapolis.

Jennifer Huang was promoted to principal at Fish & Richardson in Minneapolis.

Amanda Rusin was appointed senior vice president, general counsel, and secretary of Regis Corporation in Minneapolis.

2009
Calvin Hoffman was named partner at Stinson Leonard Street in Minneapolis.

Lisa Von Biela published Incidental Findings, a medical-legal thriller. She is currently working on a novel set in the near future, during a drought of historic proportions.

2010
Amy Conway was named partner at Stinson Leonard Street in Minneapolis.

Katie Deviaminck was named partner at Stinson Leonard Street in Minneapolis.

Jaime Kurtz was named partner at Robins Kaplan in Minneapolis.

Scott Lenz was named partner at Bradley Arant Boult Cummings in Nashville, Tennessee.

2011
Calvin Hoffman was named partner at Stinson Leonard Street in Minneapolis.

Lisa Von Biela published Incidental Findings, a medical-legal thriller. She is currently working on a novel set in the near future, during a drought of historic proportions.

Brianna Mooty joined Accredited Investors Wealth Management in Edina, Minnesota, as a member of the firm’s wealth management team.

Christine Yun Sauer was named partner at Robins Kaplan in Silicon Valley.

Joshua Taggatz was named to the 2017 Rising Stars list by Wisconsin Super Lawyers.

2012
Benjamin Kirk joined Thompson Tarasek Lee-O’Halloran in Edina, Minnesota, as an associate practicing in the areas of construction and real estate law.

Elise Larson joined the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy in St. Paul as a staff attorney.

2013
Brittany Bakken was promoted to the position of senior attorney with Wilson Law Group in Minneapolis.

Laura Cowan opened her own law practice, focusing on estate planning. She has offices in New York and Minneapolis.

Aleida Ortega Conners was recognized as one of the “Top Lawyers under 40” by the Hispanic National Bar Association.

David Patton joined the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy in St. Paul as a staff attorney.

Ross Pearson joined the United States Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of California as an assistant United States attorney.

Paul Shneider was named partner at Blethen, Gage & Krause in Mankato, Minnesota. His focus is on closely-held businesses and commercial real estate.
2014
Sara (Vakulskas) Neva joined Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch in San Diego. She specializes in commercial real estate transactions, leasing, joint ventures, financing, and land use.

Laura Stecker joined Littler Mendelson in Fresno, California, as an associate.

2015
Caitlinrose Fisher joined Greene Espel as an attorney in the firm’s Minneapolis office.

Lehoan Pham joined HKM in St. Paul as an associate. He focuses his practice on toxic tort litigation.

2016
Kyle Kroll joined Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis as an associate attorney.

2017
Rudolph Dambeck accepted a position as assistant Redwood County attorney in Redwood Falls, Minnesota.

Gretel Lee joined the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy in St. Paul as a legal fellow sponsored by the Robina Institute.

Jeffrey Simon joined Price Heneveld in Grand Rapids, Michigan, as an associate attorney focusing on patent matters.

2017 ATTORNEYS OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to our distinguished alumni and faculty receiving 2017 Attorneys of the Year Awards from Minnesota Lawyer.

INDIVIDUALS
- Stephanie Ball ’88
  Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick
- Robert Bennett ’76
  Gaskins Bennett Birrell
- Lisa M. Elliott ’89
  Elliott Law
- Teresa Lavoie ’02
  Fish & Richardson
- Tara C. Norgard ’00
  Carlson Caspers

GROUPS
- Merchant & Gould Legal Team
  Rachel Clark Hughey ’03
  Merchant & Gould
- Adjunct Professor Emily Wessels ’14
  Merchant & Gould
- Minnesota State Legislature Legal Team
  Kevin Magnuson ’99
  Kelley, Wolter & Scott
- Surly Legal Team
  Brian Ranwick ’11
  Ranwick Law
- Syngenta Legal Team
  Daniel Gustafson ’89
  Gustafson Gluek
  Stanfrod Hill ’84
  Bassford Remele
  Jeffrey Klobucar ’04
  Bassford Remele
  Casey Marshall ’13
  Bassford Remele
  Eric Taubel ’11
  Gustafson Gluek
  Amanda Williams ’04
  Gustafson Gluek
- University of Minnesota Student Legal Service Team
  William Dane ’81
  University of Minnesota
  White Bear Lake Team
  Richard Allyn ’69
  Robins Kaplan
  Michael Ciresi ’71
  Ciresi Conlin

