The ENTERTAINMENT AGE
MEET THE NEW VICTORS

The new first-year class at Michigan Law is made up of 267 students chosen from a pool of 4,368 applicants. The class is tied for highest GPA in the School's history and has the second-highest LSAT average score. Racial and ethnic minorities make up 24 percent of the class, while LGBT students comprise 7.5 percent. It is a group with widely varying backgrounds: ice carver, Olympic-caliber runner, FBI investigative specialist, an electrician who co-founded a Haitian solar cell company. Their culinary backgrounds are impressive: One was a pastry kitchen assistant at Zingerman’s Bakehouse; another wrote a thesis on the chemistry of baked chocolate desserts; and a third worked at an Italian winery. They represented a variety of media organizations: *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Al Jazeera*. The air controller from Camp Pendleton may be in some classes with the pilot combat trainer from the U.S. Air Force or the intelligence analyst from the Air National Guard. And the class is 50 percent male, 50 percent female.
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COUNSEL FOR THE KARDASHIANS

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BROADWAY INBOUND AND OUTBOUND

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...In This Issue of the Law Quadrangle

1. “We take risks, but smart risks in the pursuit of exposing, revealing, and explaining a story to the world.” (p. 20)

2. “Sure, it’s more profitable to work in the studios, but it’s more fun to work with independents.” (p. 24)

3. “Some [veterans] have been ignored or badly treated in terms of health care, and without proper treatment, they could join the growing number of veterans filing for divorce or committing suicide.” (p. 31)

4. “It’s one of the few issues these days that doesn’t divide strictly along party lines.” (p. 36)

5. “The left is a collection of special interests of people who feel maligned.” (p. 55)
A MESSAGE FROM DEAN WEST

A Curricular Leap Forward

Our Law School is enriched by the wide variety of interests and career paths that our graduates pursue. This issue of Law Quadrangle features a newsman-turned-activist, a software development entrepreneur, and lawyers who negotiate deals on behalf of clients that range from celebrities to tuna.

This diversity of pursuits has increased as more of our students take time off between their undergraduate and professional educations. This year, only 25 percent of our entering class went straight through from undergrad to Michigan Law—a sharp decline from years past. Although matriculating students still view a law degree as a way to keep their options open as they explore career paths, many more students now arrive in the Quad with a clear plan of how a Michigan degree will benefit their future careers and with significant experiences that have influenced those goals.

At Michigan Law, we have a core responsibility to educate our students in the fundamentals of the law and legal reasoning that have trained generations. But we also must give students flexibility to define their law school experience so that it serves a wide range of individual goals. The curriculum reforms that you’ll read about on page 30 reflect our commitment to rigorous foundational training, our adaptability to new standards mandated by the American Bar Association, and our resolve to keep Michigan Law a place that encourages intellectual exploration, both within the Law School and across our great University. It is essential, of course, that students learn how to think like lawyers in our traditional curriculum. But students also should have the ability to take advantage of all that Michigan offers, whether that be Accounting, Patent Law, Bloodfeuds, Chinese Law, a clinic, a practice simulation, or whatever piques their interest, broadens their perspective, and prepares them for life beyond the Law Quad.

I am very excited about our curricular leap forward. The increased flexibility that the newly tweaked curriculum provides reflects years of input from students, alumni, and practitioners, as well as careful study on the part of the Law School’s curriculum committee. I am grateful to the committee for its diligent work, to the faculty who have embraced the changes, and to those who cared enough about this school to share their thoughts and help frame our approach.

I also am grateful for all that makes Michigan Law such an interesting, robust place—one where a future litigation partner at a large firm and the future leader of a nonprofit together hone their leadership skills as the heads of a student organization, or respectfully debate in the halls. At Michigan Law, faculty and students come together with many different experiences, learn from each other, and then use their knowledge in different yet important ways. I couldn’t be more proud of what transpires here and where it leads our graduates.

Mark D. West
Dean
Nippon Life Professor of Law
BRIEFS

100%

Bar passage rate
for Michigan Law graduates who sat for the February bar in Michigan, New York, and Illinois

“You don’t find courage, it finds you.”
Quote from a character in the novel The Race for Paris by New York Times-bestselling author Meg Waite Clayton, ’84, about two female journalists during World War II who join forces with a military photographer and race toward Paris to record its liberation from the Nazis

“This year, moments after the Headnotes gave him seven singing Valentines in a row, I ran into Professor Mortenson in the hallway. He told me, ‘You have no idea how embarrassing that was, but I love what you guys do for the community here. Keep it up.’ The fact that I got to sing loudly at a [former] Supreme Court clerk for 10 minutes in the middle of his lecture and later have him thank me for it is a great reminder of why I love Michigan Law and Julian Mortenson.”

3L Mark McLoughlin, about Professor Julian Davis Mortenson, winner of the 2015 L. Hart Wright Award for Teaching Excellence

500,000+
Number of downloads from the MLaw Scholarship Repository (repository.law.umich.edu) in its first two years (June 2013–June 2015)

@UMichLaw see you in August! Preview Weekend sold me! Great job on the weekend and can’t wait to participate in it next spring!
Dmetri Culkar, now a 1L, on Twitter
Michigan Law graduates on the LGBT Bar’s Best Lawyers Under 40 list during the past two years. The law school with the next-highest representation on the list was Yale, with five.

“It’s no secret that my dad is my hero and always has been, for many reasons. … I’ve spent the last few years working in education and juvenile justice, and now what I look forward to, other than the father-daughter time, is our dialogue about justice; I have new questions I can ask him and ways to understand and engage with his analysis and critiques of the system.”

3L Jessica Gingold, about her three-week, 1,350-mile tandem bike trip with her father, Ohio civil rights attorney Al Gerhardstein, to raise money for the Ohio Justice & Policy Center and the Children’s Law Center

“Honoring a Forgotten Hero: Prof. Kamisar Awarded Medals for Korean War Service”

Most-visited online spring 2015 Law Quadrangle article, with more than 1,400 hits. The story also was shared widely on social media.

Piercing the Veil: The Limits of Brain Death as a Legal Fiction

Formulary Apportionment in the U.S. International Tax System: Putting Lipstick on a Pig?

Title IX and Social Media: Going Beyond the Law

The Declining Utility of “Hate Crime”

Dilution at the Patent and Trademark Office

TMI? Why the Optimal Architecture of Disclosure Remains TBD

655.5 Hours of pro bono service completed by Joseph Flynn, a December 2014 graduate, during his law school career. More than 10,000 hours of pro bono work were completed by graduating 3Ls and LLMs.

Titles of articles from recent issues of some of Michigan Law’s student-run journals
Christopher Taylor, ’97, a partner at Hooper Hathaway PC, was elected mayor of Ann Arbor in November 2014 after three terms on the City Council. He is a three-quarter-time lawyer (corporate/commercial) and a half-time mayor—and, yes, the math means he occasionally is overextended. A 25-year resident of Ann Arbor, he has four degrees from U-M, including a BMA in vocal performance. He and his wife live in the Burns Park neighborhood with their two school-age children.

On a recent day, he hurried from Hooper Hathaway to grab a coffee downtown, led a work session at City Hall, and talked with constituents and colleagues. On another day, he officiated the wedding of Urban Jupena and Steven Levicki (far right). After the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Michigan’s ban on same-sex marriage, Taylor now officiates weddings for free.
The ENTERTAIN

The glitz.
The glamour.
The...

complex legal contracts and long days and
the scramble to find financing for a fledgling project.
Sometimes, practicing entertainment law means that you’re spending time with big stars and defending companies like Disney and MGM in court. Sometimes, it looks a lot like other kinds of transactional law or litigation, with nary a celebrity to be found.

Many Michigan Law alumni work in entertainment law or in entertainment fields in which they use their legal expertise, while others work in its sister-industry: media law—which often crosses the thin glittery line into entertainment law. Just ask Heather Dietrick, JD/MBA ’07, about all the time she has spent at Gawker learning about the lives of Hulk Hogan and other celebrities.

We talked to several of these alumni to find out how much they really rub elbows with the stars, what it takes to be a top lawyer in Tinseltown, and even what the Kardashian sisters are really like. And lest you worry that we’ve gone too far down the tabloid path, rest assured that we only were interested in learning about their professional relationship as clients of their attorney. Whose last name does, in keeping with their affinity for the 11th letter of the alphabet, also start with a K.
Some of the biggest names in the Hollywood legal universe attended Michigan Law. Many alumni routinely appear in listings such as *Variety’s “Legal Impact Report”* and *Hollywood Reporter’s “Power Lawyers.”* Two of the most well-known and well-connected are Michael Kump, ’81, who represents major stars, and Marty Katz, ’83, who represents top studios, producers, and other content providers.

**Keeping Up With the Kardashians**

Michael Kump grew up in a small town in Minnesota, where the motto is “Cows, Colleges, and Contentment.” He would go on to earn a PhD in philosophy. How in the world, one might ask, did he end up as an attorney for the Kardashian sisters?

To some extent, his journey began when he entered the master’s and PhD programs at Michigan in 1974, where he focused on metaphysics and epistemology and enjoyed his time learning from the smart, engaged faculty and teaching the smart, engaged undergrads. As he completed his degree, his girlfriend at the time (now his wife, Nancy Steitz, MA ’77, PhD ’82) was going to be in Ann Arbor for several more years to complete her PhD. So Kump, who had gotten to know and like many people at the Law School during his time in the Philosophy Department, decided to pursue a JD.

“I didn’t know any lawyers growing up. I didn’t have any lawyers in my family. I knew what I liked about philosophy; I liked thinking about issues analytically. I liked trying to convince people of my position,” says Kump, ’81, partner at Kinsella Weitzman Iser Kump & Aldisert LLP in Santa Monica, California. “I thought that maybe the law, in the best of all worlds, might be something like that. And maybe I could have more career opportunities.”

He tried Los Angeles as a summer associate and loved it. A subsequent position as a summer associate took him to Washington, D.C., which lacked the “pizzazz” of L.A., he says, so he returned to California and has been there ever since. His focus on entertainment law was partly a function of geography; “I’ve done a lot of litigation in all sorts of areas,” Kump says, “but, of course, entertainment is the predominant industry in L.A., so I migrated toward it.”
Michael Kump in Variety’s 2015 “Legal Impact Report”: “The electronic and digital fingerprint and history that is now associated with every person has dramatically changed how litigation is conducted, particularly with respect to discovery,” he says. “This is especially true in entertainment litigation matters where the dispute often centers on whether an agreement was reached, which makes it necessary to locate, compile, and analyze all internal and external communications.”

He chose well. The industry captured his interest and has held it for all the years that followed his return. “There’s been tremendous growth in trademark, copyright, soft IP, the creative side of entertainment law,” he says. “Think of all the places you can get really good content—every TV show has its own set of actors, directors, financing companies, and all the legal issues that go with it.

“I’m not as creative as all of those creative types, but I get to hang out with them and tell them why they should do something a certain way.”

Which brings us back to the Kardashian sisters—Kim, Khloe, and Kourtney—the stars of reality TV and virtually every popular-culture magazine in the country. “Everyone wants to know, ‘What are they like?’ The television show is actually a very good representation of what they are like. Very down to earth, very engaged in what they do, and they speak their mind,” Kump says.

Kump has represented them on numerous issues, including their endorsement activities. “This is true generally: As litigation has proliferated, there has been a lot of litigation that has grown up around products. What is the liability of an endorser? It’s really an interesting legal issue.”

For instance, he represented the Kardashian sisters in a proposed class action filed in 2012 in federal court in New York concerning the weight loss products sold under the QuickTrim brand, which the Kardashians endorse. Some people who had purchased QuickTrim products sued the manufacturer and distributor for alleged false advertising, and they included the sisters in the lawsuit. Kump was able to get the action against his clients dismissed in September 2013.

Kump has successfully represented many clients’ IP and contractual rights, such as when actor Michael Keaton was sued for breach of contract by a production company of The Merry Gentleman. Keaton, who costarred in the 2008 film, also took over directorial duties when the previous director got sick. While the film received critical praise, it bombed at the box office; the production company’s suit claimed that Keaton failed to adequately promote the film. Kump led the team of attorneys that won an Illinois federal court judge’s summary judgment in the case, allowing Keaton to avoid a jury trial just a week after he was up for Best Actor at the Oscars for Birdman.

Kump represents Starz Entertainment on an array of issues, including multiple actions in federal court to protect and enforce Starz’s copyright and contractual rights in films licensed under output agreements with major studios. He represented Jamie McCourt, then owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers, in her marital dissolution action against businessman Frank McCourt, who claimed he was the sole owner of the team based on a marital property agreement. A judge’s ruling in a bench trial went in favor of Kump’s client. He has won cases on behalf of the screenwriter and director of the Matt Damon movie Elysium, NBA legend Shaquille O’Neal in a lawsuit filed by an alleged former business associate, and many other companies and entertainers.

“There are a lot of very dynamic personalities that you come across,” Kump says. “I’ve had the opportunity to work with and meet inventive and creative people.” The next challenge for him and other entertainment lawyers, he says, is how content is being delivered. “What’s the world going to look like 10 years from now? The whole issue of how information and entertainment are going to be developed and distributed—that revolution is ongoing.”
Marty Katz, ‘83, came to entertainment law by way of what he calls a “twisted story.” He was focused on insurance coverage work for policyholders during the era of mega-insurance battles in the 1980s and early 1990s, including coverage for asbestos, environmental cleanup, and product liability claims, and claims arising from the L.A. riots, fires, and floods.

“Then the 1994 Northridge earthquake hit, which resulted in construction defect claims and corresponding insurance coverage claims. One of the major studios was a client of the firm I was at, and one of its buildings sustained substantial damage during the earthquake. I handled both the construction defect claim and the insurance coverage claim that followed. I really hit it off with the folks at the studio and then, through a series of seemingly unrelated events, found myself representing Sony, Disney, and MGM, and later dick clark productions.” Katz had a long string of successes, adding that “as one of my mentors taught me well, ‘success breeds success.’”

That is, if anything, an understatement. Katz would go on to be considered one of the top litigators in entertainment law, winning high-profile cases for high-profile clients for the past two decades. He has done so with a range of claims: those involving distribution rights for movies, TV shows, and music; copyright, trademark, and name and likeness claims; stock option claims asserted by employment executives; real estate disputes at entertainment venues; and entertainment industry insurance claims and personal injury claims, including a wrongful death case filed by the estate of a woman who had been killed by her ex-husband on the day that their appearance on The Jerry Springer Show aired. That case was dropped entirely after Katz got it kicked to arbitration.

“A good litigator can pick up anything pretty quickly,” says Katz, a partner in the Los Angeles (Century City), California, office of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP. “But it really helps to understand both your client and the industry in which it operates.”

Several of his best-known cases have involved participation accounting, sometimes referred to pejoratively by studio critics as “Hollywood
accounting,” in which he has defended studios against claims that producers, actors, writers, and other artists are owed more money based on the performance of a movie or TV show. In Wolf v. Walt Disney Pictures and Television, for instance, he served as lead counsel for Disney. In 2003, toward the beginning of the case, Katz secured a ruling from the trial court, confirmed in a published opinion by the Second District Court of Appeal in California, that the duty to account to a profit or revenue participant does not give rise to a fiduciary duty. “This was a landmark case in California,” Katz says, “because it ended the exposure for punitive damages that institutional players in the entertainment industry faced for nearly four decades.”

The Wolf case stemmed from the author’s claims that he was owed more money for Disney’s merchandising of the characters he created for Who Framed Roger Rabbit?. The 2003 ruling was followed by a jury trial and an appeal, which ultimately went in Disney’s favor. After Wolf was awarded $180,000 in damages at trial (far shy of the $10 million he was seeking), Katz convinced the Court of Appeal that Disney was entitled to the return of the amounts it had mistakenly overpaid Wolf, which far outstripped Wolf’s damages award. “Be careful what you wish for,” Katz said to The Hollywood Reporter at the time. “When pressing for an accurate or more detailed accounting, a participant is just as likely to uncover an overpayment as an underpayment.” Katz has handled other participation accounting cases as well, including an eight-year battle by The Saul Zaentz Company against Miramax over profits from The English Patient.

One recent major victory was a 2012 case in which Katz served as lead counsel for dick clark productions and Red Zone Capital in a dispute against the Hollywood Foreign Press Association over rights to produce and distribute the Golden Globe Awards Show.

“It was a three-week trial over the meaning of 12 words,” says Katz, referring to a 1993 amendment to a production and distribution agreement. In the end, the federal court gave dick clark productions exactly what it was seeking: the right to license the Golden Globes to NBCUniversal indefinitely. Following an appeal in 2014, the two sides ended years of rancor with a confidential agreement.

The widely publicized case represented a good example of his litigation style, Katz says. “There are two types of litigators. There are lawyers who have tough and aggressive personalities in and out of the courtroom; that style either works or doesn’t work for a particular case. Other litigators are really frustrated actors where the courtroom is the stage and it is important to adapt to the audience—the judge or jury. I like to think that I fall into the latter category.”
As nearly anyone who works in entertainment law will tell you, there is no such thing as entertainment law. Or, rather, many legal fields comprise entertainment law, and a diverse skillset is needed to achieve success. Some Law School alumni have pursued one of the myriad segments of entertainment law, while others use their legal training to work as talent agents or in other roles in the entertainment sphere. Here, we have asked a few of them for advice about getting into the field and what their jobs entail, as well as the question that everyone asks them: Which famous people do they work with?

Joining the discussion are:

Heather Kamins, ’03,
a business affairs executive at Creative Artists Agency (CAA) who works with actors, musicians, athletes, and brands on myriad projects, including Jennifer Lopez’s line of health and fitness supplements.

Hannah Taylor, ’07,
an associate at Frankfurt Kurnit Klein + Selz PC in New York City who focuses on advertising, branded entertainment, and intellectual property and whose primary focus is on issues of advertising in social media.

Silvia Vannini, ’08,
counsel in O’Melveny & Myers LLP’s Century City, California, office, where she focuses on mergers and acquisitions, securities, and general corporate matters both in and out of the entertainment industry.

