5 Quotes You’ll See…

...In This Issue of the
Law Quadrangle

1. “In many ways, juries are more ready than the law to hold cybercriminals accountable. Jurors understand we aren’t living in a puritanical world anymore and this kind of conduct isn’t acceptable.” (p. 16)

2. “Between the ideological poles is the big middle ground of Americans who believe climate change is an issue and want something done about it. And they’re willing to support getting their energy from renewable sources—especially now that it doesn’t cost more.” (p. 31)

3. “Entering law school, I didn’t think I would be advising art and design students on how to make steam more imaginative, but I did and it was really fun.” (p. 50)

4. “I suspect that I am the only person who went to jail directly as a result of having the privilege to study at Michigan Law School.” (p. 65)

5. “I was a junior associate at Jones Day with no real background in immigration law, but I couldn’t stand by knowing this person would face certain persecution and possibly death if she were forced to leave the United States.” (p. 84)
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BIG LAW AND PUBLIC INTEREST
Remembering Whit Gray, '57
Greatness In and Out of the Classroom

The outpouring of affection that our alumni community showed following the deaths of Emeritus Professors Whitmore Gray, ’57, and John Reed demonstrates the strong connection between our faculty and our students. Each one of a kind, Whit and John remained fixtures at the school to which they dedicated their careers long after they retired—continuing to talk with students, pursue scholarly endeavors, and attend faculty events as engaged participants. The Law School was more than their office; it was for them, like it is for so many of you, a second home.

You can read their obituaries on pages 92 and 93—the official records of their accomplishments. For those of us who had the privilege of working alongside them or sitting in their classes, however, we know that equally important reasons for their greatness remain unwritten in official channels; rather, they lie in memories of moments big and small where they touched our lives. You can read a sampling of those reminiscences at quadrangle.law.umich.edu.

When I joined the Michigan Law faculty nearly two decades ago, John and Whit were legends in the Quad and beyond. Before coming to Michigan, I was a Fellow at the University of Tokyo, and when the faculty there learned that I had an offer from Michigan, several of them said a primary reason why I should accept was the fact that Michigan was Whit’s home. I got to know John better as I made Michigan my home; he was genuine and, of course, he was funny, too: He once told me that although he continued to climb several flights of stairs to his office every day, at around age 95 he began to take a break halfway up. “You get winded?” I naively asked. “No,” he said. “I just figure a guy my age ought to take a break halfway up.”

John Reed and Whitmore Gray remind us that throughout its history, the Law School has been home to towering figures in the academe and the legal profession. But even as we mourn them, we can take comfort in knowing that their legacy of excellent teaching and mentorship continues in today’s faculty. One of our newest faculty members, Maureen Carroll, recently was announced as the winner of the 2018 L. Hart Wright Award for Excellence in Teaching in just her second year at Michigan.

Our faculty continue to encourage and inspire our students while making a difference in the world around us. In this issue of the Law Quadrangle, you will read about professors who have spearheaded significant cases or legislation and who are quoted widely in major news outlets. They are just a few examples of the scholarly ethos and public engagement that permeate the Quad. Beyond the news hits and the bullet points of their CVs, today’s faculty touch the lives of their students through countless I’ll-never-forget-when moments—just as Whit Gray, John Reed, or others did for you. It is a legacy in which we all can take pride.

Mark D. West
Dean
Nippon Life Professor of Law
"#ME TOO HAS DONE WHAT THE LAW COULD NOT."

The headline of a *New York Times* op-ed about sexual harassment penned by Catharine A. MacKinnon, the Elizabeth A. Long Professor of Law.

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### SKADDEN FELLOW NAMED

Alexis Bailey, ’17, has been named a 2018 Skadden Fellow. Bailey, a U.S. Air Force veteran, will join Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service in Lansing, where she will provide direct representation to Michigan veterans with disabilities. The Skadden Fellowships, founded by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, annually fund 28 new graduates in full-time work for legal and other advocacy organizations, and encourage graduates to build public service careers based on helping underserved groups.

### HIGHER POWER

Some of the notable high-ranking foreign positions held by Michigan Law graduates

- **Asif Amin, LLM ’96**
  Head of International Law Department, Danish Ministry of Defence

- **Susanne Baer, LLM ’93**
  Justice, Constitutional Court of Germany

- **Holger Fleischer, LLM ’93**
  Director, Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law

- **Charles Forrest, ’87**
  Head of Legal Operations Unit, International Fund for Agricultural Development

- **Il-Won Kang, LLM ’93**
  Justice, Constitutional Court of Korea

- **Christopher Kendall, LLM ’93, SJD ’01**
  Judge, Federal Circuit Court of Australia

- **W. Robert Kohorst, ’78**
  U.S. Ambassador to Croatia

- **Tamas Kovacs, LLM ’96**
  Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission-Fraud Prevention

- **Zdenek Kühn, LLM ’02, SJD ’06**
  Justice, Supreme Administrative Court of the Czech Republic

- **Katarina Mathernova, LLM ’89**
  Deputy Director General, European Commission’s Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations

- **Siniša Rodin, LLM ’92**
  Judge, Court of Justice of the European Union

- **Goran Selanec, LLM ’02, SJD ’12**
  Justice, Constitutional Court of Croatia

- **Petr Válek, LLM ’05**
  Director, International Law Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

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**Daniel A. Crane  @DanielDancrane  • Feb 6**

Elon Musk wants to colonize Mars starting in 2024, a decade before NASA. It’s not too early to start thinking about governance rules for the red planet.
Megan L. Brown was named the first African American editor-in-chief of the Michigan Law Review.