PARTNERS
- Steve Ryan ’94 (and Brian Corey)
  Briggs and Morgan
- Professor Linus Chan
  University of Minnesota Law School
- Adjunct Professor Andrew Mohring
  Ciresi Conlin
- Judge Ann Montgomery ’74
  U.S. Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit
- Judge Diana Murphy ’74
  U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota
- Judge Richard Kyle ’62
  U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota
- Judge Richard Kyle ’62
  U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota
- Adjunct Professor Andrew Mohring
  Ciresi Conlin
- Judge Ann Montgomery ’74
  U.S. Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit
- Judge Diana Murphy ’74
  U.S. Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit

OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION
- Cathy Haukedahl ’79
  Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid
- Judge Richard Kyle ’62
  U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota
- Adjunct Professor Andrew Mohring
  Ciresi Conlin
- Judge Ann Montgomery ’74
  U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota
- Judge Diana Murphy ’74
  U.S. Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit
TRIBUTES

LAWRENCE YETKA
CLASS OF 1948

In 1973, Yetka was appointed to the Minnesota Supreme Court by Gov. Wendell Anderson ’60. During his tenure on the court, he wrote some 500 opinions and was instrumental in overseeing the construction of the Minnesota Judicial Law Center and the establishment of the Minnesota Court of Appeals, which began hearing cases in 1983. Former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Paul J. Anderson ’68, Yetka’s friend and colleague, described him to the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* as a “superb jurist” and a “very astute and dedicated politician.”

LAWRENCE YETKA, WHO SERVED for a decade in the Minnesota legislature and for nearly two decades on the state’s highest court, passed away Nov. 12, 2017, in his hometown of Cloquet, Minnesota. He was 93.

After graduating from high school, Yetka came to the University, where he finished his undergraduate and J.D. degrees in just six years. He became an enthusiastic participant in DFL politics, supporting Hubert Humphrey in his first campaign for mayor of Minneapolis and becoming a friend and advisor to the future U.S. senator and vice president.

Yetka returned to Cloquet to open a law practice and won election to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1950. He held his seat for 10 years and chaired the judiciary committee for the last six years. As his practice grew, he remained active in the state DFL—a highlight was his post as chair of the reception committee for President John F. Kennedy’s visit to Duluth in September 1963.

CURTIS L. ROY
CLASS OF 1950

Curtis L. Roy, a partner at Minneapolis-based Dorsey & Whitney for nearly 40 years and a longtime benefactor of the Law School, passed away Jan. 27 in Bloomington, Minnesota. He was 93.

A native of Duluth, Roy served as a Marine during World War II. He received his undergraduate degree from the University in 1948. After graduating from the Law School, he joined the firm that eventually became Dorsey & Whitney and was made a partner in 1957. As head of the firm’s labor and employment group, he became one of the region’s leading practitioners in that specialty. Roy was a former member of the Law School Board of Visitors and a board member of the Law School Alumni Association.

Apart from the law, Roy’s passion was history, particularly the history of the fur trade and the Civil War. He was a very active member of the Minnesota Historical Society, serving on its executive committee from 1967 to 1992 and as its board president from 1980 to 1983. In the latter role, he led the process to determine the site of the landmark Minnesota History Center, which opened near the Minnesota Capitol and the Cathedral of St. Paul in 1992.

WARREN SPANNAUS
CLASS OF 1963

WARREN SPANNAUS, A FORMER Minnesota attorney general and candidate for governor, died Nov. 27, 2017, in St. Louis Park, Minn. He was 86.

Former Vice President Walter Mondale ’56, who was both a mentor and colleague of Spannaus, told Minnesota Public Radio, “This guy deserves a very significant place in Minnesota history and the history of legal rights and justice. He was an extraordinary public leader and human being.”

“Warren Spannaus was one of the preeminent lawyer-leaders of his generation, advocating for the people of Minnesota no matter the cost,” said Dean Garry W. Jenkins. “He
remained deeply engaged with the Law School, both as Minnesota attorney general and as a partner at Dorsey & Whitney. The Law School has lost one of its most distinguished alumni and closest friends."