Bruce Vinokour, ’72,
a television agent at CAA, where he represents authors such as Carl Bernstein, Ken Follett, Iris Johansen, David McCullough, and Scott Turow, turning their manuscripts or books into deals for TV, such as the John Adams miniseries for HBO or Pillars of the Earth for Starz.
What do you wish someone had told you before you went into the field?

**HK:** The best thing you can do to break into entertainment law is to gather entertainment law experience any way you can, even if that means working on an entertainment-related case on a pro bono basis or taking a lower-paying job in the field rather than a higher-paying job in a different legal field. When I graduated law school, corporate and transactional work was basically at a standstill. I started as a litigator at a large international law firm, and everyone told me that it would be impossible to make the transition to entertainment law from litigation. But I was determined and sought out one of the few lawyers at the firm with entertainment clients. I begged him to let me assist him with his pro bono cases. This provided me the experience to move to a boutique entertainment law firm in New York a few years later, and, though I had to take a significant pay cut at the boutique firm, that job provided me the opportunity to move in-house at CAA.

**BV:** At the time I attended law school, I knew nothing about television packaging and had no concept of how television or movie productions were put together. A course in entertainment law would have been very helpful—although there is much more, of course, to the global television marketplace than just the legal aspects of deal-making. Still, I would definitely have welcomed such a course. Today, such a course, I should think, would be most relevant as well, given the digital explosion with so many platforms available for viewing productions.

**SV:** I wish someone had told me how important law firm culture is. Every law firm (in fact, every local office), has a different culture—a very real and tangible ethos that has significant effect on your work life. I am lucky to have found a law firm with a culture that fits perfectly with my personal style and values.

**HT:** I didn’t realize quite how many people wanted to practice in this area before I tried it. Turns out, it’s really difficult to break into. It now seems to me that people break into the entertainment law field in one of three ways: Good connections, great experience on the business side, or incredible credentials. If you don’t work at a top firm or you don’t know anyone in the field, try taking a job—even an internship—on the business side. I think it’s very helpful experience for practicing as an entertainment lawyer, but I also think it stands out on a resumé.

In what ways is your line of work different from what you expected?

**HT:** I am not a “traditional” entertainment lawyer; I am more of a “branded” entertainment lawyer. Basically, if there’s a spokesperson deal between a brand and a celebrity, I am more likely to be representing the brand than the talent. Before I researched and discovered that this line of work existed, I thought all entertainment lawyers worked in film, television, or music, and that they worked for studios or labels, or represented celebrities. Turns out, there’s a lot more you can do if you’re interested in intellectual property, pop culture, the entertainment business, the First Amendment, or how any of those intersect.

**SV:** I didn’t fully appreciate in law school how fast-paced deals are and how quickly decisions need to be made; it is much more fluid than I expected, and you have to stay on your toes. I think Michigan did a good job setting expectations around complexity and the endurance needed to get deals done and focus on client service.
HK: The entertainment field is much broader than I initially realized. Of course there are lawyers who represent actors, writers, and directors in film and television deals and lawyers who help musicians sign label and tour deals, but there are so many other facets of the industry. I don’t do any of that. At CAA, I work across the agency with a wide spectrum of clients—actors, musicians, athletes, and brands—helping them expand their reach through endorsement, licensing, book publishing, and digital deals. People often think of lawyers as analytical and not creative, but I find that this area of law allows me to be creative and imaginative on a daily basis.

What might a typical day look like for you?

BV: I try to get into the office early in the morning; it’s really a way of life more than a 9-to-5 job. If it’s not a staff meeting in the morning, it’s calls to cities outside of the United States, such as London or Toronto. The day is then filled with meetings and other phone calls; I’m constantly on the phone with producers, actors, authors, and network and studio people, trying to determine the appetite of a particular broadcaster or cable outlet. I work with all the viewing outlets in the United States as well as several networks around the world; I’ve helped set up projects at the CBC in Canada, the BBC in London, and even worked with TF-1 in Paris. I’ve worked on putting together TV series as well, such as Castle, The Good Wife, The Walking Dead, and Rizzoli and Isles, as well as the upcoming Agent X for TNT. And there are deals to be negotiated and contracts to be reviewed in connection with each and every production. In short, the days fly by and then there is usually a drink or dinner with a client, buyer, or executive at day’s end. Finally, there is always—always—reading to be done. It might take the form of an article, a script, a treatment, a manuscript, or a published book. But I am always on the lookout for material that can be the basis of a television production, and that requires constant reading, which is done after dinner and on weekends. But I am not complaining at all. In the end, to see those series or something like the HBO mini-series John Adams come to life, is very, very fulfilling.

SV: Every day is different, but here is what I did one recent day.

8 to 9 a.m.: Client call about merger structure
9 to 11:30 a.m.: Document drafting
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Internal meeting
12:30 to 2 p.m.: Lunch with prospective client
2 to 4:30 p.m.: Negotiation session with client, target, and opposing counsel
4:30 to 4:45 p.m.: Interview with law student
4:45 to 7 p.m.: Document drafting
7 to 8 p.m.: Client call regarding deal terms
8 to 9 p.m.: Preparation for client meeting
HK: One of the exciting things about the job is that no two days are the same. I am lucky enough to work with a wide array of clients on many different types of deals. In a single day I can easily find myself negotiating a book deal with a venerable New York publishing house, advising clients on trademark and naming strategies for a product line, drafting lengthy corporate documents, and meeting with an A-list actress about a strategy for creating her own health and beauty line.

HT: I spend a lot of time on issues relating to social media. While I do everything a branded entertainment or advertising lawyer might do—including structuring and negotiating creative services agreements, commercial production agreements, celebrity talent agreements, and licensing deals—I am also the chair of my firm’s social media task force. In that role, I counsel clients, write, and speak frequently on the legal implications of advertising in social media. It’s an unusual day if I’m not thinking about how to squeeze an important disclosure into 140 characters, or about how to disclose that one of my clients is paying a celebrity to post on Instagram.

To what extent do you interact with well-known authors and other celebrities or well-known brands?

SV: I work with several well-known entertainment companies. A couple of examples: I represented Starz Entertainment in an international joint venture for creation of an over-the-top entertainment platform to be launched as “Starz Play” in the Middle East and North Africa. I also represented Metro Goldwyn Mayer Inc. in the acquisition of a majority interest in Mark Burnett’s One Three Media and LightWorkers Media, to be consolidated into new media venture United Artists Media Group.

HK: I try to interact directly with the clients as much as possible because their talent and creativity always inspire me. Most of the deals I work on are extensions of a client’s core business, so they really are passion projects for the clients. More often than not the clients really want to be hands-on and directly involved every step of the way, including in the negotiation and contract phases. Working with their respective teams of agents, a few representative deals that I have been involved with for clients include Katy Perry’s fragrance line, Jennifer Lopez’s line of health and fitness supplements, Halle Berry’s lingerie line, and Dwyane Wade’s memoir on fatherhood.

HT: One of my favorite assignments is to represent clients before the National Advertising Division (NAD), the self-regulatory body that adjudicates disputes about national advertising. I’ve handled numerous cases at the NAD over the last year, including cases for Gatorade and Clorox. In recent months, I’ve also worked on a major celebrity endorsement campaign for a makeup company, helped clients like AnnTaylor and other major retailers with their licensing and talent deals, and I always review copy for various advertising agencies to advise on IP and truth-in-advertising risks.

BV: I am very fortunate and privileged to work very closely on behalf of a number of authors and estates, including Carl Bernstein, Robert Caro, Ken Follett, Fredrick Forsyth, Joanne Fluke, David Ignatius, Iris Johansen, David McCullough, Scott Turow, among others, and with the estates of Raymond Chandler and James Clavell. I don’t make their deals with the publishing houses—that is done by their literary agents—but once the manuscript is written, that is when I get involved trying to sell that material as the basis of a movie for television, a continuing one-hour series, or even an event mini-series.
DEFCENDING
Gawker and the First Amendment

Hulk Hogan’s sex tape, mayoral crack, and the Constitution are all in a day’s work for Heather Dietrick, JD/MBA ’07.

Whether it’s allegations of Toronto Mayor Rob Ford’s crack habit or the publication of a sex tape featuring Hulk Hogan, the legal issues that cross Heather Dietrick’s desk at Gawker Media might tempt less ardent supporters of the First Amendment to toss their copies of the Constitution.

But not Dietrick, JD/MBA ’07, who joined Gawker Media in 2013 and currently serves as president and general counsel of the online media company. Her responsibilities, together with Gawker’s reputation for the sensational, keep Dietrick immune to the mundane.

“There is no shortage of adrenaline around here,” Dietrick says. “There is literally never a dull moment. We’re continuously breaking news”—and fielding the legal challenges that often accompany such revelations. “We take risks, but smart risks in the pursuit of exposing, revealing, and explaining a story to the world.”

In her first week on the job, that story was then Mayor Ford’s alleged cocaine use. Gawker also has taken the lead on other high-profile stories.

“Gawker was really responsible for exposing the true story behind Bill Cosby, as well as [football star] Manti Te’o’s fake girlfriend. We are committed to telling our readers the real story,” Dietrick says. “Those are the principles we are defending at Gawker—the right to figure out what is actually happening in stories that our readers care about.”

Prior to joining Gawker, Dietrick worked in private practice and served a judicial clerkship with the Hon. Sandra Townes of the Eastern District of New York. Her most intense media law training came as a First Amendment Fellow in the Hearst Corporation’s Office of General Counsel. Collaborating with a small team of in-house counsel on trademark, patent, copyright, and media litigations, Dietrick credits her experience at Hearst with preparing her for her dual role at Gawker.

“My primary focus is First Amendment, but my work as general counsel runs the entire gamut of legal issues that make up a company, from contractual relationships with advertisers and independent contractors, to corporate structuring and labor matters,” Dietrick says. “I also vet a lot of our content. Our journalists are incredibly smart about what should run through legal before it goes out the door.”
Still, even vetted content has the potential to see court action. In the highly publicized case of Gawker Media, LLC v. Terry Gene Bollea, the issue in litigation wasn’t a question of factual error, but rather two very different interpretations of First Amendment rights.

For almost three years, Gawker and Bollea, known professionally as wrestler and reality television star Hulk Hogan, have toured Florida courts engaged in a $100 million lawsuit prompted by Gawker’s 2012 publication of video excerpts—and written description—of an extramarital sexual encounter featuring Hogan. The case has occupied much of Dietrick’s time since her arrival at Gawker.

Filing his lawsuit initially in federal court, Hogan claimed invasion of privacy, publication of private facts, misappropriation of his publicity rights, infliction of emotional distress, and copyright infringement. He also requested, and was denied, a preliminary injunction to have Gawker remove both the video and accompanying narrative from its website.

“In suing us for publicity rights, Hogan is saying, ‘I should be able to control my story.’ This concept has been applied in an advertising context but not in news reporting. In an advertising context, a celebrity is able to say, ‘You used my image and you should pay me for that,’” Dietrick says. “In news reporting, journalists are free to describe what is really going on without paying the subject of a story.”

Gawker responded to Hogan by arguing that its First Amendment rights outweighed his privacy interests and that the request for removal would constitute an unconstitutional prior restraint. The court agreed, noting also that Hogan’s public persona (e.g. his reality television show and a book describing an affair he had during his marriage) demonstrated that the video was a matter of public concern protected by the First Amendment.

Hogan refiled his lawsuit, sans copyright claim, in a Florida state court and won a temporary injunction and removal order against Gawker in April 2013. Nine months later, a Florida appeals court reversed the decision, adopting reasoning similar to the earlier federal court.

The case was scheduled to go to trial—Gawker’s first—on July 6, 2015, in the Sixth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida. However, Florida’s Second District Court of Appeals moved to delay the start date on the grounds that the circuit court judge overseeing the case failed to enforce the rules governing the scheduling of jury trials. The trial has been rescheduled for March 7, 2016.

That a media case should go to trial is rare in today’s market, especially given the increased cost of litigation and the diminishing budget of many news organizations. For Dietrick, Gawker’s persistence in this First Amendment fight is case in point for why she joined the company in the first place.

“Gawker is willing to stand by its stories as much as, or more so than, any media organization out there,” Dietrick says. “Gawker lets me stand up and fight for our right to tell people what’s going on. They are in pursuit of the truth, sometimes beautiful, sometimes uncomfortable, but always real.”

The Truth: Sometimes Beautiful, Sometimes Uncomfortable

Heather Dietrick, JD/MBA ’07

Gawker
A few years ago, Jason Janego, ‘99, and his business partner were trying to figure out the best way to distribute a Kirsten Dunst movie called Bachelorette. Should it go to theaters, or video-on-demand? Which option would give them the best chance to reach audiences? It was one of the first releases by their then year-old company, and the stakes were high.

They chose option C, and their groundbreaking gamble—releasing it on video-on-demand, then a month later in theaters—proved to be successful and to influence the way other studios released independent films in subsequent years. Bachelorette (2012) became the first hit for RADiUS-TWC, the boutique arm of the Weinstein Company, of which Janego was co-president and co-founder.

“Basically, the idea is to give the consumer a bit more choice and to reach them where they want to be reached,” says Janego, who left the Weinstein Company in July and is in the process of setting up a new company with his business partner. “In doing so, we’ve had some success in shaping the way the industry views this sort of release.”
Indeed. In the United States and around the globe, you now can watch a movie on demand, often on the same day as its theatrical release. You can stream it through Netflix, iTunes, Amazon, Google, or other services. And, oftentimes, you still can escape the world for a couple of hours in the darkness of a theater, allowing a film to block out all the noise in your life and, just maybe, change the way you see yourself or the world.

Michigan Law alumni like Janego are leaders in this new wave of getting indie movies to audiences. John Sloss, ’81, a founder and partner of New York-based Sloss Eckhouse LawCo and Cinetic Media, has executive produced more than 60 films, including the Academy Award-winning The Fog of War and Boys Don’t Cry and produced the Golden Globe-winning Boyhood. Bruce Tuchman, ’89, president of AMC Global and Sundance Channel Global, has taken the Sundance Channel’s vast slate of indie movies to 80 countries.

“All these new avenues are open now for people who are interested in independent films. In addition to that, people who are passionate about independent film tend to be more passionate than fans of studio films,” Tuchman says. “Now they have a direct pathway to see all this great independent film, either on one of our channels or video-on-demand. This is a really exciting time to be in this industry.”
Show Me the Money

Of course, before the movies can be released to audiences, they have to get made in the first place. In some instances, such as *Boyhood*, that entails finding a financier that is willing to stick with a project over a very long haul.

“I think the complexity and interest of issues for lawyers is much greater in the independent film sector than in the studio sector,” Sloss says. His legal training, he says, ultimately helped him persuade executives of a multinational corporation to finance *Boyhood* over the 12-year period. “We structured the deal creatively as 12 one-year options so the funder did not feel like they needed to commit to 12 years at the outset. However, if they didn’t, we could find a replacement on more favorable terms. That provision increased the likelihood that we could find a replacement if things didn’t work out with them.”

A movie he produced, 2007’s *I’m Not There*, was another challenging film for which to find funding. The stylized look at Bob Dylan’s career, with six actors portraying aspects of his life and music, took about five years to finance, Sloss says. “It took every bit of creativity we had to presell territories, borrow, go to shoot in a place where we could get the best rebate possible.

“That’s the great thing about working with independent films. There are less-firm structures and a greater opportunity for creative dealmakers to make creative deals,” Sloss says. With other films, he has combined equity with debt with presales with government subsidies. With many movies, he has worked out arrangements with participants in the film in which they are effectively given part-ownership in lieu of large upfront salaries.

While technological breakthroughs are helping independent movies get distributed widely, they also are helping some movies get made in the first place. For instance, a 2015 movie called *Tangerine*, a day-in-the-life of two transgender prostitutes, was shot entirely on iPhones with special lens attachments.

“The process of making films has been revolutionized by inexpensive technology,” Tuchman says. “*Tangerine* could not have been created 10 years ago, or distributed for that matter. Now, you can shoot on an iPhone and edit on an iPhone. The cost and the hurdles to entry have become very low.”

That’s one of the things all of these alumni love about working with independent films. New voices can break through in a way that wouldn’t be possible at major studios, with their focus on sequels and superheroes.

“So much has been codified in the studio world that there isn’t much room for improvisation,” Sloss says. “Sure, it’s more profitable to work in the studios, but it’s more fun to work with independents.”
Breaking Through the Noise

When the makers and distributors of independent films seek an audience, they’re up against those big-studio sequels and superheroes. They’re also competing with binge-worthy TV shows, smart-phone games, sports, and other entertainment choices.

“The opportunities for movies to get made are greater than ever before,” Janego says, “but at the same time, your choices are greater than ever before. In a world where you’re constantly inundated with options, if we don’t give the viewer a chance to see something right when they hear about it, they often move onto the next thing.”

One movie that broke through the noise while Janego was at RADiUS-TWC was this year’s *It Follows*. “It harkens back to an ’80’s horror film. We weren’t sure how the audiences would react,” Janego says. “It turns out that audiences are yearning for smart movies like this.” The movie’s quality—along with its presence on social media, strong reviews, and word-of-mouth—combined to make it a big success for RADiUS-TWC.

*Boyhood*, which Sloss produced, as did Tuchman’s IFC Productions, not only found an audience; it grossed more than $50 million globally. The movie is an example of an indie that can compete against big studio productions, Tuchman says. “Studios are only releasing about 100 movies a year, so the overwhelming supply of movies that are being made is independent film. Independent film has always been considered a niche. It still is, but I’m finding more and more of an appetite is emerging even than just five or 10 years ago.”

That appetite is being filled with movies such as *Searching for Sugar Man* (2012), which won two of the top awards at the Sundance Film Festival; *Wolfpack* (2015), about brothers who were confined to their New York apartment by their parents and learned about the world through the movies they watched, which also won the top Sundance prize; the Amy Winehouse documentary *Amy* (2015), for which Sloss’s Cinetic handled domestic sales; and RADiUS-TWC’s *Citizenfour* (2015), a documentary about Edward Snowden, who leaked classified documents from the U.S. National Security Agency.