“Thanks for including me. @UMich and @UMichLaw do MLK Day right. Lots of programs, lots of service, lots of justice fight. No golf.”


1L Lindsay Wardlaw, about the global teams she and her Michigan Law cohorts competed against in the 25th Annual Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna in March. The prestigious event was founded by Eric Bergsten, ’56, and featured more than 360 teams from 82 countries.
A beloved Michigan Law professor who teaches a popular Bloodfeuds class and an alumnus whose storytelling podcast has a national following were the speakers at Senior Day ceremonies in December and May. William I. Miller, the Thomas G. Long Professor of Law, spoke to December graduates and treated them to a linguistics lesson. “You had me for Property, and what you learned, if you learned anything, is that I sometimes take frolics and detours. These often dealt with the histories of words,” he said. “Remember I started out by saying that property is the same word as propriety, and that to owe and to own come from the same old English root. My graduation talk also will be a detour. Instead of talking about milestones, I’ll talk about the words graduation and degree. You can hardly expect me to give a standard go-forth-and-conquer commencement speech.” Glynn Washington, ’96, the host and executive producer of Snap Judgment, the radio show and podcast distributed by NPR affiliate WNYC, offered words of wisdom to May graduates. “This law degree you’re getting is a special type of alchemy,” said Washington. “It’s a special type of magic.” Stressing the importance of remaining connected to one’s Law School classmates, Washington advised graduates to “guard those relationships—nourish them—because with these people, and your heart, and that piece of paper—you can do great things.” Ceremonies also featured graduating student speakers: Nessma Bashi, a member of the December 2017 class, and Johannah Walker, a member of the May 2018 class.

Photos: (top to bottom) Glynn Washington addresses graduating students. Professor Bill Miller congratulates Nessma Bashi. Students sing “The Victors.” Dean Mark West greets Liliya Paraketsova and her son. Opposite page: (top left) Johannah Walker prepares to address her class. (top right, middle right, and left) Camaraderie before the ceremony begins. (bottom) Students celebrate their success.

LEISA THOMPSON PHOTOGRAPHY
Student groups bestowed scholarships or fellowships on Michigan Law students at awards banquets held during the academic year.

1. Last October, Outlaws hosted its third Kevin E. Kennedy Fellowship Gala (formerly the Gayla), during which the Spectrum Fellowship Award was presented to 2L Josh Goldman and the Spectrum Fund Award in Memory of Kevin E. Kennedy was given to 2L Lori Interlicchio. Pictured with Interlicchio and Goldman are guest speakers Ben Mizer, ’02, former acting assistant attorney general for the Justice Department’s civil division and a partner at Jones Day, and Lara Finkbeiner, ’13, deputy legal director of the International Refugee Assistance Project.

2. The Latino Law Students Association (LLSA) held its 33rd Juan Luis Tienda Scholarship Banquet on March 16, and presented scholarships to two 1Ls: Amara Lopez and Alessandra Rosales. Jim Rowader, ’90, vice president and general counsel of employee and labor relations at Target, was the guest speaker. Pictured in the photo are LLSA members Irma Cruz and Jorge Mancillas, Juan Luis Tienda Scholarship recipients Lopez and Rosales, and David Arroyo, ’95, recipient of the J.T. Canales Distinguished Alumni Award.

3. The Black Law Students Association hosted its 40th Alden J. “Butch” Carpenter Memorial Scholarship Gala on March 17. It featured a conversation between Broderick Johnson, ’83, senior Cabinet official and former assistant to President Obama and a partner at Bryan Cave, and Valerie Jarrett, ’81, former senior adviser to President Obama and Distinguished Senior Fellow at the University of Chicago Law School. Scholarships were awarded to three 1Ls: Jennifer Hill, McKenzie Southworth, and Kara Crutcher (pictured).

Richard Primus
@Richard_Primus • Feb 1

Just finished judging moot court quarterfinal @UmichLaw. And man, did I see some good lawyering.

The final round of the 93rd annual Henry M. Campbell Moot Court Competition was held in March. 3L Johannah Walker won the competition; 3L John He was the runner-up.

TOP GUNS

3L Eric Fleddermann and 1L Olivia Dworkin were semi-finalists in the 2018 National Trial Competition, sponsored by the Texas Young Lawyers Association. The pair also finished second at Baylor Law School’s invitation-only “Top Gun National Mock Trial Competition.”

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On March 22, the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association hosted its 13th Origins Banquet, which included the naming of Jasmine Wang as the 1L Public Interest Fellowship recipient. Wang is pictured at right with Reena Bajowala, ’05, a partner at Ice Miller and founder of the Origins Banquet. Frank Wu, ’91, former dean and chancellor and distinguished professor at the University of California, Hastings, College of the Law, was the guest speaker.