Born in 1930, Spannaus grew up on Rice Street in St. Paul. He served in the Navy before enrolling at the University and then the Law School. In 1963, Mondale, then the state’s attorney general, hired Spannaus as a staff attorney. Asked by the St. Paul Pioneer Press why he would choose a freshly minted J.D. for such a role, Mondale said, “He was honest, intelligent, kind, funny, tireless—all the things you want.” Spannaus would later serve on Mondale’s U.S. Senate staff before running for attorney general himself in 1970. He held the office for three 4-year terms. In 1982, Spannaus ran for governor as the DFL’s endorsed candidate but lost in the primary to Rudy Perpich, who would go on to win the general election. Following his third term as attorney general, Spannaus joined Dorsey & Whitney, where he and Mondale eventually became colleagues.

Professor Alexandra Klass, a former partner at Dorsey & Whitney, said she was honored to work in the same department as Spannaus for 10 years. “He was warm, engaging, and a wonderful mentor. His unwavering commitment to public service was an example for all the attorneys at the firm. After I joined the faculty here, it was always such a pleasure to see him regularly at Law School events. He was so proud of the Law School and was a great supporter of its mission.”

BRENNAN GAETH
CLASS OF 2017

BRENNAN GAETH, A MEMBER of the Law School’s most recent J.D. class, died unexpectedly on Nov. 23, 2017, in Milwaukee. He was 26. He had moved to Kansas City, Missouri, to take a position with the firm of Shook, Hardy & Bacon after graduation. As a law student, Gaeth volunteered with the Asylum Law Project and served as a Robina Summer Fellow doing housing advocacy work with Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services.

Professor Chris Roberts, who taught Gaeth in two classes, recalled him as “the kind of student who makes teaching a joy.” In addition to Gaeth’s consistent preparation and respect for classmates, Roberts noted that he “possessed the simple yet rare ability to make others smile, even during discussions of the driest areas of legal doctrine.”

Classmate Jorgen Lervick ’18 spoke for many in describing Gaeth as positive and full of life. “If you were having a hard day, he was always there to make a joke,” Lervick said. Classmate Taylor Stippel ’17 remembered Gaeth as a “constant source of encouragement, happiness, and joy” whose “distinctive laugh reverberated around the halls and never failed to bring a smile to my face.” At Gaeth’s memorial service, Quang Tran ’17 honored his friend for sticking up for him and others, noting, “Not a lot of people can pull off being larger than life and so sincere at the same time.”

Assistant Dean of Students Erin Keyes ’00, speaking at the memorial service, spoke of the “incredible outpouring of stories and reflections about his huge heart, his hearty laugh, his hard work, and his ability to forge friendships. He was, in so many ways, our natural light in Mondale Hall,” she said. “I’m sure many in this room are struggling with ‘what ifs’ and ‘if onlys’ today,” Keyes concluded. “I certainly am. But what we can do is to pledge to honor Brennan and keep his light shining, and to keep his laugh reverberating, through the halls of justice, in our hearts, and in all the ways we serve and uplift those around us.”
### IN MEMORIAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 1944</th>
<th>Harold J. Rosen</th>
<th>January 3, 2018</th>
<th>Sarasota, Florida</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1948</td>
<td>Lawrence R. Yetka</td>
<td>November 12, 2017</td>
<td>Cloquet, Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1950</td>
<td>Kelton Gage</td>
<td>October 5, 2017</td>
<td>Mankato, Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1950</td>
<td>Curtis L. Roy</td>
<td>January 27, 2018</td>
<td>Edina, Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1953</td>
<td>Keith T. Harstad</td>
<td>October 25, 2017</td>
<td>New Brighton, Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1958</td>
<td>G. Calvin Hanson</td>
<td>November 5, 2017</td>
<td>Minneapolis, Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1959</td>
<td>Thomas E. Collins</td>
<td>October 9, 2017</td>
<td>McLean, Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1961</td>
<td>Andrew W. Danielson</td>
<td>October 17, 2017</td>
<td>Minneapolis, Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1963</td>
<td>Warren R. Spannaus</td>
<td>November 27, 2017</td>
<td>Minneapolis, Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1970</td>
<td>Timothy D. Marrinan</td>
<td>January 29, 2018</td>
<td>Edina, Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1973</td>
<td>John M. Benzian</td>
<td>January 9, 2018</td>
<td>Excelsior, Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1974</td>
<td>Michael K. Donovan</td>
<td>January 17, 2018</td>
<td>Duluth, Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1975</td>
<td>Cynthia G. Fischer</td>
<td>January 17, 2018</td>
<td>New York, New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1976</td>
<td>John P. Sellner</td>
<td>January 11, 2018</td>
<td>Montevideo, Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1979</td>
<td>Berry D. Friesen</td>
<td>January 17, 2018</td>
<td>Lancaster, Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1981</td>
<td>Robert F. Ihinger Jr.</td>
<td>January 26, 2018</td>
<td>Minneapolis, Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1986</td>
<td>Clarkson Lindley</td>
<td>January 2, 2018</td>
<td>Medina, Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1988</td>
<td>Dennis R. Dullinger</td>
<td>November 3, 2017</td>
<td>Alexandria, Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1989</td>
<td>Sarah B. Janecek</td>
<td>January 12, 2018</td>
<td>Minneapolis, Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1990</td>
<td>James Flory</td>
<td>December 12, 2017</td>
<td>Eau Claire, Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1991</td>
<td>Eric L. Leonard</td>
<td>November 3, 2017</td>
<td>Woodbury, Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1991</td>
<td>Barbara J. Becher</td>
<td>January 11, 2018</td>
<td>Apple Valley, Minnesota</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2017</td>
<td>Brennan K. Gaeth</td>
<td>November 23, 2017</td>
<td>Kansas City, Missouri</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHY I GIVE...