Movies such as *Citizenfour* remind Janego of why he was drawn to the industry in the first place; it’s a well-made movie, he says, about a significant topic. He and his business partner worked on the movie clandestinely for more than four months, because of the sensitive nature of the material.

“It was a once-in-a-lifetime movie,” Janego says. Experiences like that remind him of why he’s “still bullish on movies. There’s something special about sitting in a dark theater or your living room and experiencing a movie over 90 to 120 minutes. As good as TV is, I still think there is something uniquely special about movies.”
The Nederlander family’s interest in China began with a famous ping-pong match decades ago. Today, their company—a prolific producer of Broadway shows—is making inroads in the most populous country in the world by taking Broadway productions there. It’s an exchange that goes in both directions, with Nederlander Worldwide Entertainment also bringing Chinese shows to Broadway.

Fifteen years ago, Robert Nederlander Jr., ’89, began exploring opportunities to take Broadway shows to China—something that had never been done at that time. The prospect was intriguing, he thought, and full of promise.

The company of which he is president and CEO, Nederlander Worldwide Entertainment, would go on to fulfill that promise by becoming the first foreign entity allowed to form a joint venture and operate in the Chinese performing arts industry and established the first Broadway theatrical circuit in China. The company produced 42nd Street in China in 2007, then Aida, Fame, Broadway Rox, and Luma, which collectively have toured through 17 cities across the country. Additionally, Nederlander operates theaters in Shanghai and Jiangsu Province, as well as the newly constructed 2,000-seat Qinhuang Grand Theatre located within the terra cotta warrior complex in Xi’an.

“We’ve now been through 17 cities in China, more than half of which experienced Broadway through us for the first time,” says Nederlander, a third-generation member of the Nederlander family, one of the biggest owners of theaters on Broadway. “Since we began there, the sophistication of the audiences and their appreciation for Broadway shows has increased. It has been very satisfying to witness their enthusiasm.”

Recognizing that trade can—and should—go both ways, Nederlander Worldwide Entertainment more recently established an initiative called China on Broadway to bring Chinese shows to audiences in New York City. The company in 2009 presented Soul of Shaolin, the first production from China to appear on Broadway—earning Tony Award and Drama Desk nominations along the way.
The Nederlander family's interest in China goes back to 1972, when the Chinese Ping Pong delegation came to U-M to play the U.S. table tennis team. Nederlander vividly remembers watching that tournament at Crisler Arena. The match was part of the so-called Ping Pong Diplomacy effort between the two countries following years of frayed relations.

A few years later, in 1976, his father—Robert Nederlander Sr., ’58, then a U-M regent and now chairman and CEO of Nederlander Company—led a delegation to China that included other regents, senior officers of the University, and faculty members. They were the first U.S. academic group to visit mainland China since 1949.

“My father’s interests were diplomacy and reestablishing academic connections,” Nederlander Jr. says. “My interest was exploring commercial opportunities.”

In doing so, the company has faced a number of challenges, he says, starting with differences in business customs and language barriers. “In 2005, before I settled on some outstanding interpreters, we had interpreters who didn’t want to share news they thought would upset me,” Nederlander says. “We were in the middle of negotiating our first joint venture, and it was somewhat contentious. There was a point at which I said through our interpreters, ‘let’s put this aside because I need to confer with our lawyers.’ There was a long pause at the end of the line, and I became concerned. It turns out that the interpreter told the people in China that I planned to sue them.”

Other challenges have included teaching the Chinese public what the term Broadway means. “Some people knew that it was associated with quality and culture, but many people had no idea what Broadway represented,” he says. “We’ve learned that education is critical to our success.”

He foresees the theater industry in China continuing to grow in coming years. Many theaters have been built, he says, and “I think there’s going to be a shift in the next five years from a focus on hardware—the design and construction of these beautiful theaters—to a focus on the content and the commercial viability of the shows presented in those theaters. There has to be a strong base of domestically produced shows that audiences are willing to pay to see.”

Next up for Nederlander Worldwide Entertainment: Cuba. As the country joins China in the ranks of communist countries that are providing vast opportunities for capitalists, Nederlander is excited about the possibilities. He produced the Tony Award-winning musical Rent in Cuba, the first Broadway show to perform in Cuba in more than 50 years. Rent opened on Christmas Eve 2014, one week after the historic announcement of the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and Cuba. The three-week, sold-out run was in Havana’s Bertolt Brecht Theatre, with tickets costing the equivalent of 50 cents.

“Our process of approvals through the State and Treasury departments took over a year,” he says. But now that diplomatic relations have been reopened and the rules for cultural exchange relaxed, he foresees more opportunities in coming years. “It’s an untapped market with a great interest in cultural opportunities. Rent was only the beginning.”
The blowtorch beautician. Libel by insinuendo.

Justice hidden in the Motor City. With cases in their repertoire that read like mystery thrillers, suffice it to say that Leonard M. Niehoff, ’84, and James E. Stewart, ’73, have not lacked intrigue in their 30-year media law partnership.

Not to be mistaken for entertainment law, which is largely defined by the needs and special interests of talent, or communications law, which relates to regulatory policy, media law deals primarily with issues concerning the publication of information, such as questions of access, defamation, copyright, and privacy.

Niehoff, a professor from practice at Michigan Law and of counsel at Honigman, Miller, Schwartz and Cohn LLP, where Stewart is partner, remembers the case that clinched his passion for the field as a young associate. The assignment was routine—be present at a hearing for the City of Detroit’s failure to comply with a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) order; the outcome was the stuff of television drama.

“I had just started working with Jim, and he sent me to the FOIA hearing to get a bit of training,” Niehoff says. “He told me all that was going to happen was that the judge would give the City more time to produce the documents. Well, when I got to court I found that the judge was giving me very clear signals that he would entertain a motion to hold the City in contempt of court.”

Despite his rookie status, Niehoff recognized the signals and entered the motion. The deputy mayor was taken to jail. “It took me five minutes to convince Jim of what had happened,” Niehoff recalls. The experience laid the foundation for a professional relationship that has spanned three decades.

Throughout their partnership, Niehoff and Stewart have tackled an array of issues in the realm of media law, from privacy and access, to intellectual property and defamation, representing such clients as The Detroit News, MLive, and WJBK Fox 2. Many of these cases, ripe with drama and their own cast of colorful characters, are among the pair’s most beloved anecdotes.

One such tale is Morganroth v. Whitall, which features the blowtorch beautician, an allusion to the plaintiff’s unique method of cutting and styling hair. “This woman had a whole presentation she would do, and she was looking for publicity,” Stewart says. “A reporter covered her demonstration and did the report very tongue-in-cheek.”

The plaintiff sued for libel and invasion of privacy by false light, arguing in the lawsuit that the reporter had intentionally tried to distort and sensationalize the facts of her story.
In defending his client, *The Detroit News*, Stewart relied on the old adage, “A picture is worth a thousand words,” supplying the court with the full camera roll of photos taken for the story—most of which did not appear in print. He left the judge to draw her own conclusions as to the truth of the reporter’s descriptions. The lower court, and later the Michigan Court of Appeals, threw out the plaintiff’s claims—the latter in a pun-filled opinion that Stewart and Niehoff still quote to one another.

“We’ve had the privilege of representing wonderful clients in print, broadcast, and electronic media, but we’ve also had the privilege of facing some really interesting plaintiffs,” Niehoff adds. For instance, there was the man with reported ties to organized crime who favored suits à la *The Godfather*, the elderly professor who wound up on the cover of an erotic overseas magazine, and a certain Detroit mayor whose text message scandal was the tipping point for a political-career-ending trial and prison sentence.

By virtue of the intense, personal nature of media law cases, emotions typically run high, Stewart says, adding that, “In a typical defamation case, the reporter feels as if he’s essentially been sued for malpractice and the plaintiff is convinced that he’s been treated horribly and is entitled to lots of money.”

And though the details of every case are different, the outcome, Stewart says, inevitably relies on the weight a judge or jury affords the truth, as in *Duran v. Detroit News*, another case in the pair’s portfolio.

In 1989, *The Detroit News* reported that Colombian judge Consuelo Sanchez-Duran, who had indicted drug lord Pablo Escobar for murder two years earlier, was living in Detroit under U.S.-paid protection. Sanchez-Duran sued the newspaper, alleging defamation, invasion of privacy by public disclosure of embarrassing private facts, and reckless endangerment, among other claims. In summary judgment and on appeal, the court ruled in favor of the *News*.

“This was a case where it was in the public interest to tell the story,” Niehoff says. “We argued that because the judge was ‘hiding in plain sight,’ she was creating safety concerns for those around her. Publicity was of concern to the judge, but safety concerns in the community trumped that. Some privacy cases are based on mistakes, the false or accidental reporting of a fact. Others, like this one, come about when there is a fact that might be private, but the story is so important and so compelling that it has to be told.”

That their clients should have the freedom to tell these stories has remained a guiding principle throughout Niehoff and Stewart’s partnership, even as their practice has had to adapt to changes within the media industry. Large investigative pieces and their libel concerns have given way to online copyright issues and defamation claims stemming from consumer affairs reports. The definition of privacy has shifted with the use of social media. The speed of the news cycle and ease of online publication have influenced the practice of media law.

“In many respects, longstanding media law principles continue to apply despite changes in communications and technology,” Niehoff says. “In other respects, though, we constantly find ourselves on unfamiliar terrain. How do we think about jurisdiction when everything online goes around the world? How do you retract statements that never go away on the Internet? Does the concept of privacy still have any meaning?”

But, he hastens to add, media law has always had its mysteries. “For example, why would anyone cut hair with a blowtorch?”
Curriculum Changes Better Serve Student Needs

The Michigan Law faculty has adopted a set of changes to the Law School’s curriculum that will address new American Bar Association regulations and increase flexibility for students in a way that will better prepare them for an ever-evolving legal industry.

Beginning in the 2016-17 academic year, the changes affect when classes are taken and whether they are required, enhancing the ability of students to tailor their legal education to their areas of interest.

“For the last several years students and alumni have been calling for more flexibility in the design of their own educations. That, in combination with the ABA’s latest round of mandates, provided the push for us to reevaluate our curriculum,” said Dean Mark D. West, the Nippon Life Professor of Law. “I’m very happy that the faculty has adopted new standards that meet both needs.”

New ABA requirements include the successful completion by each student of six experiential education credits, which may include legal practice and clinic work, as well as two credits focused on professional responsibility from a law school course dedicated to ethics.

“When we stepped back to assess the ABA’s newest requirements, it was clear that the additional required coursework would have meant that more than half of a student’s Michigan Law experience would be prescribed before they even sat in our classrooms,” said Wade H. and Dores M. McCree Collegiate Professor of Law Kyle D. Logue, chair of the faculty’s standing curriculum committee. “Our goal was to continue to offer the best possible legal education, while also giving the students more opportunities to shape their own course of study.”

Other curricular updates address Michigan Law’s high standards of excellence and intellectual rigor. Constitutional Law, currently taught in the second year, will be taught in the first year. Property Law, currently a required course taught in the first year, will be an elective that can be taken any time after the first semester.

Other changes include:

- An international or comparative law distribution requirement. Transnational Law will no longer be a required course. Students instead will fulfill an international/comparative law distribution requirement in their 2L or 3L year, choosing from a list of two-, three-, or four-credit course electives, which includes, but is not limited to, Transnational Law.
- Legislation and Regulation will no longer be a required course. Students will choose from a list of three- or four-credit statutory or regulatory course electives to be taken anytime after the first semester. Offerings will include, but are not limited to, Legislation and Regulation.
- Students will be required to take a second-semester 1L elective, which they may select from a wide range of three- or four-credit elective classes. Many students will use this elective to take Property Law or satisfy either the international or comparative law distribution requirement or the statutory or regulatory course distribution requirement, but that decision will rest with the student.
New Veterans Legal Clinic Will Serve Those Who Serve Us

By Amy Spooner

They’ve risked their lives, incurred long separations from loved ones, and suffered injuries to serve their country. When they return home, military veterans often face legal barriers to basic needs. A new clinic at Michigan Law is committed to reversing that troubling pattern.

Launched this fall, the Veterans Legal Clinic represents veterans and, in some instances, their immediate families in a variety of civil matters. In addition, the clinic assists with disability benefits, discharge status challenges, and similar matters. The services are long overdue for the state of Michigan’s 720,000 military veterans—among the highest state totals nationwide, says Bob Woodruff, ’87, an early proponent of the clinic. “Legal problems weren’t part of most veterans’ lives before deployment,” Woodruff says. “But when they returned, many were overwhelmed with paperwork. Some were ignored or badly treated in terms of health care, and without proper treatment, might be more likely to file for divorce or commit suicide. This clinic provides more tools to end these issues and hopefully will serve as a model that can be replicated at other top law schools.”

For Woodruff, an ABC News correspondent, the issue is personal. In 2006, while on assignment in Iraq, he suffered a traumatic brain injury when a roadside bomb detonated—an experience that made him better appreciate the danger faced by military service members, and the long road to recovery for the injured. “Before I was hit, I hadn’t known much about the personal lives and medical treatment of our military personnel,” says Woodruff. “Since most civilians are not closely connected to the military, there are misconceptions about veterans. But getting to know veterans shows they’re just like us. So everyone should realize that we must fix the problems facing our veterans.”

After conversations with Woodruff, Law School administrators in 2013 conducted a needs assessment and feasibility study for the clinic. Discussions with the Michigan Army National Guard, agencies serving veterans, and veterans themselves revealed a severe gap between the services required and what was available. “Michigan Law prides itself on providing exceptional hands-on training for our students while also serving the community,” says Dean Mark West. “When we saw this huge need, establishing a veterans clinic seemed like a way to enhance our students’ educational experience while serving a vulnerable population.”

The Law School is providing $1.2 million over five years to underwrite clinic operations. In addition, private support from a number of donors, corporations, and foundations is making the new clinic possible—including a lead gift from the Bob Woodruff Foundation, which was impressed by the clinic’s potential to serve an unmet need while working collaboratively with other units at U-M, such as the School of Social Work. Leadership gifts came from Tom Washing, ’66 (see page 53), and from Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, which also intends to provide pro bono legal support. “Orrick’s success with the Michigan Innocence Clinic created a high level of interest in the Law School’s clinical programs,” says Jim Stengel, ’80, a partner in the New York office. “Each of the clinics serves a real need, and there is great satisfaction that comes from that, but this practical learning experience of serving clients can be the foundation of a career.” Significant gifts also came from a number of other private donors and foundations. The clinic director is Joshua Kay, ’08, a clinical assistant professor of law who previously taught in the Child Advocacy Law Clinic and the Child Welfare Appellate Clinic.

Students are excited about the latest chance to put their lawyering skills to use during what will be the formative months of the clinic. Leaders of the student group Michigan Law Veterans Society (MILVETS) are especially supportive. “One of the most important questions that a law firm asks when hiring associates is whether they will bring in business. The inaugural semester of the clinic offers an opportunity to demonstrate that I can seek out new clients, build professional relationships, and provide valuable legal services,” says 3L Lance Taylor, co-founder of MILVETS.

The clinic will provide a special opportunity for Michigan Law students who are veterans, says 2L Joseph Gookin, a veteran who previously worked on similar issues in a U.S. senator’s office and aided homeless veterans as a paramedic. “Many of the people I encountered did not know where to turn for help, or had become frustrated in their attempts to do so. Now that I have deployed myself, I am beginning to understand the challenges veterans face in transitioning back to civilian life. It will be an honor to provide that assistance to my fellow veterans.”
A Landmark Term

When the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on numerous high-profile cases in its spring term, Michigan Law faculty members lent their expertise in the national media and on social media platforms.

The week of June 22 brought with it landmark rulings from the Supreme Court of the United States on same-sex marriage, universal health care, and federal housing law. What follows is a collection of opinion pieces, interviews, and social media posts published in the days that followed and featuring the expert views of U-M Law School Professors Nicholas Bagley, Samuel Bagenstos, Richard Primus, and Julian Davis Mortenson. In May, the Supreme Court also issued a decision that bolstered bankruptcy court authority in *Wellness International Network Limited v. Sharif*—a case in which Professor John Pottow co-represented Wellness International.

**King v. Burwell (6-3), June 25, 2015:** The Affordable Care Act stands unchanged and the government can continue subsidizing health insurance coverage.

The first responses to the ruling among legal and policy experts appeared on social media.
A health law professor and advocate of the Obama administration’s argument in the case, Bagley was widely quoted in national media.

However, Bagley cautioned that while the Affordable Care Act has survived another Supreme Court fight, legal challenges remain for President Obama’s signature legislation. And the conversation continues months later.

Obergefell v. Hodges (5-4), June 26, 2015: The Fourteenth Amendment requires a state to license a marriage between a same-sex couple and to recognize a same-sex marriage that is lawfully licensed and performed out-of-state.

Following Michigan’s same-sex marriage ban, Mortenson became involved in the legal effort to recognize the hundreds of same-sex marriages that took place during a brief window in March 2014. Following the ruling, Mortenson took to Twitter to share his thoughts on the decision.

Bagenstos was part of a group of Department of Justice housing attorneys who submitted an amicus brief in support of disparate impact theory under the Fair Housing Act.

Primus joined the discussion weighing the impact of the ruling on disparate-impact cases.
By Lori Atherton

A new project called the Civil Rights Litigation Schoolhouse is helping high school students understand civil rights and the litigation process, and their importance in a democratic society.

“We’re developing resources for high school civics and history classes that can be used to teach a more interesting and sophisticated version of what civil rights really is,” says Margo Schlanger, the Henry M. Butzel Professor of Law, who developed the idea for the Schoolhouse.