At its Women’s Leadership Banquet on March 29, the Women Law Students Association presented the Jenny Runkles Memorial Award to 2Ls Anna Hall and Megan Giles (pictured next to the podium). The event featured guest speaker Tonya Myers Phillips, ’03, executive director of the Southwest Detroit Community Justice Center.
IN PRACTICE

A Case of “Five-Ring Fever”

By Lori Atherton

There is such a thing as “Five-Ring Fever,” and Chris McCleary certainly has it. He first caught it at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, and he’s never lost it. It’s what you would expect, given that McCleary is the general counsel for the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC).

“Seeing American athletes have signature moments in their lifetime—there’s nothing like it,” says McCleary, who witnessed two such moments in February at the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. McCleary was in the stands when the U.S. men’s curling team beat Sweden to win the country’s first Olympic gold medal in the sport, and he was there when the U.S. women’s hockey team defeated Canada in a penalty shootout to win gold. “That was a great moment where everyone was crying and raising the American flag,” McCleary says. “I think even the team that didn’t win felt like they were in one of the greatest matches of their life. It was thrilling.”

McCleary, ‘91, joined the USOC in January 2015, though his involvement with the Olympics started when he was working in-house at Visa Inc., where, in addition to other roles, he was the senior vice president and senior associate general counsel of global brand and client management. His work at Visa, a worldwide sponsor of the Olympics, positioned him well for his legal duties at the USOC.

As general counsel, McCleary’s responsibilities include all USOC legal, contract, intellectual property, and dispute resolution matters. Because the USOC’s goal is to support athletes in their Olympic endeavors, a big part of McCleary’s job is securing national and international sponsorship deals.

The USOC is one of 206 national Olympic committees around the world, but unlike other committees, it does not receive funding from the government. Instead, Congress—through the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act of 1978—granted the USOC exclusive ownership of all official Olympics trademarks, logos, and phrases, including the five interlocking rings and Team USA. “As a result, the USOC needs to get donations and sponsorships from organizations that would like to be associated with those marks,” McCleary says.

Under the Ted Stevens Act, the USOC also was given the responsibility to recognize the different nonprofit sports entities—called National Governing Bodies (NGBs)—whose athletes participate in the Olympics. USA Volleyball, USA Basketball, and USA Track & Field are examples of NGBs. “The USOC’s responsibility is to figure out which of those entities can be an NGB for a sport, and then try to mediate between all the different NGBs and make the rules clear for them so that they treat athletes fairly,” McCleary explains. “There are 50 NGBs, and while the USOC doesn’t manage them, we recognize them for the purpose of the Olympics. We work with the NGBs to ensure athletes have opportunities to compete, excel, and rise to the top of their sport and be chosen to represent the U.S. on an Olympic or Paralympic team, or on a team in the Pan American Games.”

Though McCleary’s role gives him a front-row seat at each Olympics, like any lawyer, his work mostly is done behind-the-scenes and years in advance of each Olympic Games. McCleary already is finalizing details for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo and looking ahead to the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. He and his team are focused on making arrangements for the athletes, which includes getting athletes to and from the host country, figuring out where they are going to live and train, making sure the right food is available for them, ensuring their safety, and getting them to their competitions. “These are people who have focused on getting themselves honed to the best possible version of themselves as athletes,” McCleary says. “They feel strongly about the routines they want to use, so we work day and night to make sure their routines are the same and any distraction is kept to an absolute minimum so they can focus on what they care about the most.”

McCleary likens the preparation to planning for a wedding. “You made the arrangements, and now you have to sit back and let things unfold. The thrill of it when you are an attorney is to see everything come to fruition. When you are looking at the men’s curling team winning the gold medal, and U.S. fans are chanting and singing, it’s overwhelming to see it work, just as it would be on that wedding day. You say, ‘wow, this happened, everybody’s here, and we are having this great moment together.’”
Some Olympic moments, however, can’t be anticipated, especially when hundreds of athletes are part of a U.S. delegation. Case in point: The 2016 Rio Games, during which U.S. swimmer Ryan Lochte and some of his teammates falsely claimed they had been robbed. “That’s where my job became very different than what I envisioned when I first took it,” McCleary admits. A late-night phone call revealed that two American swimmers were pulled off their flight home and were being held in a detention center at the airport. That phone call led to an intense week during which McCleary was working around the clock to gather the facts and get the athletes released from Brazilian police custody—all while under the glare of the international spotlight. “Slowly over the week we were able to pull apart the facts and realized that at first, it looked like our swimmers had been robbed, but later it developed that their story wasn’t hanging together, and that they were doing dumb stuff and got caught,” McCleary says. “Our first responsibility was to make sure the athletes got home safely, and then once they were home, determine what sanctions to impose on them once it became clear what they had done, which embarrassed the police and people of Rio.”

A big issue McCleary and his legal team are dealing with now—and which also involves the international spotlight, as well as litigation, congressional hearings, and the resignation of the USOC’s CEO—is the Larry Nassar sexual abuse scandal and his affiliation with USA Gymnastics. McCleary says that while officials at the USOC didn’t have any direct relationship with Nassar, officials at USA Gymnastics—one of the NGBs that the USOC supports and recognizes—did. As the head organization supporting U.S. Olympians, McCleary says it’s necessary for the USOC to lead in this area, including by investigating what happened and doing what’s necessary to help ensure that athletes are kept safe from abuse and other misdeeds. “What more could the USOC do to help ensure people at NGBs and throughout the Olympic community are conducting themselves ethically and with a focus on athlete safety so something like this doesn’t happen again? That’s what we’re working on,” says McCleary. “This issue is so painful and confusing for people—we need to keep working until everyone understands exactly what happened and can be confident that athletes will be safe.”