CLARA OHR CLASS OF 1998

Clara Ohr considered careers in law, diplomacy, and concert piano. The decision to go with law came when her father was faced with workplace discrimination.

“The situation blindsided my parents,” she recalls.

As it happened, Ohr had worked for an attorney while she was in college, and he gave her parents a referral. “After one conversation, they were in a completely different mental and emotional place,” Ohr says. “The immediate positive effect a lawyer could have on them made a deep impression on me.”

Ohr chose the Law School in part because she received financial aid, and now she donates to give others that opportunity. She initially divided her giving between diversity programs and the international exchange program, but she now focuses on diversity.

“When I moved to Washington, D.C., I really became aware of implicit bias and racial and ethnic discrimination,” Ohr said. She made a six-year pledge to diversity scholarships that takes advantage of matching funds from an anonymous donor. That fund is available for five years; Ohr added a year to loop in her class gift. She would like to see an increase in diversity in the Law School’s student body.

HOME: Omaha, Nebraska; now lives in New York, New York.

CURRENT JOB: First internal general counsel for the New York-based East Coast Energy Group.

FUN FACT: Ohr has a master’s degree in piano performance from the Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University. She currently sings with the Choral Society of Grace Church in New York City.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: Past president of the Asian American Bar Association of New York. Past president of the Nebraska Society of Washington, D.C.

ADVICE TO LAW STUDENTS: “Take as many opportunities as you can to get practical, real-world experience. You cannot practice law in a vacuum, and the practice of law is very different than the study of law.” She learned this lesson herself when, after her first year of law school, she clerked at the same law firm where she’d worked as an undergraduate. During the clerkship, she wrote a number of successful documents, and that positive experience helped her realize she could excel in law.
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 Mark Cohen (mark.joseph@umn.edu), Director of Communications, University of Minnesota Law School, 229 19th Avenue South, 411 Molecular Hall, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

The University of Minnesota shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

©2018 University of Minnesota Board of Regents

Corrections and Clarifications

On page 55 of the fall issue, in the “Up & Coming Attorneys” section, Sam Diehl’s class year was incorrectly listed as 2001. Mr. Diehl is a member of the class of 2007.
Spring Alumni Weekend 2018 was a lively celebration of the Law School’s past, present, and future. Hundreds of alumni from all over the country came together to reunite with classmates and professors, meet current students, and hear from Dean Garry W. Jenkins. Whether people were at their milestone reunion events, the all-class reception, earning free CLE credits, or touring the Riesenfeld Rare Books Center, there was a spirit of camaraderie flowing through Mondale Hall. Thank you to all who were a part of this incredible Law School tradition!