The Schoolhouse is an extension of the Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse, an online repository of court documents and information related to more than 7,000 civil rights cases dating back to the 1960s. An authority on civil rights issues (particularly prison and policing reform, and antidiscrimination), Schlanger is the Clearinghouse’s founder and director, and she wanted to make its resources accessible to a younger audience. Many high schools, she says, teach about civil rights only in the context of racial equality and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, even though civil rights is much broader, encompassing many equality movements, prisoners’ rights, policing reform, surveillance oversight, and other issues.

“High school students learn about civil rights as a 1960s problem that we have solved,” Schlanger says. “Instead, it would be great for them to understand that there have been many civil rights struggles, each one an area of contested progress. Part of understanding their own role as citizens is realizing that they can play a role in those contests.”

Schlanger collaborated with Michigan Law graduate Josh Arocho, JD/MA ’14, and Tamara Shreiner, former chair of the social studies department at Greenhills School in Ann Arbor, to develop the Schoolhouse’s web-based unit plans for teachers. Each unit plan—available at clearinghouse.net/schoolhouse—features multiple lessons and accompanying materials that are drawn from cases and court documents found in the Clearinghouse.

So far, two unit plans have been developed. The first unit introduces students to civil rights litigation and how it works. In the second unit, students participate in a mock trial related to a case involving the free-speech rights of jail and prison inmates. For both, the goal is to help students learn about the civil rights concepts of equality, liberty, and due process.

Another unit, about gender equality for student athletes, will be posted soon; it includes a mock trial in which plaintiffs challenge their university’s decision to substitute a cheerleading squad for women’s soccer.

“The Schoolhouse not only teaches students about the courts’ efficacy in resolving disputes and protecting rights, but also about the substance of civil rights laws,” adds Arocho, an aspiring civil rights attorney. “These laws are critically important in today’s society, and we should be teaching our students more about why they were enacted, what they look like in practice, and how we can refine them to work better in real-world situations.”
FINANCIAL STABILITY CONFERENCE


The conference was organized by the Center on Finance, Law, and Policy at U-M, which is directed by Michael S. Barr, the Roy F. and Jean Humphrey Proffitt Professor of Law. Barr previously served as a senior official in the U.S. Department of the Treasury and was a key architect of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. The event was cosponsored by the federal government’s Office of Financial Research and the University of Michigan.

Please visit law.umich.edu for coverage of the conference.

Prof. Larsen Appointed to Michigan Supreme Court

Joan Larsen, special counsel to the dean and adjunct professor at the Law School, has been appointed a justice of the Michigan Supreme Court by Gov. Rick Snyder for a term ending January 1, 2017. Larsen is the second Law School faculty member to join the court since 2013. Justice Bridget McCormack, now an adjunct clinical professor of law, was elected to an eight-year term in 2012.

“Joan Larsen is a distinguished lawyer and legal scholar who has earned a reputation with her colleagues for being approachable, thoughtful, and responsive,” said Law School Dean Mark D. West, Nippon Life Professor of Law. “Joan has impeccable judgment, and she will serve the people of Michigan with integrity.”

Larsen has taught at the Law School since 1998 and has served in numerous capacities, including as special counsel to the dean for student and graduate activities. She is a former clerk for the Hon. David B. Sentelle of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and for Justice Antonin Scalia of the U.S. Supreme Court. From January 2002 to May 2003, she also served as deputy assistant attorney general in the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Legal Counsel, where she provided advice to the White House, the attorney general, and government agencies regarding constitutional and statutory law.

“I have practiced law, taught the law, and enforced the law,” Larsen said. “Public service has always been my calling. I look forward to serving the people of Michigan by faithfully interpreting the constitution and laws of our great state.”

Larsen succeeds former Justice Mary Beth Kelly, who is returning to private practice. Larsen would have to stand for election in November 2016 to fulfill the remainder of Kelly’s term, which runs through the end of 2018.
Reefer Madness: Mini-Seminar Brings Marijuana Law into the Classroom

By Lori Atherton

When a mini-seminar on marijuana law is offered at the Law School, you can bet that a showing of the campy cautionary tale Reefer Madness will be used as a learning tool. What you might not expect is a syllabus that includes both marijuana court cases and a ranking of the top 25 pot songs of all time.

For seminar creators Mark Osbeck, ’86, and Howard Bromberg, a study of the legislation governing marijuana possession and use goes hand-in-hand with a discussion of marijuana’s influence on American culture—at least in Ann Arbor, a city that has been at the forefront of the marijuana debate since the 1960s. The mini-seminar, Reefer Madness: The Evolving Landscape of Marijuana Laws, is one of only a handful of marijuana law courses taught for the first time at law schools during the winter 2015 semester, according to Osbeck and Bromberg, clinical assistant professors in the Legal Practice Program.

Osbeck, a part-time resident of Colorado, came up with the idea for the seminar while following an effort in the state to legalize recreational marijuana use, which was approved by voters in 2012. He enlisted Bromberg to co-teach the seminar, given his significant prosecutorial experience as a former assistant district attorney in New York County.

The mini-seminar wasn’t intended to take a position on the legalization of marijuana, the professors note; rather, the goal was to open a dialogue about the myriad legal issues that marijuana decriminalization raises. “The seminar has been a scholarly odyssey for Mark and me,” Bromberg says. “We both like questions of constitutional law, and something we didn’t know before the seminar was how profound the jurisdictional and constitutional questions are with marijuana law—not in terms of should we legalize marijuana, but in terms of the relationship between states and the federal government, and what laws go with different sovereign powers and what laws conflict. Marijuana law raises a lot of interesting issues.”

Discussion topics included the history of marijuana regulation in the United States; a comparison between marijuana regulation in the United States and other countries; the regulatory differences in states allowing medical marijuana use versus those allowing recreational marijuana use; the role of the executive branch in deciding how to enforce federal drug laws pertaining to marijuana use; whether local municipalities have a valid legal basis for decriminalizing marijuana use when state laws criminalize it; civil and criminal issues that arise from efforts to legalize marijuana; and the recent lawsuit filed by Nebraska and Oklahoma aimed at stopping Colorado’s legalization of recreational marijuana use.

To provide students with practical examples of how marijuana law plays out in the real world, the professors brought in guest speakers to discuss their experiences: State Representative Jeff Irwin, an advocate for decriminalizing marijuana use in Michigan; criminal defense lawyer Michael Komorn of Southfield, Michigan, who specializes in marijuana law cases; and political activist and longtime marijuana proponent John Sinclair, who was sentenced to nearly 10 years in prison (of which he served two and a half years) for selling two marijuana joints to an undercover police officer in Detroit in 1967. Sinclair’s conviction sparked a “Free John Now” concert headlined by John Lennon, and led to the Michigan Supreme Court overturning his conviction and declaring the existing marijuana law unconstitutional in 1972, the same year that Ann Arbor decriminalized marijuana use.

Currently, four states—Colorado, Washington, Oregon, and Alaska, along with the District of Columbia—have legalized recreational marijuana use. Approximately half the states—Michigan included—have legalized medical marijuana use. Bromberg and Osbeck believe marijuana legalization efforts will continue to gain momentum, with more states eventually passing legislation to approve either medical or recreational marijuana use, or both. As the 2016 elections draw nearer, they wouldn’t be surprised if the marijuana debate becomes an important issue to voters. “It’s one of the few issues these days that doesn’t divide strictly along party lines,” Osbeck says.

The two have no definite plans to teach Reefer Madness again, but their experience has prompted them to write several articles about incorporating marijuana law into the legal curriculum, something they both favor, as well as a book about marijuana law for West Publishing’s Nutshell Series. “Marijuana law is becoming a big part of our legal system,” Bromberg says. “It’s current, it’s tense, it’s pervasive, and so it should be taught, either as part of other courses, such as criminal law, or as a standalone course. It raises so many social, constitutional, and jurisdictional questions on its own, that it could easily be incorporated into skills classes and moot courts.”

“it’s a way to address legal issues within an interesting context,” Osbeck adds. “Students are very interested in the topic, and, like gay marriage, it’s a quickly changing area of law.”
2015 Fiske Fellows Selected

The 2015 class of Fiske Fellows was selected in the spring and had the opportunity to meet Robert Fiske, ’55, during an April event at the Law School. Pictured with Fiske are, from left to right: Kate Gilbert, ’13, an honors attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division; Katharine Roller, ’14, who is in the Entry Level Attorney Honors Program at the Federal Trade Commission; Annalyce Shufelt, ’15, an honors attorney at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; and Danica Taylor, ’15, who has joined the San Diego County District Attorney Graduate Clerk Program. The Fiske Fellowship Program annually recognizes up to four exceptional Michigan Law graduates who serve as government lawyers. The duration of the Fellowship is three years. Fellows receive a $5,000 first-year cash stipend and debt repayment assistance to cover all required annual payments for all educational loans.

Kauper, Yamakawa Honored as Distinguished Alumni

The Law School honored two outstanding alumni with the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Awards, presented at a September 25 ceremony. Now in its fifth year, the award highlights individuals who have made an exceptional impact on their profession, community, and/or Michigan Law. This year’s recipients are Professor Emeritus Thomas E. Kauper, ’60, and Yoichiro Yamakawa, MCL ’69.

“Tom and Yoichiro have been extremely successful in their professional careers, and have also been great supporters of the Law School,” said Dean Mark West. “Yoichiro is a tireless ambassador on our behalf in Japan, while Tom is part of a special group of alumni who dedicated their career to educating our students.”

Kauper is the Henry M. Butzel Professor of Law Emeritus; he joined the faculty in 1964. He is an antitrust expert who twice served with the U.S. Department of Justice, first as deputy assistant attorney general in the Office of Legal Counsel and then as assistant attorney general in charge of the Antitrust Division. He also served for 14 years as a member of the American Bar Association Council of the Antitrust Section, and for one year as vice-chairman. He coauthored Property: An Introduction to the Concept and the Institution. Following a clerkship with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart, he practiced law in Chicago before entering academia.

Yamakawa, a partner in the Tokyo firm of Koga & Partners, serves on the boards of Nisshin Steel Co. Ltd. and Daiio Paper Corp. He previously sat on the boards of Mitsui Sumitomo Financial Group and Daiichi Mutual Life Insurance Company. His areas of practice include general corporate work, international transactions and litigation, and freedom of expression. He has represented major media in some of Japan’s most high-profile First Amendment cases. He previously was a visiting professor at Michigan Law, co-teaching Freedom of Speech in the U.S. and Japan with then Dean Lee Bollinger. Yamakawa has written widely on constitutional litigation and freedom of expression, and on defamation and privacy. He also has translated into Japanese both Archibald Cox’s The Warren Court and Joseph Sax’s Defending the Environment.—AS

To submit a nomination for the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award, visit www.law.umich.edu/alumniandfriends/daa.
Scholars and Judges Convene to Develop Influential Refugee Law Guidelines

The 1951 Refugee Convention defines a refugee as someone who has a well-founded fear of being persecuted based on one of five factors, including his or her political opinion. But what constitutes a political opinion? A high-profile group of judges and academics gathered at Michigan Law recently to develop guidelines for this unsettled area of refugee law.

“It sounds pretty straightforward, but it really gets messy when you think about the kinds of cases that get argued,” said James C. Hathaway, the James E. and Sarah A. Degan Professor of Law at Michigan and director of the Program in Refugee and Asylum Law, which hosted the Colloquium on Challenges in International Refugee Law.

For example, if a woman says to an abusive husband, “I won’t let you hit me anymore,” is she implicitly expressing a political opinion that women are deserving of equal respect? Does standing up to endemic gang violence amount to the expression of a political opinion? Should whistleblowers be given refugee status? “Those are complicated questions, and the answer will vary depending upon the cultural filter through which the person’s situation is viewed,” said Hathaway.

Colloquium participants and Michigan Law students have drafted and revised the political opinion installment of what are known as the Michigan Guidelines on the International Protection of Refugees. The six previous Colloquia each produced a unanimously agreed-upon set of recommendations related to asylum and refugee law. The Guidelines, which are published in English, French, Russian, and Arabic, are cited frequently by courts around the world and help shape the way judges, lawyers, and other decisionmakers look at a refugee issue.

“It’s an excellent process, particularly due to the inclusion of judges as well as academics. As a result, the Michigan Guidelines have become quite influential,” said Judge Hugo Storey, an Upper Tribunal judge, Immigration and Asylum Chamber, in the United Kingdom, and president of the European Chapter of the International Association of Refugee Law Judges. Storey, a participant in this year’s Colloquium, said that through the years U.K. courts and tribunals have discussed and debated the Michigan Guidelines numerous times.

“We are hoping to create a new, common starting point that will provide some clarity and a platform from which decisionmakers and judiciaries can work,” said Colloquium participant Thomas Gammeltoft-Hansen, research director of the Danish Institute for Human Rights and a member of the Danish Refugee Appeals Board. “I’ve always appreciated that the Michigan Guidelines are not just some ivory-tower product. It’s a unique and fruitful opportunity to be a part of something that lives far beyond the walls of an academic institution.”—KV

Read more at www.law.umich.edu/refugee_guidelines.
By Jenny Whalen

An authority on federal courts and jurisdiction, Professor Gil Seinfeld acknowledges that it is a rare occasion when the public’s attention is captured by a case that aligns with his scholarly interests. *Google Inc. v. Hood* was just such an exception.

On its surface, the 2014 lawsuit filed by Google against Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood raises a question of federal preemption, specifically whether federal law permits states to hold Internet service providers liable for content created by third parties. But to a Federal Courts professor, the make-or-break point in the case is a jurisdictional one.

“It’s not every day that I come across a case involving an issue that interests me, is salient to the public, and raises an unsettled legal issue,” Seinfeld says.

The question that interested him was whether a federal court could issue an injunction against a subpoena issued by a state attorney general. “My first instinct was to say, ‘Google can’t do that.’ If you want to fight a subpoena that is enforceable in the state courts, you go to state court to do it. Something about Google’s tactics just seemed off from a federalism perspective,” he recalls.


The impetus for the suit began two years earlier, when 24 state attorneys general penned a letter to Google admonishing the search engine, and its subsidiary YouTube, for facilitating access to illegal products and pirated materials through its web operations. Google, which recently had settled with the U.S. Department of Justice over similar accusations, responded to the criticism by citing its efforts to address such issues, while maintaining that the company should not be held accountable for third-party content.

The Mississippi attorney general raised the stakes in October 2014 when he issued a 79-page subpoena seeking information about Google’s policies and practices. Initially, Google seemed willing to comply, Seinfeld says. Then confidential data and email from Sony Pictures Entertainment were hacked; among the documents released to the public were communications between representatives of the Motion Picture Association of America and several state attorneys general, including Hood.

“What was purported to be a crusade in the public interest suddenly seemed to Google to be yet another strike in the years-old battle between the motion picture industry and Internet service providers,” Seinfeld says.

Google subsequently sued in federal court, seeking a temporary restraining order and an injunction against Hood’s subpoena. Believing initially that Google should have to fight the subpoena in state court, Seinfeld began digging into cases relating to the Younger abstention doctrine, which governs the conditions under which federal courts can interfere with state proceedings.

“Our federalism generally frowns on efforts by federal courts to interrupt what’s going on in the state system,” Seinfeld says. “This case, however, was a bit different because it was unclear whether there was really an ongoing state proceeding that would trigger the Younger doctrine. Remember, it was a state attorney general who launched the investigation with a civil administrative subpoena. He didn’t invoke any formal process for bringing a charge.”

That detail convinced Seinfeld to reverse his initial opinion in the case. “The fact that you are being investigated by a state prosecutor doesn’t prevent you from going to federal court and attempting to shut the prosecution down,” he adds. “Without a formal complaint or charge before at least an arguably neutral state official—and a state attorney general doesn’t count as ‘arguably neutral’—this case falls outside the purview of the Younger doctrine.”

A Mississippi federal judge came to a similar conclusion in March 2015, ruling that his court did in fact have subject matter jurisdiction in the case and granting Google’s motion for a preliminary injunction against Hood’s subpoena. At press time, Hood was in the process of appealing the injunction before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.
David Guenther, ‘99, Named Director of International Transactions Clinic

By Lori Atherton

One of the things that David Guenther, ‘99, enjoys about teaching in the International Transactions Clinic (ITC) is helping clients that are charting new territory.

“The clinic is doing fascinating work in places all over the world that very few lawyers have done before,” says Guenther, who was named director of the ITC in May. “There isn’t a blueprint that I can pull out and tell students, this is how we do this transaction. We have to be inventive and creative and think our way through a lot of new issues together, which is a lot more fun than doing a deal you’ve done 10 times before.”

Founded in 2008, the ITC handles cross-border transactions for social enterprises—nonprofits and for-profits alike—that tackle some of the world’s most pressing problems, including poverty, inadequate housing, access to clean water, and climate change. “What we try to do is provide people with access to the tools they need in order to make their own lives, or their communities, or the world around them, better,” Guenther says. “We try to have a sustainable approach, which helps people build up their own enterprises and accomplish their own social or environmental goals on the ground in a way that remains after the ITC has completed its work with the client.”

While his work with the ITC is interesting from a practice perspective, Guenther—who joined the clinic in 2010 as an adjunct clinical assistant professor—finds his mentoring role with students to be equally gratifying. “We have great students at Michigan,” he says. “They’re smart, they work hard, and they’re enterprising. One of the joys of teaching is seeing students grow in their understanding of deals and transactions. You can see them developing into great lawyers, and the clinic gets them off to a running start in that direction.”

Guenther appreciates the support the ITC has received from Michigan Law alumni. “We’re very fortunate to have a network of Michigan alumni who are experienced international lawyers. We rely on that network for support and advice, and it’s been a critical factor in the clinic’s success.”

A former partner at Conlin, McKenney & Philbrick PC in Ann Arbor, Guenther’s practice focused on U.S. and international transactions, financing, corporate governance, and succession planning for privately held companies. Previously, he served as an associate in the New York and Frankfurt, Germany, offices of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP from 1999 to 2004. Before law school, a “curiosity” about different languages and cultures led Guenther to study in Germany, pursue a master’s degree in Germanic languages and literature at Duke University, and teach English at a rural secondary school in Kenya for two years—international experiences that have shaped both his law firm and ITC work.