Despite the controversy, McCleary’s enjoyment in working for the USOC hasn’t diminished. If seeing athletes at the height of their sport isn’t enough to make this a dream job for McCleary, perhaps it’s the up-and-comers he often sees at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, where the USOC is located, who make it more so. “More than once I’ve gotten to chat with kids who are trying to make their mark and who say, ‘I can’t believe I’m here training at this center with all these great athletes and coaches.’ To see a person like that having that experience, it’s so much more meaningful to me than a great quarterly report. These are people you really want to pull for, people you want good things to happen to, and I love being part of an organization that helps them achieve their dreams.”
Bringing Cybercrimes to Justice and the Law up to Speed

By Jordan Poll

It is 2018. Not using or being affected by the Internet today is as feasible as shutting out the entire world. With the digital age taking off around us, Breanna Van Engelen, ’14, is fighting a new wave of criminals.

A civil trial litigator in Seattle, Van Engelen specializes in technology and privacy—an interest stemming from her time at Michigan Law. “I was fascinated by Professor [Jessica] Litman’s view on using copyright statute to help victims of non-consensual pornography get their images removed from the Internet,” says Van Engelen. “It is an issue facing hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Americans right now.” Which was why, on her second day with K&L Gates, Van Engelen joined the firm’s Cyber Civil Rights Legal Project—a pro bono effort using creative legal theory to help victims of nonconsensual pornography. “This is an area where the law hasn’t caught up to people’s conduct, and where victims have limited access to legal counsel,” says Van Engelen. “It takes real people on the ground, working every day as a team, to bring a cybercriminal to justice.”

Within several weeks of Van Engelen joining the initiative, one of its biggest cases walked through the door: Allen v. Zonis. Van Engelen’s clients, Courtney and Steven Allen, were suing Todd Zonis for cyberstalking and harassment that began when Mrs. Allen broke off an online relationship with Zonis that had involved explicit conversations and videos of a sexual nature. Van Engelen’s work in and out of the courtroom unwound the Allens’ tangled tale—and Zonis’s claims that he, not the Allens, was the victim—and ultimately presented an argument that resulted in an $8.9 million jury verdict for the Allens. It was a record-setting cyber harassment verdict for a case not involving a celebrity. “Every day, I felt for the Allens and what they endured,” says Van Engelen. “It pushed me to go above and beyond. I did what I had to because I knew we were on the right side.”

With limited technical experience outside of what she learned for the case, Van Engelen spent free time studying cyber forensic textbooks and anonymizing software. “Catching a cybercriminal takes a level of motivation that goes beyond billing hours,” she says. “You have to follow every lead, powering through the evidence, to catch them in a mistake.” Van Engelen painstakingly searched until she found the one login where Zonis—who denied much of the harassment—forgot to use the Tor browser that helped him move anonymously online.

While it was clear to Van Engelen who deserved justice, she had to convince the jury to look beyond her client’s extramarital cyber affair. “I was worried they wouldn’t forgive her and would blame her for making the videos that Zonis later sent to others,” says Van Engelen. “But the torment she, her husband, and child faced on a daily, sometimes hourly, basis…it was so disproportionate.”

In order to break this perception that Mrs. Allen’s behavior enabled the crime, Van Engelen used the teachings of Michigan Law Professor Marshall Goldberg, to create a narrative that was truthful, compelling, and resonated with the jury. “Jurors are human beings with real-world experiences, and I knew they would have the empathy and compassion to do the right thing,” says Van Engelen. “I wouldn’t have had these skills—nor this success—had I not taken his class.”

Even though Allen v. Zonis was a landmark verdict, it will take more of its kind before the law catches up to technology. “Action needs to be taken on state and national levels, giving cybercrimes felony status,” says Van Engelen, who continues to advocate for the law to change but foresees it ultimately happening at the hands of juries. “In many ways, juries are more ready than the law to hold cybercriminals accountable. Jurors understand we aren’t living in a puritanical world anymore and this kind of conduct isn’t acceptable.”
Opportunity and Complexity in the Middle East

By John Masson

It may not be the simplest place to do business, but there’s plenty of opportunity in the Middle East.

And through a combination of experience, language skills, and his education at Michigan Law, Kamran Bajwa, ’99, is in the sweet spot for helping make sure that opportunity turns into success.

Bajwa, a partner at Kirkland & Ellis in Chicago overseeing the firm’s activities in the Middle East, began developing those qualifications after earning his BA in sociology at U-M in 1994.

Degree in hand, he followed his interest in Islamic law to Cairo, where he studied that subject and the Arabic language for two years at Al-Azhar Seminary.

“It’s the most ancient seminary in the Islamic world,” he says. “And through that, I decided to study law in the United States.” So Bajwa returned to Ann Arbor to pursue his JD at Michigan Law.

“I just sort of dove into my intellectual and philosophical interest in law,” he says. “Then the practical training of it, and exposure to the job market, piqued my curiosity to become a mergers and acquisitions lawyer.”

That led him to Kirkland & Ellis. He worked there as an associate for several years, and his skills as an Arabic-speaking American M&A specialist helped him rise to prominence in the Middle Eastern market. Eventually, he left Kirkland to pursue his opportunities in the region, living at various times in Dubai, Cairo, and Bahrain.

“Why have I been able to be successful there? Largely because of my U-M legal training,” Bajwa says. “Yes, I have language and technical skills that help. But the Middle East is trying to develop a U.S. capitalist model, so you can do a lot of good by bringing the M&A know-how you acquired in the United States into the region.”

Bajwa, who in addition to English and Arabic is fluent in Punjabi, finds that especially true as the Middle East works to diversify away from its dependence on oil exports into such areas as renewable energy, automotive manufacturing, and tech. He says if the region is successful—and avoids the kinds of geopolitical pitfalls that have tripped up some countries—the result will be substantial growth.

“If there is peace, they’ll continue to do well,” Bajwa says. “If not, that always throws a big unknown into development. American companies doing business there usually go in for premium, high-value opportunities that have strong government support. These projects are entered into with a lot of risk mitigation built in upfront, so they do a pretty good job of continuing to grow business despite regional conflict.”

By the end of his eight years overseas, Bajwa had become general counsel of EFG Hermes, the largest investment bank in the Middle East/North Africa region, where he established its first in-house legal department and worked on increasingly complex international transactions. But even while working in M&A, where Islamic law generally isn’t applicable, Bajwa maintained a presence in that field with think tanks and political leaders in the region.

Those connections have served him well since he returned to Kirkland & Ellis as a partner, where he has built on his dual interests to remain involved in policy questions. While Islamic law still is only a small part of Bajwa’s practice, he also is a lecturer on the topic at the University of Chicago Law School and a board member of the university’s Chicago Project on Security and Threats (CPOST).

“It’s the issue of the day for American interests in that region,” Bajwa says. “My insights are more relevant from the Islamic law perspective, such as analyzing the theological arguments of ISIS—a passion of mine.”

For Bajwa, that means stepping back from what he calls the “headline approach,” which is all too common in public discourse.

“It’s about demystifying the whole topic, away from the media and public opinion perceptions, to get to the reality on the ground,” he says. “How do we understand what’s actually behind what’s happening?”
Like most headline-grabbing problems, the myriad issues surrounding climate change are integral to the work of many Michigan Law graduates. For some alumni, curbing and combating climate change is their life’s calling. For others, it is another hurdle to navigate as they pursue optimal outcomes for their clients or businesses.

In the following pages, you will read about a few of the ways that climate change is defining and redefining the work of some Michigan Law alumni. It is far from being all-inclusive—in terms of the layers of work or the people involved. Nor is it an attempt to portray heroes or villains, or to propose a definitive solution.

In addition, although Michigan Law’s strong tradition in environmental law has produced a plethora of environmental activists, you will find them largely absent from this story.

Rather, our goal is to showcase some of the less obvious ways that Michigan Law alumni are facing and influencing one of the defining issues of our time.
How do you find a bipartisan path forward? I don’t necessarily think all Republicans have to agree with each other, or all Democrats have to agree with each other. Some Democrats, some Republicans, and some Independents have to step forward, stand tall, and show leadership.

—FRED KRUPP, ’78
President, Environmental Defense Fund
Aaron Cutler, ‘04, thought the meeting was too risky, and he told his boss so. “I said, ‘Eric, if it gets out in the press, it won’t look good.’ And Eric replied, ‘Just because we disagree with somebody doesn’t mean we shouldn’t meet with them. When we meet with people, we learn.’” At the time, Cutler’s boss, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor [R-VA], was known for toeing the party line. But against Cutler’s advice as his senior adviser for policy and outreach, Cantor agreed to meet with a Harvard University professor in 2014 to talk about climate change. “The first thing the professor told us was that he wasn’t trying to ban fossil fuels and he wasn’t trying to set goals for the next decade. He said that he just wanted to make sure we have policies in place now so that in 100 years, we’re much better off than we otherwise would be. And I said, ‘Well, with that line of thinking, we can actually work together.’”
Working together on climate change has been a tough sell inside the Beltway in recent years. Once upon a time, way back in the early 2000s, Senators John McCain [R-AZ] and Joseph Lieberman [D-CT] introduced the first bipartisan cap-and-trade bill; versions of that bill were introduced with bipartisan support through 2007. As recently as 2008, a presidential campaign ad for McCain touted him as having “sounded the alarm on global warming.” Today, the president has said that climate change is a hoax perpetrated by the Chinese, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrator has disputed scientific evidence that carbon emissions from human activity are the main driver of climate change, and a senator brought a snowball to the Senate floor to dispute claims that 2014 was the hottest ever recorded.

What happened?