“The program in German proved to be very handy for my legal practice, because people were looking for U.S. lawyers who could speak German,” he says. “When I got to my firm in New York, I wound up doing a lot of work for German clients. I went to the Frankfurt office as a summer associate, spent a semester in an externship at the German equivalent of the SEC [Securities and Exchange Commission], and in 2001 went back to the Frankfurt office and stayed until 2004. It was very helpful to gain legal experience in a European context. I also think it helped enormously to spend time in Kenya because it enables me to bring an understanding of life outside of the developed world to the clinic.”

Guenther says he has no plans to make major changes to the ITC—“we’ll continue the core work, which is live deal work with real clients”—but he is looking to introduce a deal simulation during both the fall and winter semesters that will give students an overview of debt and equity transactions from start to finish, particularly since many of the transactions handled in the clinic don’t close within a single academic year.
Full Circle

J.J. White, the Robert A. Sullivan Professor of Law Emeritus, brought the Law School experience full circle for alumni who visited campus during their reunion weekend in September by inviting them to sit in on his Commercial Transactions class. "Nothing will make you nostalgic for law school like watching a current student sweat a cold call. Sit in on a lecture and truly relive the experience," alumni were told in a pre-reunion email. White first taught the course in 1966-67.
WHEN YOU SUPPORT MICHIGAN, YOU SUPPORT TOMORROW’S VICTORS

Liz Och, JD/MS ’14

At Michigan, Liz received the Irving Stenn Jr. Award for her outstanding leadership and contributions to the Law School. Liz, who earned a dual degree in law and environmental policy, was president of the Law School Student Senate, a board member of Student Funded Fellowships and the Environmental Law Society, and cofounder and managing editor of the Michigan Journal of Environmental & Administrative Law—all of which receive support through gifts to the Law School Fund. “What best prepared me for practice was my extracurricular involvement,” says Liz, an associate in the Denver office of Hogan Lovells US LLP. “I learned to manage my time and work with different groups of people, which is valuable in my ever-changing work as a litigator.” Although she is just beginning her career, saying thank you with her own gifts to the Law School Fund is important to her. “Giving back is a no-brainer. It embodies the spirit of the Michigan Law community.”

Be a Victor for Michigan Law
www.law.umich.edu/campaign
Halfway Home

Remember the old adage that a glass is either half empty or half full depending on your point of view? Well, the same is true of a large campaign like Victors for Michigan. Now that we’ve raised $100 million of our $200 million goal, it could be said that the campaign is half over, or that half of the campaign remains.

Of course, both are correct. Reaching $100 million is cause for celebration. With the creation of three new full-ride Darrow Scholarships, the establishment of the Veterans Clinic, and the ability to guarantee funding assistance for all 1Ls pursuing unpaid or low-paying summer legal jobs, the first half of the campaign has seen wonderful successes. In addition, we have had generous donors make gifts of all sizes that will have a positive impact on many different aspects of the Law School. We are grateful to each and every person who has stepped up in support of our campaign thus far. Each gift—each donor—matters.

But while we celebrate this milestone, we can’t lose sight of the fact that much work remains to be done. As you’ll see on pages 44-45, we need additional commitments from our alumni and friends in order to reach our campaign goal of more fully supporting the students, faculty, and programs that make Michigan Law so extraordinary. Our campaign will be a success if at the end we know that we have met the vital needs related to scholarships; debt management; faculty recruitment, retention, and research; externships; clinics; the Legal Practice Program; and more.

We have a lot of good things going for us as we move into the second half of the Victors for Michigan campaign. We are fortunate to have a wonderful group of alumni leaders on the Development and Alumni Relations Committee, which serves as the campaign’s steering committee. The membership of the Development and Alumni Relations Committee reflects the diversity of Michigan Law’s alumni body. Members hail from different cities and decades of graduation, from private practice, government service, and careers outside the legal profession. They are linked by a shared commitment to do their part to ensure the enduring excellence of our alma mater.

Our real strength, though, is the larger community of alumni who want to see Michigan Law build on its tradition of excellence and strive to even greater heights. And we have the power to make that happen through our support of the campaign. There is no one-size-fits-all way to do that. The diversity of our alumni is reflected in the different ways that alumni choose to support Michigan Law. Some of us fund a student scholarship, others make gifts to experiential education, and still others give in support of faculty and research. Many of us also are strong supporters of the Law School Fund, the annual expendable giving program that provides important assistance to all aspects of the Law School.

Michigan Law’s broad base of support also is reflected in the amount that our alumni-at-large are able to give, from those who are still repaying student loans to those who are well-established in their careers. While it will take many significant gifts for us to achieve our $200 million campaign goal, it also will take gifts at all levels from many, many alumni. Every gift reflects your commitment to Michigan Law’s future, and every gift gets us closer to our goal. Therefore, every gift is important, and every gift is received with our deep gratitude.

Please think about what part of our campaign speaks most to you and how you can become involved.

The campaign is half over. Half the campaign remains. What an exciting time for you to help shape the future of Michigan Law.

John M. Nannes, ’73
Chair, Development and Alumni Relations Committee
Partner, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
# Campaign Update

The Victors for Michigan campaign publicly launched in fall 2013. Thanks to the generosity of the Law School’s alumni and friends, Michigan Law has reached the halfway point of its goal midway through the campaign. Gifts given thus far will greatly benefit the students, faculty, and programs at Michigan Law.

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* As of September 7, 2015

**$2,308,952.52** Additional student support funds received to date through the Michigan Matching Initiative for Student Support
WHAT YOUR SUPPORT HAS ACHIEVED

- 46 NEW SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS CREATED
- 3 FULL-TUITION DARRY SCHOLARSHIPS ENDOWED
- 227 PRIVATE ROOMS IN THE RENOVATED LAWYERS CLUB
- 238 LEGAL MATTERS COMPLETED FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLINIC CLIENTS

- 6 NEW CLINICS ESTABLISHED
- 4,000 GUARANTEED FOR EACH 1L WITH AN UNPAID SUMMER INTERNSHIP
- 2 NEW ENDOWED FACULTY PROFESSORSHIPS

For more information about the Victors for Michigan campaign, and ways that you can support it, visit www.law.umich.edu/campaign.
Student Support

John Nickoll, ’60

Few alumni can claim to have given as generously to so many different aspects of the Law School as John Nickoll, ’60. In previous campaigns, he made seven-figure gifts to endow a professorship and to support the South Hall building project, and he also is a generous supporter of the Law School Fund. Now, during the Victors for Michigan campaign, he is helping to ensure that the best of the best students will have the opportunity to learn from those esteemed professors, in the remarkable physical campus he helped build.

Nickoll and his wife, Patty, of Los Angeles, have made a $1 million gift to the Law School to endow a Darrow Scholarship—which is given to a very select group of Michigan Law’s most accomplished admitted students and can cover as much as full tuition plus a stipend. It was the opportunity to help recruit such outstanding students that convinced Nickoll to make the gift. “A prestigious scholarship like a Darrow can allow the Law School to attract top talent. We want those kinds of students to pick Michigan over other law schools,” says Nickoll.

As a longtime volunteer and donor, Nickoll has had the chance to meet many Michigan Law students, and he remains inspired by their credentials as well as their diverse aspirations. “Today's students are much broader focused than my classmates and I were. Almost all of us wanted to be lawyers, but today's students look at doing a lot of different things. I am impressed with that,” he says, noting that he has given talks at the Law School about the advantages of having a law degree in the business world.

Nickoll knows those advantages well, since his own career deviated early on from the traditional lawyering path. Although his first job out of Law School was as in-house counsel for a Milwaukee-based company, within a decade he had made the leap from the courtroom to the boardroom—and never looked back. Nickoll cofounded, and served as chairman and chief executive officer of, The Foothill Group Inc., a financial services company that focused on asset-based commercial lending and money management services. The company later was acquired by Norwest, which eventually merged with Wells Fargo & Co. When Nickoll retired in 2006, Wells Fargo Foothill was the nation’s largest bank-owned asset-based lender.

“I just felt I was better geared toward running a business than practicing law,” Nickoll says. But his legal training gave him some distinct advantages. “Law School is a great discipline for the mind. And I was never intimidated as a business executive, because I understood the legal aspects of my company.”

In addition to the academics, Nickoll appreciated the entire Law School experience—from living in the Lawyers Club and attending football games, to the beauty of the Quad. “I don’t think there’s any better law school in the country than Michigan, when you consider how the campus is joined together. It’s a very special place,” he says.

Since state support for the University has diminished greatly in recent decades, Nickoll feels that alumni have a responsibility to keep all that makes Michigan special accessible to deserving students. “People should be cognizant of the fact that Michigan is much more like a private school than a public school,” he says. “We all benefitted from the education we received at Michigan and the leadership of the faculty. It created a lot of opportunities for us, and giving back provides a lot of personal satisfaction.”—AS
As a 2L, newlywed Stef Tucker, ’63, and his wife, Marilyn Tucker, ABEd ’62, returned most of their wedding gifts for cash in order to make ends meet. Through the Stefan & Marilyn Tucker Scholarship Fund, the Tuckers now are the gift givers. The scholarship supports Michigan Law students from the state of Michigan or from the greater Washington, D.C., area, where Stef and Marilyn have lived since graduation.

“We see the impact of our gifts immediately,” Stef says. “It’s a great feeling.”

When the Tuckers established the scholarship in 1997, they added a unique clause: “Each recipient … shall make a moral commitment … to begin to contribute to the Law School within 10 years from the date of graduation, a cumulative amount at least equal to the amount of scholarship assistance received.”

Moral commitment lies at the heart of the Tuckers’s own support of the Law School. Stef grew up in Flint, Michigan, as the son of working-class parents whose dreams of attending college were curbed by the Great Depression. He attended Flint Community College before transferring to U-M’s business school, where he earned a BBA in 1960. He sold shoes to help pay his way.

Attending law school seemed cost prohibitive, but Stef’s near-perfect LSAT score led to a scholarship from the Law School right across Tappan Street. “That scholarship forever made me loyal,” he says. Still, attending Michigan was a financial stretch, hence the decision to part with the wedding gifts. So when the Tuckers’s car broke down during Stef’s 3L year, the couple was in a bind. Stef decided to quit his position on the Michigan Law Review so he could get a part-time job and put a down payment of $500 on the $2,350 purchase price of a new Chevrolet Biscayne.

The dean of students didn’t like that idea.

To keep Stef on the law review, Dean Roy Proffitt, ’48, offered a $500 loan—interest free if repaid within a year. But the Tuckers worked hard to pay it back early. “It was incredible for Roy to do that,” says Stef. “That loan, plus the scholarship, convinced Marilyn and me that we had a moral obligation to give back to the Law School.”

And give back, they have. Beyond their initial investment to establish the scholarship, the Tuckers have grown the fund significantly through the years. Because of their generosity, 11 Tucker Scholars have had the opportunity to attend Michigan.

Stef has spent his career in private practice, specializing in tax law, estate planning, and real estate. He is a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Venable LLP. “Nobody can do a transaction nationally or internationally without tax being involved at some point, so we are brought into everything,” Stef says. “I get to think through things from multiple angles and help people. I’ve always loved it.”

His love of tax law and of helping others led to a parallel career as a law professor. Since 1969, Stef has taught at several law schools, and he currently is an adjunct professor at Michigan Law, where he teaches Business Law and Tax Planning for Real Estate Transactions. He enjoys mentoring students and teaching the practical implications of the law. “I sit in the [Robert B. Aikens] Commons between classes so I can talk with students. I was mentored by some great people, and I want to do the same for others, especially when students are so worried about their career choices and repaying their loans.”

In the spring, Stef was honored with the 2015 Distinguished Service Award from the ABA Section of Taxation, in recognition of his lifetime service to the Tax Section and the tax system. At the award ceremony, Stef brought Marilyn, who is a career counselor at Georgetown University Law Center, to the stage with him for the acceptance. “I couldn’t have gotten through law school, since she typed my notes.”

As they are partners in life, so too are they partners in philanthropy. Stef grew up with a tzedakah box in the kitchen, which honored the Jewish tradition of giving some of what little they had to those who were even less fortunate. Marilyn grew up in similar fashion, Stef says, so supporting organizations like the Law School is a no-brainer. “When we started having anything, we started giving something.”—AS
1. Why did you want to go to law school, and why did you choose Michigan?

If my parents were alive and were asked this question, they would respond in two-part harmony by saying that as soon as I learned to speak—and maybe even earlier—I loved to argue about almost anything. It didn’t matter which side someone else took, I would immediately take the other side. My decision to go to law school certainly was based, in part, on my desire to spend my life doing what I loved. However, I also felt that it was important to continue my education after undergrad, and I loved and admired my grandfather, who was a prominent lawyer in Chicago. I spent my first year of law school at Indiana University, and I decided to transfer because of Michigan’s reputation as one of the top law schools in the country.

My path to law school was a bit atypical. I was a classical pianist, and for most of my undergraduate career I wanted to get a PhD in musicology. Around my junior year, I began to question the practicality of that decision. I went to a professor whom I really admired and explained my predicament. I told him that what I liked about musicology was that it allowed you to look at a piece from different angles—from a historical perspective, a theoretical perspective, etc.

The professor said that if I was attracted to interdisciplinary thinking, I should go to law school. Though I was excited to be admitted to Michigan, I thought I would go somewhere less expensive and less prestigious. I loved the school and the friendly atmosphere, but I had never had the opportunity to go to a top school, and it seemed out of reach, even though I was admitted. However, every lawyer and professor I spoke with told me that I was crazy to go anywhere but Michigan. They all convinced me to come, and it was an excellent choice.

2. What class/professor impacted you the most, and why?

I had the pleasure of taking several courses taught by Professor Alan Polasky. His seminar on estate planning was my favorite course. Each student was required to develop an estate plan for a hypothetical client. The exercise incorporated many other subjects I studied in law school, including business law courses, as the hypothetical estate consisted primarily of a privately owned family business. I thoroughly enjoyed the practical components of the seminar, and I believe that my experience in that course was great preparation for my first year of practice.

I loved Property with Professor Bill Miller. I really enjoyed that he had such a broad perspective on the law, with his background in Medieval English. I enjoy an environment in which it seems that the goal is learning, rather than pushing toward some arbitrary point on a syllabus. Even the first day of class, Professor Miller was talking to us about property rights in everyday life, like calling dibs on a seat. He got the class thinking about property rights in a very accessible way that made the class seem really relevant.
3. Favorite place to study and/or socialize?

**ADELMAN**
My favorite place to socialize was a room in the basement of the Law School in which a number of us met before classes each day to play bridge. We would interrupt our bridge game to attend classes and then return after each class to get in several more hands. My favorite place to study was the main room of the old library, and to this day I experience excitement when I walk into that room.

**WODARSKI**
Of course, the Reading Room is beautiful. You can’t beat the stained glass.

4. Craziest thing you did in law school (that’s publishable)?

**ADELMAN**
Two responses come to mind. The first involves a course which I believe was entitled Business Planning. After finishing the answer to my final exam, I reviewed the question to make sure that I had responded to all of its parts. I was aghast to discover that I had completely misread the question and gone off on a tangent that had nothing to do with the question. I didn’t have sufficient time to rewrite my answer—on which I had spent approximately two hours. Accordingly, I printed at the beginning of my exam something to the effect, “Although I have not answered your question, I have answered the question that you should have asked. Please read this to the end, and I hope you forgive me for taking this liberty.” The professor gave me a high grade, perhaps not for the quality of my answer but rather for my audacity.

The second response involves my Trials, Appeals and Practice Court course. The class was broken into teams of two students—with half of the teams representing a plaintiff, and the other half representing a defendant—in a hypothetical case in which an automobile struck a pedestrian in front of Dominick’s. Each team had to prepare for and conduct a mock trial. My partner, who to this day remains a close friend, and I decided that, as plaintiff’s counsel, it was important to show that it was common knowledge that people crossed the street in front of Dominick’s and that the driver of the automobile, who was familiar with that street, should have been more careful. We wanted to drive this point home to the jury (consisting of other college students), so we arranged a meeting with our adversaries at Dominick’s, hid in the bushes with an 8mm movie camera, and filmed them crossing the street without looking in either direction at the exact place the accident occurred. We were thrilled we had what we believed was the silver bullet. Unfortunately, the judge (our professor) would not let us enter the film into evidence, over our strong objection.

**WODARSKI**
It might not sound crazy to a lot of people, but if you knew my driving ability, I think my pathetic attempts to parallel park downtown qualify.

5. Why do you support scholarships for Michigan Law students?

**ADELMAN**
My legal career has not only been my life’s work but has also been one of my greatest joys. Simply put, I love being a lawyer, and even more than that I love being a deal junkie. There is nothing I would rather do than practice law. I feel incredibly fortunate that I am able, through my family’s endowed scholarship, to assist a future generation of lawyers in experiencing the same thrill and satisfaction that I have received over the years.

What does receiving the Adelman Scholarship mean to you?

**WODARSKI**
The Adelman Scholarship meant the chance to attend Michigan Law. Period. Had I not had the scholarship, there’s no way I would have thought that Michigan was a practical choice for me. Sometimes I think about how much I wouldn’t have even known I was missing out on if I didn’t have the scholarship, I would have never had the chance to be in a classroom with so many inspiring professors, or had the chance to meet so many peers who challenge me intellectually.
As a lawyer, May Liang, ’89, was trained to think through problems in shades of gray. But she sees the value of her Michigan Law degree in black and white. “Now that I’m established in my career, I really appreciate my time at Michigan,” she says. “It was an impressive education that provided incredible opportunities, and I’m proud to give back.”

Liang serves on the Law School’s Development and Alumni Relations Committee and gives to the Law School Fund, which provides expendable resources that support students, faculty, and many campus activities. She also supports the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association at Michigan. She says that she and her husband, James Lintott, get involved with causes they care passionately about so that their philanthropy and volunteerism are personally driven. “We feel strongly that we are caretakers of what we have received, and we have a duty to be good caretakers.”