Many say that extremist views have become more extreme—fueled by the spotlight of a 24/7 news cycle and special-interest money unleashed in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2010 Citizens United decision, which held that corporations and unions have a First Amendment right to spend money to support or denounce candidates for office. “On both sides, I think part of the problem is you have bloggers and media who, if they see a Democrat-Republican meeting, will think there’s some conspiracy afoot that is going to undermine the party,” says Cutler, who now is a partner in the D.C. office of Hogan Lovells. “But as loud as those voices can be, policy is made inside the Capitol and the White House, and while we aren’t going to see a Climate Change Act of 2018, I think there are ways that we can make incremental progress forward.”

Incremental progress is not enough, argues David Van’t Hof, ’94, a senior Fellow at Climate Solutions who also advises clients like National Grid through his policy and transactional law practice, based in Portland, Oregon. “Scientific consensus tells us that we have reached a stage of urgency to radically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and keep the planet from heating up further in order to avoid the worst of the destabilizing conflicts that will be caused by droughts, increased forest fires, and large-scale displacement of communities. It doesn’t look like our federal government is capable of addressing the issue in the near term, so it will continue to fall on states and cities to push for decarbonization of our economy.”

Environmentalists decried the ascension of Scott Pruitt as administrator of the EPA—a climate change denier who repeatedly sued the EPA when he was Oklahoma’s attorney general. But Fred Krupp, ’78, the president of the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), says Pruitt’s agenda actually could help Washington reach meaningful action on climate change. “The fact that Administrator Pruitt’s views on climate change are so extreme has created both a desire and a need for many on Capitol Hill to separate themselves from that radical denialism,” Krupp says. “So we are seeing within Congress the emergence of more leadership on that basis.”

Cutler and Krupp both point to the Climate Solutions Caucus, a bipartisan group of members of the U.S. House of Representatives, as an important step forward. The caucus was founded in 2016 by two U.S. representatives from Florida—Republican Carlos Curbelo and Democrat Ted Deutch—whose districts are on the front line of the extreme weather events and rising sea levels that are widely attributed to climate change. The caucus currently boasts 74 members, equally divided between Republicans and
Democrats. Members include Fred Upton [R-MI], the former chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and current chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy who has a lifetime score of just 26 percent from the League of Conservation Voters. “In terms of putting aside the most extreme positions on either side and trying to find common cause, I think someone like Fred can be very valuable,” says Cutler, who served as Upton’s deputy policy director and counsel during part of his tenure as committee chair. “He can help drive the push for common-sense, incremental policy that we try, then evaluate, then decide whether to build on that policy or go in a different direction. Finding those opportunities is the key.”

Another important factor is state-driven initiatives, notes Cutler. “They’re the incubators, and sometimes, on energy policy, seeing states do certain things can be a way to see if it would work on the federal level.”

For many years, the West Coast states have been the biggest, brightest-burning incubators when it comes to combatting climate change. In 2007, the governors of Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon, and Washington created the Western Climate Initiative (WCI), with the goal of developing a multisector cap-and-trade program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the electricity, natural gas, and transportation sectors. Under a cap-and-trade system, regulated businesses must hold an allowance for every ton of carbon they emit. If they emit less carbon, they can sell extra allowances to other businesses; if they need more, they can buy them from those businesses who are selling their overage.

Spearheading Oregon’s participation in the WCI was Van’t Hof, who at the time was senior policy adviser for sustainability to Gov. Ted Kulongoski. Van’t Hof clerked for Kulongoski on the Oregon Supreme Court shortly after graduating from law school, and Kulongoski lured him out of private practice to be the first sustainability policy adviser for any U.S. governor. As an associate in the natural resources practice at Stoel Rives LLP in Portland, Van’t Hof had developed an interest in water rights law and alternative energy—wind farms were becoming a booming business in Oregon at the time—“and from there the governor and I started talking more about the broader issue of climate change,” he says.

The WCI expanded to include several Canadian provinces, but political changes in several statehouses, as well as shifting priorities in the midst of the Great Recession, led to all states except California withdrawing as partners by 2011. Oregon and Washington have not been able to secure legislative authorization to join; today just California, Ontario, and Quebec have implemented the cap-and-trade program. But Van’t Hof says the WCI’s success lies in the fact that a framework for a regional, economy-wide carbon market now exists, and is being used by three entities separated by geographic distance and a national border. “We’ve seen that it can work, and I think in Washington [State] and Oregon, the momentum is swinging back that way. A lot of foundations and donors who want to address carbon emissions now see, with the current administration in D.C., that the regional, state, and local levels are the best way to do so.” Van’t Hof believes that Washington State likely will have a carbon tax proposal on the November 2018 ballot, and is hopeful that Oregon will pass its own cap-and-trade bill—and authorization for joining the WCI—in the 2019 legislative session.
During his time on Kulongoski’s staff, Van’t Hof also led the state’s adoption of a renewable portfolio standard (RPS), which mandates a percentage of the state’s electricity come from non-fossil-fuel sources like wind and solar. The original bill, passed in 2007, called for 25 percent of Oregon’s energy usage to be renewably sourced by 2050; in 2016, the Coal to Clean bill modified the RPS to 50 percent by 2040. Heralded as one of the first really aggressive RPSs in the country, Oregon’s 2007 legislation was the culmination of years of negotiating and consensus building on Van’t Hof’s part. “In Oregon, there’s a three-legged stool of energy and climate policy—activists, utilities, and the business community. You need two of the three legs to get something done, legislatively. Large industry and the business community mostly stayed opposed, but once the utilities saw that the legislation had a good shot at happening, they got on board so that they could help shape it in a way that they could live with. That’s when an RPS became something that we could pass.”