Liang grew up in Kansas as the daughter of academics. Although she had undergraduate degrees in political science and engineering from Stanford and wanted to pursue a career in intellectual property law, she left Silicon Valley to attend law school in Ann Arbor. “There were lots of liberal arts geeks in law school, but not many technology geeks, so I was kind of a two-headed goat,” she says. “I very much approached law school with the pragmatism of an engineer.”

She returned to the Bay Area after graduation and entered private practice in IP law, before ultimately landing in Washington, D.C. There, she discovered her career passion: serving as in-house counsel, first at AOL Inc. Liang loved the opportunity to practice “preventive lawyering,” which she describes as “getting your company from point A to point B without anyone wearing an orange jumpsuit.” The chance to influence company actions at early stages was appealing, and the tech startup environment was comfortable. “There was no safety net, which for some is immensely disturbing but for me was exhilarating.”

She went on to serve as executive director of The Epilepsy Therapy Project, overseeing its growth and eventual merger with the Epilepsy Foundation, on whose board she now sits. (Keeping with her commitment of personal connections to her causes, Liang’s uncle has epilepsy.) Liang then was general counsel and chief financial officer of Total Music LLC/Ruckus Network LLC, a digital music entertainment company that became a casualty of the Great Recession. She likens the experience of folding a company to eighth grade: “It was worth doing once, but not worth repeating.” When two former AOL colleagues came calling, she found her current position—cofounder, general counsel, and chief financial officer of OpenConcept Systems Inc. Leading the software development and system integration company brings Liang back to her technology roots and entrepreneurial spirit. “I’m best at a company that has fewer than 100 people because I can really make a difference in the direction of the organization. And having a 30,000-foot view of the technical issues makes my lawyering better.”

As a Law School volunteer and a donor, Liang also has enjoyed the up-close-and-personal view of today’s Michigan Law. “I love the vibrancy of the Law School,” she says. “A law school that stays static is a law school that’s going to atrophy and wither. So I like the introduction of new innovations without forgetting what made Michigan Law so well-regarded in the first place.” —AS
3L Challenge Celebrates 20 Years

Twenty years ago, the Law School faced two problems: declining state funding and a declining percentage of recent graduates who were becoming donors to the Law School. So John Nannes, ’73, came up with an idea: He would donate $250 to any Law School organization or activity that a 3L student chose, if the student agreed to make a gift to the Law School in each of the first three years after graduation. “I wanted students to see the importance of alumni support while they were still in school, in the hope that they would develop a culture of giving back to the Law School after they left,” says Nannes.

In 2006, recognizing the effectiveness of peer-to-peer marketing, a student-led committee was formed to increase Challenge participation, and a new committee is formed each year. This has spurred a friendly sense of competition among student orgs, and unleashed creative themes that included 2008 election parallels (“Vote Nannes”) and 2014’s “Bananas for Nannes” rhyme scheme. “Giving rates for recent classes are up because of the efforts of the student committees,” says Nannes.

Besides its immediate impact on student organizations and activities, the Challenge helps ensure the future strength of the Law School. “I got involved because I recognized what those who came before me did to make [my Law School experience] what it was,” says Matt Nolan, ’06, who chaired 2006’s original student committee. “Many of us have student loans to repay, but that’s not a substitute for giving back.” Nannes, who currently chairs the Law School’s Victors for Michigan campaign, admits to some surprise at the Challenge’s impact. “We hoped the Challenge would encourage students to contribute to the Law School as alums,” he says, “but the benefits have exceeded that. The Challenge has built a sense of camaraderie and common purpose across student groups that may be unique to Michigan.”

In 2009, Nannes endowed the 3L Challenge to ensure that it will remain a permanent fixture of the Law School. —BS

“Private support impacts everything at the Law School, and the 3L Challenge is a great way to plant a seed in students’ minds about giving back in the future.”

—DAYNA CHIKAMOTO, 2015-2016 3L Challenge Co-Chair

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2,951
STUDENTS HAVE TAKEN THE 3L CHALLENGE

$1.3 M
GIFTS TO MLAW FROM CHALLENGE PARTICIPANTS AS ALUMNI

65
STUDENT ORGS RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE CHALLENGE LAST YEAR

30.7% vs. 9.3%
MLAW RECENT GRAD GIVING RATE (CLASSES OF 2012-2014) vs. UNIVERSITY-WIDE GIVING RATE FOR THOSE SAME CLASSES
Scholarship Dinner Highlights Student-Alumni Connection

The best indication of the impact of one’s gifts is to meet those who directly benefit. At the Southeast Michigan Scholarship Dinner on April 21, 2015, beneficiaries and benefactors had the chance to get to know each other, share stories about their Michigan Law experiences, and talk about why they give and what those gifts mean.

Held at the Inn at St. John’s in Plymouth, Michigan, the dinner was hosted by Dan Sandberg, ’84, who endowed the Daniel Sandberg Scholarship Fund in 2008. “I feel lucky that I was able to go to Michigan, and I wanted to share that experience with someone else,” said Sandberg. “It seems silly to me that a qualified student should have to miss the opportunity to attend Michigan just because they can’t afford it.”

In addition to time for informal conversation, the evening featured remarks from two scholarship students: 2L Alexandra Reed, a Darrow Scholarship recipient from Glen Ellyn, Illinois, and Jessica Shaffer Weightman, a 3L from Washington, D.C., who received the Thomas J. Donnelly Scholarship and the Diane Lynn Kaye Memorial Scholarship. “I knew Michigan Law was the only place I wanted to be, and scholarships shaped so many aspects of my experience here,” said Shaffer Weightman, who wants to pursue a career prosecuting domestic violence and sex crime cases. “My scholarships gave me the financial freedom to pursue my career ambitions at the same time that my husband is in medical school, and to find the area of the law that I’m most passionate about. They also gave me a deep connection to the Michigan Law community and a sense of responsibility to give back to that community.”

With a $70 million student support goal in the Victors for Michigan campaign, scholarship donors are more important than ever, Dean Mark West told the audience. “Our ability to offer scholarships, summer fellowships, and loan repayment assistance is critical to maintaining Michigan’s position as a top law school. So I am grateful for the alumni around the world—and the alumni, family members, and friends in this room—who have made gifts in support of our amazing students.” —AS
Sabrina and Bruce Featherstone, ‘77, of Franklin, Michigan, and Denver, have given $120,000 to establish the Bruce and Sabrina Featherstone Scholarship Fund at the Law School. Bruce is a longtime supporter of the Law School, and in 2011, he partnered with his Michigan Law classmate Robert Gorlin, ‘77, to make a $1 million gift to the building project. Bruce is a founding partner of Featherstone DeSisto LLC, a Denver boutique specializing in complex civil litigation.

The Edward M. Nagel Foundation, of Eagle, Idaho, has made a $265,000 gift to the Law School to create the Edward M. Nagel Foundation Scholarship. The gift will be matched at 25 percent through the Michigan Matching Initiative for Student Support. The foundation was established by Edward M. Nagel in 1992 to assist economically disadvantaged young people who are motivated to get an education, with a business interest broadly defined. Melvyn I. Mark, ’59, is a past president of the foundation’s board of directors.

Jay Soave, BSE ’98, JD ’01, of New York, has made a $50,000 gift to the University of Michigan, split evenly between the Athletic Department and the Law School. The Law School’s portion of the gift will benefit the Victors for Michigan Scholarship, which was established in 2014 by anonymous donors as a special opportunity for other donors to collectively support the Law School’s top campaign priority. Jay is a managing director in the tax group at Tishman Speyer LP.

Ronald J. Werhnyak, ’75, of Saline, Michigan, recently gave $150,000 to the University of Michigan, of which $100,000 will go to the Law School to establish the Werhnyak Family Endowed and Expendable Scholarship Funds. The remaining $50,000 will be added to the family’s scholarship fund in the Athletic Department. Ronald is making this gift in honor of his wife, Janet; their daughter Larissa Werhnyak, ’05, and their daughter Anya, who died of cancer at the age of eight. The Werhnyak family establishes these scholarships in Anya’s memory, with the hope that it will assist students who, like Anya, faced challenging circumstances in their lives.

Program Support

Tom Washing, ’66

As a venture capitalist, Tom Washing, ’66, is a savvy investor. And when he learned details of the Law School’s new Veterans Legal Clinic, Washing saw a winner.

“My wife Susan and I have been alarmed by the way veterans returning from Afghanistan and Iraq are being treated. We are concerned by the lack of essential services they receive and the bureaucratic obstacles they face,” says Washing. “With my 50th Law School reunion approaching, we had talked about making an appropriate gift to advance an area of interest to us, and the more we learned about the Veterans Clinic, the more we knew this was it.”

Washing, who is a founder of Sequel Venture Partners in Boulder, Colorado, recently gave $250,000 to help establish the Veterans Legal Clinic, which launched this fall (see p. 31).

He says the appeal was multidimensional. As a former ROTC member who later served in United States Army Intelligence, it’s a way to assist a population with whom he closely identifies. It’s also a chance to do so while capitalizing on the strengths of his alma mater. “I was impressed with the vision for the clinic, the amount of research that had gone into the project, and the potential to replicate the model elsewhere. I love that it will provide a variety of services that a veteran might need not just in Michigan, but also in other states where our clinical teaching fellows may go on to launch similar clinics.”

Washing spent 13 years practicing corporate and securities law with a large East Coast law firm, before switching to venture capital in 1983. It was the early days when “very few really understood what venture capital was,” he says, but there he found his passion—helping entrepreneurs get the next big idea off the ground. “It’s the grassroots of capitalism, and it’s exciting to work with creative people dedicated to turning an idea into a successful company.”

Through the clinic, Washing also hopes to ignite the passions of Michigan Law students, regardless of their ultimate careers. “There’s a good chance that the students who take this clinic will appreciate how fulfilling it is to help others. I am hoping one of the tangible benefits of the clinic will be to amplify the humanitarian aspirations of the lawyers Michigan sends out into the world.”—AS

For information about making a gift to support the Veterans Legal Clinic, contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 734.615.4500.
Elder, ‘77: ‘Confronting Bias’

“About 1.25 million Americans every single year…. And of that number, 40 percent say that but for the firearm, they would have been dead. These gun laws… sound like they’re common sense. Who abides by them? You and me. Bad guys don’t give a rip. That’s why they’re called ‘bad guys.’”

—Larry Elder, on his talk radio program, The Larry Elder Show

By Sheryl James

If the above excerpt doesn’t get your attention, a few other Elder-isms might. For instance:

- Blacks are more racist than whites.
- The welfare state is our national narcotic.
- There is no glass ceiling.
- The media bias: it’s real, it’s widespread, it’s destructive.

These are from Elder’s 2001 best-selling book, The Ten Things You Can’t Say In America (St. Martin’s Griffin). Just in case he didn’t ruffle the politically correct and liberal crowd enough with that, he followed up two years later with Showdown: Confronting Bias, Lies and the Special Interests That Divide America (St. Martin’s Griffin), another bestseller. Among other points, Elder declares here that “racial and sex discrimination are non-issues in the 21st century.” All the while, Elder, ‘77, has offered his wisdom on his talk radio show, now on the air for some 20 years.

It would be difficult to find another U-M alum who can mix it up like Elder can. He represents a small category: black conservatives. Suffice it to say that the likes of Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton have not been on Elder’s show.

“In my 20 years on the air, I’ve only been able to get one or two of these so-called black leaders on my show,” Elder says. “I’ve called Jesse Jackson maybe 100 times.” Elder says Ebony, the iconic magazine of black America, ignores the likes of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, among other highly respected black Americans. “The common element between all of these is that they’re conservative.”

Elder’s views directly reflect his upbringing. He was born and raised in South Central Los Angeles. His parents, Randolph and Viola, both were hard working and had experienced racism. But, says Elder, they refused to raise their three sons as career victims. Elder recalls his mother reading him a children’s book about U.S. presidents in the 1950s. “And she said, ‘Larry, if you try hard enough, someday, you could be in this book.’” Elder points out that he didn’t have to wait for 2008 to believe that. His mother also told him no one could hurt his feelings without his permission. Randolph Elder (U.S. Marine, janitor, restaurant owner, in that order) was equally unruffled.

“So this kind of thinking of myself as oppressed … or as a second-class citizen, never occurred to me,” Elder says. His mother later told him they did not want their children to grow up angry about “crap that doesn’t happen anymore.”
Elder also credits his urban, black neighborhood, which was full of intact families—now long-gone—with helping to develop his views. “Today, 75 percent of black kids are raised without their fathers.” This—not racism—is America’s number-one problem, Elder says.

The empowered thinking of Elder’s upbringing helped lead him to do well in high school and earn his bachelor’s degree in political science from Brown University in 1974. He selected Michigan Law because it was “one of the finest law schools” in the United States. He found Michigan Law “extremely difficult, extremely competitive, and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience—and living in Ann Arbor.”

After practicing law for several years, a one-week guest-hosting opportunity on a Cleveland talk radio show ignited his talk radio career. He was offered his own show at KABC in Los Angeles in the late 1980s, and he has been on the air, online, and on cable TV ever since. He added another book, Dear Father, Dear Son (WND Books, 2012), and also writes a blog on topics such as, “Will Eric Holder Ever Run Out of Race Cards?” and “Ferguson: Not Even An O.J. Jury Would Convict Officer Wilson.”

Suffice it to say he has not been profiled by Ebony. Ask him if he cares. However, he was honored this year with a star on Hollywood’s Walk of Fame.

Despite the Obama era, Elder, a Republican and “small ‘l’” libertarian, is not backing down. He focuses on what he calls the “victicrats,” which he defines as those who live with a “those forces are holding me back” mindset.

“That’s what the left has done to women, to gays, to Latinos, to minorities. Because the left is a collection of special interests of people who feel maligned,” he says. “And what I like to think I do is I de-program victicrats so they can think for themselves.”

1952

**Kiehner Johnson**, a retired partner of BakerHostetler LLP and subsequently a member and chairman of the Ohio Board of Tax Appeals, was honored by inclusion in the Ohio State and Local Tax Hall of Fame at the January 2015 Tax Conference, presented by the Ohio Chamber of Commerce.

1957

The **Hon. Livingstone Johnson**, retired senior judge of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas—on which he served from 1982 to 2007—was honored by the Laurel Highlands Council, Boy Scouts of America, with an endowment in his name and the Livingstone M. Johnson Legacy Award for his dedicated service to the Scouting community for more than 70 years and to the community-at-large. He has dedicated his time to ensure all youth, especially those in the African American community and low-income areas surrounding Pittsburgh, have an opportunity for a quality Scouting experience.

1963

**Stefan F. “Stef” Tucker** has been honored by the American Bar Association Section of Taxation as the recipient of its 2015 Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his lifetime service to the Tax Section and the tax system. He is a partner at Venable LLP in Washington, D.C.

1967

**John A. Sebert** retired from the Uniform Law Commission after more than eight years as its first full-time executive director.

1968

**David L. Callies**, the Benjamin A. Kudo Professor of Law at the University of Hawai’i at Manoa William S. Richardson School of Law, has been recognized with the Crystal Eagle Award from the Owners’ Counsel of America, a nationwide network of eminent domain attorneys, for his lifetime of scholarship about takings law and private property rights.

**Ed Goldman**, adjunct associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at U-M, received the Center for the Education of Women’s Carol Hollenshead Award for Excellence in Promoting Equity and Social Change. Awardees are faculty and staff whose sustained efforts have resulted in greater equity in regard to gender, race, class, age, disability, gender identity, or sexual orientation. After he headed the U-M Health System Legal Office from 1978 to 2009, and served as associate vice president and deputy general counsel for the University from 2004 to 2009, he moved to the Medical School Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in order to create its Sexual Rights and Reproductive Justice Program. Additionally, he is working with a law school in Ghana to create a Law Students for Reproductive Justice chapter and a teaching curriculum in women’s rights.
Zhang, LLM ’85: Facilitating Business Deals with Cultural Insights

By Katie Vloet

When Samuel Zhang, LLM ’85, left the United States to return to Asia in 1993, he did not expect that Chinese companies would begin aggressive investment in foreign countries while he was still a practicing attorney.

"Back then, I thought it would happen maybe in 50 years," says Zhang, principal of the Hong Kong-based Sam Zhang & Co., a corporate- and commercial-law firm that also has offices in Shanghai and Beijing. “Instead, what has happened is that the economy of China has been growing really fast until just recently, and China needs foreign resources, technology, and corporate talent to facilitate its economic growth. The outbound investment trend is just beginning.”

Just as he has represented U.S. and European companies with investments and cross-border transactions in Asian countries throughout the past two decades, Zhang now is assisting companies from China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan that seek to conduct business in the United States, Europe, and other parts of the world.

“When I moved to Hong Kong from Washington, D.C., as a partner of a major U.S. law firm with a heavy Asian focus, I expected the economic arising in China,” says Zhang, whose team includes 14 attorneys in addition to him. “[In the early 1990s], a lot of foreign companies were going into China, using the low-cost labor there manufacturing for export out of China. Starting in the mid- and late-1990s, many American companies wanted to invest in China no longer for export, but for China’s domestic market.

“Now,” he says, “investment has slowed down, and the market has consolidated. Newcomers will be facing tougher challenges. But there is much movement in China to go abroad.”

During the previous trends and now, firms such as his—with attorneys trained both in China and the United States—have been vital to their clients’ successes, he points out. “Besides strict legal issues, such as regulatory compliance and government investigation, there are the cultural issues. To understand the relationship, not just the regulations and rules, is very important,” Zhang says.

“It surprises some of our clients from the United States at first when they see how deals are made there. Often, they cannot make any progress with their Chinese counterparts on a negotiation table. Then, we call off the meeting and go to dinner. With a few drinks, relationships warm up and handshakes are made. Then you come back and draw up or revise the paperwork. That is the way it is done here commonly,” he says. “At first, clients do not want lawyers to charge them for having dinner and drinks. Then they start to realize the value.”