The state was able to pass an even more aggressive RPS in 2016 because “the naysayers were proved wrong,” says Van’t Hof. “Those opposed to the RPS said utility rates would skyrocket and it would be bad for the economy, so we put an out-clause into the legislation if rates went up by more than 4 percent on account of complying with the RPS. But no one ever had to exercise it.” Instead, Van’t Hof says, the RPS resulted in no rate increases, while counties where wind turbines were erected saw and continue to see millions of dollars of new property tax revenues, as well as an influx of jobs because large renewable energy companies like Vestas, Avangrid Renewables, and Solar World have established their North American headquarters in the state. There also is reason to believe that 50 percent RPSs soon may be passed over in favor of 100 percent clean energy programs. Hawaii already has authorized 100 percent clean energy. California and Washington, as well as less likely states like Colorado, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, also have legislative proposals under consideration.

Cap-and-trade also has the potential to stimulate the economy, Van’t Hof adds. “Cap-and-trade forces mitigation of climate change because it makes greenhouse gas emitters reduce those emissions. It also creates a new revenue pool that we can invest toward further mitigation measures like more energy efficiency and more renewable energy, as well as forest thinning and wildfire management, coastal reinforcement, and other investment pathways that are more on the adaptation side of the problem.”

In his 34 years as the leader of the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), Krupp has played an active role in innumerable policy discussions—with all of the accompanying starts, stops, restarts, and right (and left) turns. Yet he says that he is more hopeful today than he has ever been about the world’s ability to curb manmade damage to the environment and points to regional cap-and-trade programs as a big reason why. “When we put a price on carbon, we put the powerful engine of capitalism to work to find the solutions we need. We incentivize innovation.”
When U.S. Representatives Henry Waxman [D-CA] and Edward Markey [D-MA] brought the American Clean Energy and Security Act to a vote in 2009, Cutler was energy counsel to Rep. Joe Barton [R-TX], the chair of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Known as the Waxman-Markey Bill, the legislation, which narrowly passed the House and never came to a vote in the Senate, called for a nationwide cap-and-trade system to control carbon emissions. “It was flawed legislation because it had so many giveaways,” Cutler says. “They were cutting deals on the House floor to get the votes. Because of that experience, I can’t help but think that cap-and-trade is fundamentally flawed. I just don’t see how it works.”

Krupp says that putting a price and declining limit on carbon is EDF’s top priority related to climate change. And he says he can see how it works because he has seen it working. “It has been successful in California and with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative in the Northeast. When we find a way to have a similar system nationwide and worldwide—wow. The progress will happen much faster than anyone can now imagine.”

He stresses that cap-and-trade is just one way to price carbon; another is to establish a carbon tax, which will work, Krupp says, if it contains an environmental integrity mechanism that links the tax to a pollution reduction goal, adjusting the tax over time, if necessary, to ensure the goal is met. Regardless of the path that countries and states pursue, achieving the goal matters most to EDF. “We should be flexible as to how we price carbon, so long as we’re sure it’s going to get the job of cutting emissions done.”

EDF also has been working in Europe and China to help governments construct carbon-pricing systems. About 30 percent of the organization’s work now is outside the United States, and Krupp expects that number to grow. He calls Chinese President Xi’s commitment to carbon pricing “a very encouraging development. The amount of cuts that we need to make can only be achieved by everyone pitching in and every country pitching in.”

Krupp believes countries’ and businesses’ willingness to pitch in has and will continue to increase significantly because of the transparency of today’s world. “It’s easier now for people to see the impact of decisions. Reputations, despite the attempts at spin and PR, are increasingly being determined by actual facts.” EDF has long been at the forefront of establishing environmental partnerships with large corporations, including McDonald’s Corp. and Wal-Mart Stores Inc. “It’s in the interest of businesses to be good citizens and minimize their pollution because their customers want it—and their customers are likely to know if they’re failing to do so,” notes Krupp.

The result, says Krupp, is the potential for momentum beyond what he’s experienced in his tenure at EDF. “Despite the obvious obstacles in Washington, we’re starting to have the wind at our back in the environmental community, whereas for a lot of my career, we’ve had the wind in our face.” But the challenge is how to harness the momentum into tangible impact. “What we need is a race to the top, where states and businesses, politicians and elected officials, are all looking to demonstrate leadership. That’s when we win.”
The left thinks the energy sector is evil because of its use of fossil fuels. But the power sector is completely on course to meet the commitments of the Paris Accord and the Clean Power Plan—not due to climate policy, but due to fuel switching.