One of his clients, Anheuser-Busch, is an exemplar of a company that took the right approach when entering the Chinese market, he says. “I had worked with Anheuser-Busch since early 1990 when they first decided to enter into China, and helped them with the whole strategy and its implementation. We helped them acquire Chinese breweries, introduce the Budweiser brand, and consolidate the beer market there. We also helped it to establish a strategic alliance with Tsingtao,” China’s most famous brewery.

“For the initial five or six years,” Zhang says, “they did not make any money. Now China is one of their most successful markets, and it was because they were willing to be patient, to understand the culture here, and to work with local talent.”

His work also has included advising state-owned companies in large projects involving foreign parties or in foreign countries. Many companies in China now are going aboard to buy natural resources, agricultural firms, and technology companies. “China is realizing that buying the companies is a better approach than just buying the products that these companies produce,” he says.

No matter which direction the investments, mergers, and acquisitions go—from the United States and Europe to China and other Asian countries, or vice-versa—Zhang says his training at Michigan Law and his understanding of multiple legal systems has been invaluable.

“The time spent at the University of Michigan exposed me to the Western common law system, compared to China’s legal system, which is still very politically oriented,” he says. “The Western legal concept and value I learned at the University of Michigan is that it is most important for you as a lawyer to understand your clients’ needs and how to protect your clients’ interests, while at the same time adding value to their business.”
1969

Robert S. Adler is a commissioner at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, having been appointed by President Obama to the agency in 2009, renominated in May 2014, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in December 2014. He credits Professors Bob Harris and Joseph Sax for inspiring him to seek a career in public interest.

The Hon. Steven R. Servaas, Michigan 63rd District judge, retired after 42 years on the bench. He is both the youngest judge elected in Michigan, elected at the age of 28, and the longest-sitting jurist in the state's history. The City Council of Rockford, the site of his courthouse, has named the courthouse and its municipal complex in his honor.

1971

Ken Mogill and his co-counsel received the State Bar of Michigan Champions of Justice Award for their representation of April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse in *DeBoer v. Snyder*, in which they successfully challenged Michigan's state constitution and legislative exclusions of same-sex couples from the right to marry. He also received the Affirmations Outstanding Ally award for his work in *DeBoer*. The case was decided by the U.S. Supreme Court on June 26, 2015, as part of *Obergefell v. Hodges*.

1973

Curtis Mack was awarded the Trailblazer Award by the National Employment Law Council. He is retired from McGuire Woods LLP in Atlanta.

1977

Edward A. Marod, a shareholder in the West Palm Beach, Florida, office of Gunster Yoakley & Stewart PA, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Fellowship is extended by invitation only to experienced trial lawyers who have mastered the art of advocacy and whose professional careers have been marked by the highest standards of ethical conduct, professionalism, civility, and collegiality. Fellowship is limited to less than 1 percent of the total lawyer population of each state and province.


1978

Bill Bay, partner at Thompson Coburn LLP has been elected to the American Bar Association Board of Governors for a three-year term. The 38-member board oversees the general operation of the ABA and develops specific plans of action. During his tenure as a governor, he will serve on the board's finance committee.

1979

Wendy Rowden has been appointed president of the 42nd Street Development Corporation, a New York City-based 501(c)(3) that developed the theaters, restaurants, and residences known as Theatre Row. It also was at the forefront of the successful fight to preserve Grand Central Station. She will work to expand the depth and scope of the corporation's reach.

Jesse S. Ishikawa was named by the University of Wisconsin Law School as its 2014–2015 Adjunct Teacher of the Year. He formerly was a shareholder in the real estate department of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren SC in Madison, Wisconsin, and has retired from both teaching and law practice.

1980

Christopher H. Meyer, a partner at Givens Pursley LLP, in Boise, Idaho, has been selected to join the board of advisors of the Dividing the Waters program of the National Judicial College. He will serve as the Idaho representative on the board, which is composed of 14 noted water lawyers from across the West. The program provides training to judges who preside over complex water litigation.

Steven Zaris, partner at McCarthy Duffy LLP, and Robert Smith, '88, founder of Woodvale Partners LLC, announced the merger of their firms. The combined firm will continue to offer a comprehensive range of legal services to small and mid-sized businesses from its offices in Chicago and Oak Brook, Illinois.

Michael A. Levey has been appointed as the National Pro Bono Partner at Quarles & Brady LLP. He is a partner in the firm’s business law practice group, where he focuses on the full business lifecycle of physicians’ and dentists’ practices, with broad experience in matters critical to the health care industry.

Cliff Douglas, director of the U-M Tobacco Research Network and a faculty member at the U-M School of Public Health, has been named American Cancer Society (ACS) vice president for tobacco control and director of the newly established ACS Center for Tobacco Control. The center’s mission is to strengthen tobacco control efforts and accelerate the decline in tobacco use and tobacco-related deaths in the United States and globally.

Denise J. Lewis, a partner in the real estate department at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP, has been named one of the 2015 Most Influential Black Lawyers by Savoy magazine. She is a founder of the firm’s urban redevelopment practice, and she concentrates her practice on structuring multi-tiered transactions involving hotels, office buildings, apartment complexes, and retail developments. She is recognized for her work with urban redevelopment projects that include historic preservation, zoning, and tax-incentive issues.

Michael R. Lied of Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC’s Peoria, Illinois, office has been appointed by the Illinois State Bar Association president as chair of the Labor & Employment Law Section Council. He also has been reappointed to the Civil Practice and Procedure Section Council and the Standing Committee on Continuing Legal Education.

Jayne Reardon, executive director of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, was appointed to chair the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Professionalism for a one-year term. The committee is part of the ABA Center for Professional Responsibility.

Jonathan B. Frank has joined Maddin, Hauser, Roth & Heller PC in Southfield, Michigan, as of counsel. He has 30 years of experience in the areas of civil, employment, real estate, and business litigation, and has joined the firm’s complex litigation and risk advisory practice group.

Ruth Harvey has been appointed director of the Corporate/Financial Litigation Section in the Civil Division’s Commercial Litigation Branch at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Megan P. Norris, a principal in the Detroit office of Miller Canfield Paddock and Stone PLC, where she leads the employment and labor group, has been re-elected to serve a two-year term as managing director. She will continue to serve as chair of the managing directors.

Robert Smith, founder of Woodvale Partners LLC, and Steven Zaris, ’81, partner in McCarthy Duffy LLP, announced the merger of their firms. The combined firm will continue to offer a comprehensive range of legal services to small and mid-sized businesses from its offices in Chicago and Oak Brook, Illinois.

Jeffrey A. Jung has joined Chicago-based law firm Much Shelist PC as a principal in the business and finance practice group. He is a corporate and transactional attorney with more than 20 years of experience representing private and public corporations, financial institutions, and investment banks on a variety of securities, finance, and general corporate matters.

C. Thomas Ludden appeared on behalf of one of the defendant-appellants in Tyra v. Organ Procurement Agency of Michigan, to argue that the Michigan Supreme Court should find that the failure of a plaintiff to abide by a statutorily mandated waiting period prevents them from commencing a medical malpractice lawsuit. The court ruled in favor of Ludden’s clients in July.
Matzkin, ’09: A New Perspective on Hearing Cases

By Lara Zielin

According to Daniel Matzkin, ’09, his typical day as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of Florida is just like everyone else's in that same position. And if you ask whether law school was particularly challenging for him, he’ll tell you that it is equally challenging for nearly everyone.

In other words, Matzkin downplays the fact that he’s been blind since birth with a condition called Leber’s congenital amaurosis, and that his extraordinary achievements are an extension of what he’s always done. It’s a formula of hard work, determination, humor, and a personable nature. Not that he’ll say any of that; another of his agreeable traits is that he dislikes talking about himself.

Still, Matzkin understands that many people will find his story interesting. “I can appreciate how [I] could inspire people. My story might also be helpful to parents who have kids who have blindness or who don’t have 100 percent sight, wondering what’s going to happen or what they’ll do.”

That story goes something like this:

Matzkin, originally from Miami, graduated from Wesleyan University in Connecticut with honors. His thesis, “Sight and Foresight: Blindness in Classical Antiquity,” won a prize for the best original essay on Greek or Roman civilization. After graduating from Michigan Law, he landed a job as a litigation associate at Squire Sanders (now Squire Patton Boggs LLP) in Miami, where he worked for four years. Then he beat out nearly 1,000 other applicants to obtain a prestigious clerkship at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. The pattern repeated itself when he landed a coveted assistant U.S. attorney position.

In a profession that relies heavily on reading and research, Matzkin is aided by screen-reading software called JAWS—short for “job access with speech.” The program quickly translates text into spoken words.

“I read in the same way millions of people listen to audio books,” he says. The JAWS software is technology-forward, helping him shift from reading email to reading a brief through keyboard shortcuts, but its function is similar to the way he’s processed information for years. “I grew up doing things the same way. JAWS is just a continuation,” he says.

JAWS isn’t something he typically uses in public, however—including in court. “It’s not that it’s not practical, but it’s difficult. It’s tough to find things on the fly for a blind or sighted person.”

Consequently, he says, he preps in advance and memorizes the information that he needs for court. Still, he declines to say that his process is more challenging than anyone else’s. “It’s not that different from a sighted person,” he says. “There are several of my colleagues who don’t bring notes in. They might have more choice in the matter, but they work the same way.”

Court appearances are an anomaly for Matzkin because oral arguments are granted in only a small number of his cases. “A vast majority of our cases are decided on the briefs. That means day to day, most of our time is spent reviewing records, doing research, and writing.”

His work is focused on appellate litigation, mostly criminal but also some civil cases. This type of public service has been a passion for years, he says. His clerkship was focused on appellate work, and he did as much as he could in private practice as well.

“I'm dealing with a different set of issues every day,” he continues. “A lot of it is learning on the spot and figuring things out,” he says, which is one of the ways his Michigan Law education helped prepare him for his current role.

While it’s not something he focuses on day to day, he is aware that gene therapy may hold potential for a Leber’s cure down the road. “There’s always hope,” he says. “But I’m assuming the status quo will remain in place. And I’m doing my best in the meantime.”

His best is exceptional, by any standard. So is doing a job he loves. “Signing briefs or going up in court saying, ‘I represent the United States’—that’s a cool thing. That’s a thrill.”
Bakst, ’97: Advocating for Work/Family Balance

By Lori Atherton

When the federal Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) was reintroduced with bipartisan support in the U.S. Senate in June, it was a personal victory for Dina Leshetz Bakst, ’97. Bakst helped to draft the legislation, which provides stronger legal protections for pregnant women in the workplace.

“No woman should have to choose between a job and a healthy pregnancy,” says Bakst, co-founder and co-president of A Better Balance, a national legal advocacy organization that works to advance the rights of working families. “An issue we see over and over again at A Better Balance is pregnancy discrimination, and we see how it plays out with low-wage workers who are often one new baby away from losing their jobs and landing in a poverty hole that will punish them for the rest of their lives.”

Bakst made the case for more equitable pregnancy-related workplace accommodations in her 2012 op-ed in The New York Times, “Pregnant, and Pushed Out of a Job,” which inspired members of Congress to introduce the PWFA that same year. The law did not pass, but it garnered renewed support and bipartisan backing in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in favor of Peggy Young in Young v. United Parcel Service. (Michigan Law Professor Sam Bagenstos represented Young in the case.)

The federal PWFA would require employers to reasonably accommodate workers with “known limitations” arising from pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, unless to do so would impose an undue hardship on the employer. The law would ensure that pregnant workers would not be fired unnecessarily or denied reasonable job modifications that would keep them working while maintaining a healthy pregnancy.

“What the Supreme Court is requiring is that pregnant women jump through hoops to prove discrimination—a luxury of time and resources that many pregnant women don’t have,” says Bakst, who notes that existing pregnancy laws and discrimination laws are not enough to protect pregnant workers, because they place the burden on pregnant workers to prove intentional discrimination. “Many times, a pregnant worker just needs to carry a water bottle, take extra bathroom breaks, or be temporarily relieved from light duty, and she needs that accommodation immediately, so that she’s not forced to make an impossible choice between honoring her doctor’s orders—stay off your feet or stay hydrated—and her paycheck. When there’s clarity in the law, which the PWFA provides, workers can use the law to proactively stay healthy and on the job.”

Bakst and her organization have helped 10 states and localities—including New York City, where A Better Balance is located—pass legislation aimed at protecting pregnant workers and new mothers from discrimination in the workplace. The law in New York City is “one of the best,” Bakst notes, and includes not only accommodations during pregnancy but also protection for women recovering from childbirth and requires that a reasonable time and place be made available for nursing mothers to pump breast milk.

Bakst’s legislative efforts also address paid sick leave, paid family leave, and fair and flexible work schedules for all caregivers. Last year, she and A Better Balance were instrumental in helping pass New York City’s Earned Sick Time Act, which allows covered workers to take up to 40 hours of sick time in a year, either for themselves or to care for family members, without being fired or punished.

“We don’t just help to pass the laws,” Bakst says, “we help to enforce them,” adding that she and her colleagues serve as advocates for workers when employers aren’t following the law. Bakst represents clients seeking legal help through her organization’s Families at Work Legal Clinic and its associated hotline, and helped to develop Babygate, an online resource for workers that helps them understand pregnancy and parenting laws in a state-by-state guide.

Bakst, who cofounded A Better Balance in 2005, says she is encouraged by the progress that has been made with fair and family-friendly workplace policies during the past decade, but she points out that more work needs to be done to achieve equality in the workplace.

“It has been incredible to be part of this growing national movement, where people are seeing issues related to work and family as systemic issues that affect all of us, but have particularly devastating consequences for lower-income workers. There is a growing recognition of the need to do something about it, and that is encouraging.”
1991

Keith R. Barnett has been appointed to the board of directors of New England Baptist Hospital, a Boston-based premier regional provider for orthopedic surgery and the treatment of musculoskeletal diseases and disorders. He also is a partner at WilmerHale, where he specializes in all aspects of commercial real estate.

Lisa J. Bernt’s article, “Suppressing the Mischief: New Work, Old Problems,” appears in the Northeastern University Law Journal. She is a visiting scholar at Northeastern University School of Law and director of the nonprofit Fair Employment Project in Boston.


Carolyn D. Walker, partner at Stoel Rives LLP in Portland, Oregon, has been elected to the board of directors of the Oregon Community Foundation, a philanthropic organization dedicated to improving life in Oregon by supporting individuals, families, businesses, and organizations to create charitable funds that support their cause of interest.

1992

Daniel D. Quick of Dickinson Wright PLLC’s office in Troy, Michigan, was appointed by the judges of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan to serve as chair of the Local Rules Advisory Committee for a one-year term. He is practice department manager for commercial litigation, antitrust and trade regulation, alternative dispute resolution, and sports and entertainment.

Gordon Toering, business attorney at Warner Norcross & Judd LLP, has partnered with filmmaker Rik Swartzwelder to build a company called Skoche Films. Their first project is Old Fashioned, which opened on about 200 screens nationwide on Valentine's Day weekend 2015. The film is a story about a former frat boy and a free-spirited woman who attempt an old-fashioned courtship in contemporary America. He has been involved in the financial and creative sides of the production.

1993

Karen Libertiny Ludden has been promoted to shareholder at Maddin, Hauser, Roth & Heller PC in Southfield, Michigan. She concentrates her practice on commercial insurance coverage and liability defense for national insurers and private clients.

Lynelle Morgan is the new family court administrator for the 26th Judicial District of North Carolina. She has spent her career as a public interest attorney specializing in family law and domestic violence. She is responsible for the oversight of family court operations under the direction of the trial court administrator.

1994

Rachel O'Bryan is working as a speaker, author, and policy adviser to states considering balanced marijuana regulation. She was involved in Colorado’s legalization process since the beginning and frequently is called upon to analyze and offer an expert opinion on achieving balanced regulations that protect the public health and safety of communities that are considering or have adopted medical or recreational marijuana laws. She previously served as cofounder of Smart Colorado, and as an adviser to Governor John W. Hickenlooper Jr. and the Colorado Department of Revenue’s Marijuana Enforcement Division.

Greg Teufel has formed his own law firm, OGC Law LLC, in Pittsburgh. He practiced at large law firms for 20 years and will continue to practice in the areas of outside general counsel and commercial litigation.

Pia N. Thompson has been named general counsel of Transworld Systems Inc., or TSI, the home of Accelerator and the Profit Recovery System.

1995

Hillary J. Moonay has joined MacElree Harvey Ltd. in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, as a partner. For nearly 20 years, she has practiced exclusively in the area of family law and has experience with the full gamut of domestic relations cases.

Lisa Newfield has joined Murtha Cullina LLP as a partner in the trusts and estates department, resident in the New Haven, Connecticut, office. She devotes much of her practice to personal estate planning for individuals, major gift planning for nonprofit institutions, and planned giving for nonprofit institutions and philanthropists.

Gina Roccanova has joined Meyers Nave in Oakland, California, as principal and co-chair of the statewide labor and employment practice group.
Paul Tauber, a partner in the business practice group at Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP in San Francisco, traveled to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as a representative of the Pacific Council on International Policy. He observed a week of pre-trial hearings in U.S. v. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who stands trial along with four others in a military tribunal for the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

1996

David B. Cade was appointed to serve as vice president of procurement contracting and risk management for Boeing Defense, Space & Security, the military side of The Boeing Co.

Carrie Fletcher has been appointed the new executive director of Harvard Law School Executive Education. Previously, she was the executive director of law programs at the Fullbridge Program.

Jesse S. Reyes has joined Brown Rudnick LLP as counsel in the energy, utilities, and environmental group. He previously served as chief of the energy and telecommunications division in the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office.

Michael J. Thomas was quoted in the Albuquerque Journal about an appeal before the New Mexico Supreme Court in which he filed an answer brief on behalf of the defendants; following briefing, the state Supreme Court let stand the Court of Appeals’ decision in his clients’ favor. He recently joined the legal staff of the City of Albuquerque.

1997

Enoh T. Ebong has been appointed the new deputy director of the U.S. Trade and Development Agency. She will help lead the agency’s efforts to link U.S. businesses to global infrastructure opportunities.

Alex G. Romain, partner at Williams & Connolly LLP in Washington, D.C., has been named to Savoy magazine's 2015 list of Most Influential Black Lawyers. He is recognized for his litigation work in high-profile civil and criminal cases, including the successful defense of Senator Ted Stevens against ethics charges and of the former CEO of Fannie Mae against securities fraud claims. He also has represented individuals on a pro bono basis in allegations of attempted murder and fraudulent misappropriation.

1998

Bushra Malik, Butzel Long attorney and shareholder in the Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, office, was the chair of the 2015 American Immigration Lawyers Association Global Immigration Forum. She practices in the area of immigration law, focusing her practice on the representation of multinational and domestic clients’ inbound and global migration needs.

1999

Phillip H. Lee has been named partner at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick LLP in Toledo, Ohio. He is in the corporate practice group, where he counsels public and private companies and institutional investors in matters related to mergers and acquisitions, venture capital financings, business formation, corporate governance, and general corporate matters.

Madison L. Mitchell has joined Burr & Forman LLP as a partner in the Nashville office. She is a member of the creditors’ rights and bankruptcy service group.

2001

Drew Demers has joined Burr & Forman LLP as a partner in the firm’s banking and real estate group in the Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, office. He counsels national and regional banks in matters related to commercial real estate transactions and related litigation.

Linda Maria Wayner was named by New York University Law School as the new executive director of the Bickel & Brewer Latino Institute for Human Rights.

Ann Reyes Robbins was inducted into The Fellows of the Indiana Bar Foundation. Membership is by invitation only, and there are approximately 1,000 attorneys with the Fellows designation from the Indiana Bar.
Smith, ’86: Ensuring There Are Plenty of Fish in the Sea

By Amy Spooner

Russell Smith’s clients are slimy. Really. They number in the billions, don’t communicate, and move constantly. He willingly allows many to get the death penalty.

Smith, ’86, is deputy assistant secretary for international fisheries at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). He works with other countries to ensure that the oceans’ fish stocks are sustainably managed, including serving as the U.S. representative to the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). He also represents the United States on the International Whaling Commission.

Smith balances the needs of the fishing industry and the environment to keep marine populations viable for future generations. Since highly migratory species such as tuna and swordfish don’t recognize international boundaries, Smith maintains this industry-environment equilibrium in partnership with a large, diverse set of countries—which he admits can be contentious.

“There are strong economic interests and strong environmental interests,” he says. “Sometimes we succeed in balancing them out, and sometimes we don’t. We have to push hard to find accommodations that everybody can accept. Economic interests are important, and we need to take them into account in decision making. But if we don’t listen to the science, the economics will be undermined as fish stocks decline.”

NOAA estimates that the U.S. fishing industry nets more than $32 billion annually and is responsible for more than 1 million jobs, so internally defining a U.S. position on issues such as overfishing is challenging even before Smith sits down with his international counterparts. But he says the increased cooperation between the government and domestic fisheries in recent years gives him leverage abroad. “I think we generally are seen as an honest broker that follows science in order to establish measures, and then implements and enforces them.”

For a while, the science concerning swordfish and bluefin tuna stocks in the Atlantic Ocean was alarming. Overfishing reduced swordfish to the brink of endangered species status. After ICCAT implemented regulations designed to encourage the regrowth of the stock, swordfish populations now are considered fully recovered. “Participants were willing to make decisions and sacrifices that were in the best interest of the stock,” says Smith. Bluefin tuna, meanwhile, have been tougher to regulate. Since it’s a very profitable stock, ICCAT faces heavy economic pressure to increase the fishing quotas in the Atlantic, while others propose lower catch levels to allow full population recovery. Smith is especially concerned about a recent decision to increase the quota in the eastern Atlantic—a move he worries is premature. “We’ve taken significant beneficial steps, but the debate is whether or not we can do more,” he says.

“In ICCAT, the United States is one of 50 countries. We carry a lot of weight, but we can’t dictate. So sometimes we aren’t entirely satisfied.”

In the Pacific Ocean, there’s an added complexity in the WCPFC’s work: Much of that region’s most fertile fishing grounds for tropical tunas lies in or near the exclusive economic zones of small island states whose economies are centered around their fishing industries. “There’s more focus on helping these states to develop their fisheries and reap a greater benefit from these resources,” Smith says.

Though it was a leap from his youth as a recreational fisherman to his current work negotiating complex international piscine deals, Smith is far from being a fish out of water. He credits a strong team of scientists who provide him with the advice needed to argue U.S. positions. And he has made a career of tackling a wide range of international environmental law issues.

Smith’s first foray into environmental law was at Spiegel & McDiarmid LLP, a small energy firm in Washington, D.C., which led to a position in the policy section of the environment and natural resources division at the U.S. Department of Justice. Part of his work there involved helping foreign governments build their capacity to regulate environmental issues. Prior to joining NOAA, Smith was the director for international environmental policy and multilateral environmental agreements in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. He says his time at Michigan Law gave him the negotiating skills and cross-cultural awareness that help him succeed in the international arena.

“Learning to think through complex legal problems with a variety of lenses was very important,” he says. “And now I am privileged to be doing that while contributing to the survival of one of the world’s most essential resources.”
Faramarzi, LLM ’13: Assisting with Australian Inquest into 2014 Lindt Café Siege

By Jenny Whalen

Long before American television viewers awoke to reports of a suspected terrorist attack in Australia, Geeti Faramarzi, LLM ’13, was watching the chaotic scene unfold live outside her Sydney office.

“I was told that an armed robbery was taking place next door at the Lindt Café,” recalls Faramarzi, a solicitor at the Office of the State Coroner of New South Wales (NSW). “I remember thinking that the police response was somewhat disproportionate for an armed robbery, but given the financial and government buildings in the area, I didn’t think much of it.” Tuning in to a local television station, Faramarzi and her colleagues soon learned the true nature of the attack and were among the first office blocks in the city to be evacuated.

Within days, she joined the legal team assembled to assist the NSW state coroner in conducting an inquest into the fatalities that arose from the attack and the subsequent police response.

“Such an event was unprecedented in Australia and has brought immense media attention as well as public concern,” Faramarzi says. “The size of the investigation, and presenting it in evidence, also presents a major logistical challenge. My team is tasked with the independent, transparent investigation and presentation of the matter in court before the State Coroner, who will ultimately deliver findings as to the ‘time, place, manner, and cause’ of the three deaths that occurred.”

The attack began around 8:30 a.m. on December 15, 2014, when a man, later identified by police as Man Haron Monis, took hostage the chocolate café in Sydney’s central business district. Armed with a sawn-off shotgun, the attacker ordered the café manager to notify Australian emergency services that the country was under attack by the Islamic State.

The standoff continued for 17 hours, finally ending when police stormed the café following a report that the attacker had shot the manager. Monis and a second hostage were killed during the ensuing police response—deaths that mandated an inquest under the Coroners Act 2009 (NSW), Faramarzi says.

“Two important functions of the coroner under the act are the investigation and the prevention of deaths,” she says. “The objects of an inquest include placing on record all evidence as to the facts and circumstances of death, and informing the public, through an impartial inquirer, of the broad facts of the matter, and informing all concerned, in appropriate cases, of the precautions that may avoid repetitions.”

To assist the state coroner with establishing the manner and cause of the deaths, Faramarzi and her colleagues are tasked with clarifying the factual issues related to manner and cause and taking the state coroner’s instructions on those issues that ultimately will be investigated and given in evidence.

“The coronial jurisdiction is not adversarial; rather, it is inquisitorial in nature, and we work closely with the state coroner and the interested parties in the conduct of the litigation,” Faramarzi adds. But like any investigation, it has its own challenges.

“This event raised questions about the efficacy of Australia’s security and intelligence, and effective counter-terrorism response, and as a result we are confronted with the need to balance the public interest in a transparent coronial investigation with the need to maintain confidentiality over sensitive evidence, for security purposes,” Faramarzi says. It is, she adds, a chief goal of the legal team to provide the state coroner with the best evidence related to the attack and to allow the established facts to “speak for themselves.”
2002

Joshua D. Lee, a partner in Schiff Hardin LLP’s Chicago office, received the prestigious Edmund S. Muskie Pro Bono Service Award from the American Bar Association’s Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section during its first-ever TIPS Spring Section Conference. His commitment to pro bono work began in law school, when he represented victims of domestic abuse and crafted appeals for people without means to obtain counsel. He spent much of the last decade challenging the conditions of confinement of persons civilly committed because of mental illness, as well as challenging the treatment of American citizens who were wrongfully detained because of their ethnic heritage.

2005

Reena Bajowala, partner at Jenner & Block, is one of the 10 Chicago female leaders to be honored with a 2015 Womenetics POW! Award. The POW! Awards honor women who demonstrate business leadership, community impact, and inspire other female leaders. She also was the keynote speaker at this year’s Asian Pacific American Law Students Association Origins Banquet at Michigan Law.

2006

Haukur Gudmundsson has been promoted to partner at Mayer Brown LLP in Chicago. He represents issuers, underwriters, and investors in domestic and cross-border securitizations and other structured finance transactions.

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2009

Christopher R. Mykytiak has joined Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP as an associate in the firm’s Cleveland office and a member of the business practice area. He will continue to focus his legal practice on the areas of commercial and corporate real estate.

2010

Douglas L. Sanders has joined the National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) as assistant counsel and national field representative, serving as liaison between NTEU and its chapters to represent the welfare and benefits of federal civilian employees nationwide.

Daniel Itzkowitz has rejoined Faegre Baker Daniels LLP as a real estate associate in the Minneapolis office. He advises clients across a broad spectrum of real estate transactions, including providing counsel to purchasers, sellers, tenants, landlords, lenders, borrowers, and developers.

2006

Eli J. Vonnegut has been elected partner at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP. He is in the insolvency and restructuring group in New York, where he advises creditors, debtors, agent banks, hedge funds, lenders, bondholders, and other strategic parties on corporate restructuring matters.

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David B. Sikes has been named partner in the Silicon Valley office of Jones Day. He advises clients in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, venture capital, private equity, and capital markets.

2005

Nathan M. Erickson was promoted to special counsel (tax) at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP. He is in the litigation department and the white collar criminal defense and securities enforcement practice in Washington, D.C.

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Michael Kieval has been promoted to member of Weiner Brodsky Kider PC, a financial services law boutique in Washington, D.C. His practice focuses on representing companies in the mortgage industry in litigation, government investigations, and providing regulatory compliance advice.

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2006

Haukur Gudmundsson has been promoted to partner at Mayer Brown LLP in Chicago. He represents issuers, underwriters, and investors in domestic and cross-border securitizations and other structured finance transactions.
Brandon C. Griffith joined Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP as an associate in the IP department's patent practice group in the firm's Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, office. He focuses his practice on preparing and prosecuting patent applications in mechanical and electromechanical technologies.

2011

Jennifer Allen has joined the trial department of Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP in Denver as an associate. Her practice focuses on commercial litigation, antitrust and appellate matters, and risk management and insurance litigation.

The Hon. Jeremy Brave-Heart was sworn in as the new chief judge of the Klamath Tribes of Oregon. He is a member of the Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and plans to travel once a month to hold tribal court in Oregon.

The Hon. Samir Hanna was selected as an administrative law judge for the State of Michigan. He also is the program director for MACC Legal, a nonprofit organization seeking the revitalization of Detroit's east side.

Cheryl Palmeri has joined Bass, Berry & Sims PLC's Washington, D.C., office in the firm's newly announced international trade practice group.

Rory M. Wellever has joined the corporate department at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP. He is in the firm's Detroit office and focuses his practice on transactions involving information technology and intellectual property.

2012

Kelechi Adibe has joined Goldberg Kohn Ltd. as an associate in the commercial finance group in Chicago. He represents financial institutions in documenting, negotiating, and performing due diligence for asset-based and cash-flow commercial finance transactions.

2013

Aghogho O. Edevbie, associate at Butzel Long in Detroit, has been elected to the State Bar of Michigan's Representative Assembly in the Third Circuit–Wayne County. The assembly is the final policymaking body of the State Bar. His practice is concentrated on the areas of business and commercial litigation.

Mark St. Amour has joined Young Basile PC in Troy, Michigan, as a member of the litigation department. He also will assist the patent prosecution group.

Sarah E. Waidelich has joined the intellectual property department's IP litigation practice group at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP. She is in the firm's Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, office and focuses her practice on patent litigation matters.

2014

Emily Gilman has joined Goldberg Kohn Ltd. as an associate in the litigation group in Chicago. Her practice areas are labor and employment, and litigation and alternative dispute resolution.

Kyle J. Luebke has joined Faegre Baker Daniels LLP as an associate in the finance and restructuring group. He will practice in the firm's Minneapolis office.

Jesse L. Roth has been named an associate by Maddin, Hauser, Roth & Heller PC. He is a member of the firm's defense and insurance coverage practice group in Southfield, Michigan.

Ariel Schepers has joined Goldberg Kohn Ltd. as an associate in the litigation group in Chicago. Her practice areas are labor and employment, and litigation and alternative dispute resolution.

2015

Marquita Davis received one of Faegre Baker Daniels LLP's 2015 Diversity & Inclusion Fellowships and received a stipend and a 2015 summer associate position at the firm in Minneapolis.
## IN MEMORIAM

### 1940s
- Paul W. Fager, '41  1/2/15
- Jack H. Shuler, '42  3/11/15
- Redman N. Myers, '43  2/27/15
- Luise N. Hanson, '44  4/29/15
- Edward S. Noble, '46  9/18/15
- Howard A. Jacobs, '47  4/13/15
- Samuel A. Curcio, '48  8/17/15
- Irving L. Fink, '48  4/5/15
- Roy E. Mattern, '48  5/30/15
- Mary L. McKenny, '48  9/5/15
- John H. Talbott, '48  8/18/15
- John D. Wolf, '48  5/12/15
- Charles A. Chapin, '49  5/31/15
- Webster Cook, '49  4/11/15
- Lewis A. Dysart, '49  3/14/15
- Hilliard J. Fjord, '49  3/31/15
- Frank J. Force, '49  2/21/15
- Richard E. Forrestel, '49  3/11/15
- George A. Jones, '49  6/5/15
- John R. Laird, '49  5/7/15

### 1950s
- James N. DeBoer, '50  7/5/15
- Robert P. Griffin, '50  4/16/15
- David D. Osborn, '50  8/21/15
- David L. Trezise, '50  2/16/15
- Michael J. Whalen, '50  3/28/15
- Henry J. Dongvillo, '51  4/9/15
- Arthur Heikkinen, '51  7/4/15
- Joseph C. Balich, '52  6/21/15
- Barbara E. Butler, '52  3/26/15
- Leob H. Crannell, '52  8/2/15
- Stewart G. Smith, '52  3/23/15
- Byron A. Stewart, '52  3/14/15
- Hardin A. Whilney, '52  9/14/15
- Alfred W. Blumenstein, '53  7/23/15
- James W. Callison, '53  4/4/15
- James R. Holway, '53  6/6/15
- Dwaine V. Lighthammer, '53  6/29/15
- Andrew J. Michaels, '53  5/8/15
- Charles D. Newton, '53  3/21/15
- Wolfgang F. Fikentscher, LLM '54  3/12/15
- Joseph J. Simeone, '54  5/1/15
- Ivor L. Richardson, SJ and LLM '55  12/29/14
- Irwin Roth, '55  6/13/15
- Robert C. Strodel, '55  6/8/15
- Howard N. Thiele, '55  7/27/15
- William L. Wilks, '55  2/24/15
- Albert C. Hicks, '56  8/24/15
- Sherwin J. Malkin, '56  1/6/14
- John H. McDermott, '56  6/24/15
- E. Blythe Stason Jr., '56  6/26/15
- Kenneth B. Cutler, '57  6/26/15
- Allan W. Grossman, '57  8/4/15
- Rene R. Lievens, LLM '57  5/3/15
- Gerald Tuchow, '57  8/4/15
- Walter L. Adams, '58  5/8/15
- Richard H. Beatty, '58  7/26/15
- Raymond J. Dittrich, '58  8/2/15
- R. Jackson Kinnel, '58  3/29/15
- George E. Lohr, '58  3/19/15
- N. Richard Smith, '58  12/18/14
- Bradley M. Glass, '59  8/6/15
- James P. Kennedy, '59  7/13/15

### 1960s
- Marc A. Hurt, '60  4/14/15
- Alling C. Brown, '61  7/29/15
- Walter V. Kron, '61  6/19/15
- Donald A. Slichter, '61  4/8/15
- James F. Champion, '62  7/4/15
- Larry W. McCormack, '62  3/16/15
- Joseph J. Simeone, '62  5/1/15
- Edward M. Dolson, '63  3/28/15
- Roy S. Shiels, '63  5/3/15
- Ruth A. Reister, '64  5/18/15
- Michael R. Cole, '65  5/7/15
- Frederick W. Hoogland, '65  5/11/15
- Mary M. Waterstone, '65  4/21/14
- Dietrich Bahl, MCL '66  11/28/14
- Thomas D. Chase, '66  6/10/15
- James A. Listak, '66  5/8/15
- James M. Klancnik, '67  3/24/15
- Daniel G. Bamberger, '68  4/24/15
- Robert H. Fredericks, '68  4/19/14
- John M. Lefevre, '69  6/11/15
- Richard H. Sayler, '69  8/7/15

### 1970s
- James F. Beener, '71  8/15/15
- Daniel W. Helt, '71  2/17/12
- Hugh J. McCarthy, '72  12/27/12
- Gene B. George, '73  9/21/13
- Priscilla F. Gray, '74  1/9/11
- Howard A. Zimmerman, '74  5/13/15
- Rita A. Burns, '76  12/10/14

### 1980s
- Todd E. Chambers, '83  3/5/15
- Mark A. Lensky, '85  5/13/15

### 1990s
- Dena R. Edwards, '90  7/1/14
- Vielka V. Holness, '90  6/4/15
- Lynnmarie A. Johnson, '94  7/21/15

### 2000s
- Julia E. Blankertz, '00  7/1/15
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