—MARC MANLY, ’77
Former Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, Duke Energy
When Mike Hardy, ’72, and Jim Spaanstra, ’77, began practicing environmental law, the laws, the issues facing their clients, and the environment itself were different than they are now. Hardy became an environmental lawyer because his firm needed a young associate to figure out this burgeoning practice area; for Spaanstra—who considered former Michigan Law Professor and environmental law pioneer Joe Sax a mentor—it was the reason he came to law school.
Both Hardy and Spaanstra have spent the majority of their careers at law firms, where their client lists include coal-fired power plants, utilities, oil and gas companies, and others whom most environmental activists view as the biggest causes of the climate change problem, rather than part of the solution. “I’ve had people ask me how I sleep at night,” says Spaanstra, a senior counsel in the Denver office of Faegre Baker Daniels LLP who also has served for nearly a decade on the board of Great Outdoors Colorado, including a year as executive director. “I tell them to pick any person in the public sector, and I gladly will put my record of accomplishments in environmental protection and remediation against theirs.”

Hardy, who retired in May as senior counsel at Thompson Hine LLP in Cleveland, recalls his first big case was representing a utility whose emissions from its coal-fired power plant were contributing to the acidification of lakes and rivers hundreds of miles to the east—a phenomenon known as acid rain. “Everybody in environmental law practice at that time was very young, and we all were learning together,” Hardy says. “We were creating precedent that eventually was adopted by many courts nationwide.”

Beyond releasing the nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides that caused acid rain, scientists now have proven that burning fossil fuels also releases carbon into the atmosphere. The carbon buildup is significantly accelerating the warming of the earth’s atmosphere and contributing to other changes to the earth’s climate. More than 40 years after his first case, Hardy says that most of his clients have switched from coal to natural gas and renewable energy—because of legislation and economics. “People are saying it’s more efficient, more environmentally acceptable to move away from coal-fired generation. For a historically coal-dominated state like Ohio, that’s an amazing transformation.”

Spaanstra noticed a significant change in his practice a little more than a decade ago, “when I really started to work with clients to deal with what I, and many of them, viewed as the inevitability that greenhouse gases were going to be regulated.” He says that while a strong scientific case for such regulation existed then, “there was significant tension between that reality and the drive for U.S. energy independence. By and large, geopolitics took precedence over environmental threats at that time, but many of my more thoughtful clients were telling me even then that we had to attempt to navigate that complexity. Ironically, for some, the evolution of fracking and horizontal drilling technologies in the production of natural gas has materially reduced those tensions in the interim.”

Spaanstra is not convinced that coal should be left in the ground, but says the industry should have been lobbying the federal government a decade ago for the technology to make it cleaner, rather than relying solely on relentless opposition to any carbon regulation whatsoever. Another way that business is navigating that fossil-fuel complexity is by moving toward natural gas, which is cheaper due in large part to the development of an extraction technique called hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking. Yet that creates a different complexity. Fracking is controversial because of the amount of water required for the process and because it releases methane, another greenhouse gas (like carbon) that scientists believe to be a significant contributor to climate change. Both Hardy and Spaanstra have represented clients who frack, and both see it as a way to produce an important bridge fuel in the country’s move from fossil fuels like coal and oil to renewable energies like wind and solar. “It’s a technological innovation that has opened up many opportunities for lower-cost energy sources in the United States,” Hardy says, “but it has to be done right.”
That's where big oil and gas companies, who have had a less-than-stellar reputation among environmental activists, can be unlikely allies, says Spaanstra. “They have the money to mitigate the potential for environmental harm in a way that smaller operations just don’t.” He also points to how some in the oil and gas industry got on board with Gov. John Hickenlooper’s 2014 push that made Colorado the first state to regulate methane emissions. “The regulated community doesn’t always wear the black hat. What they want is regulatory predictability, and on climate change, they see the current administration in D.C. as a regulatory bump in the road of having to limit greenhouse gas emissions. So the majority are long-term planning with this in mind.”

Marc Manly, ’77, spent much of his career navigating regulatory uncertainty, first in the telecommunications industry as a partner at Sidley Austin LLP, then in the energy sector as a general counsel. For more than a decade, he was the chief legal officer and corporate secretary for Duke Energy, which is one of the nation’s largest electric utilities. Prior to retiring in 2015, he also served as executive vice president and president of Duke Energy’s commercial portfolio organization, including Duke Energy Renewables. “The industry is trying to make 50-year investment decisions, and having uncertain and unpredictable policy is incredibly frustrating,” Manly says. “I think the majority of utilities are not as concerned with the precise requirements of the rules, as long as they generally make sense. They just want to know what the damn rules are and have some certainty that they will stay consistent.”

When Manly first came to the energy sector as general counsel of a startup in 2000, climate change was not a topic. Acid rain was the primary environmental focus, and regulation centered on how to curb nitrogen oxide (NOx) and sulfur oxide (SOx) emissions that were causing acid rain. “There’s a saying that history repeats itself because we don’t learn from our mistakes, but there’s a flip side: We apparently don’t learn from our successes either. Industry and the country were incredibly successful under the Clean Air Act with a bipartisan cap-and-trade program that dramatically reduced NOx and SOx emissions,” Manly says, noting that although the electric sector invested billions of dollars to reduce both of these emissions by more than 80 percent, the resulting increase in utility rates was less than that of inflation. “We let the market determine how best to reduce NOx and SOx emissions through cap-and-trade. But now, when it comes to similar talk for reducing carbon emissions, Democrats don’t like it because it smacks too much of a market, and Republicans don’t like it because it smacks too much of a tax. This partisan divide leaves us unable to reach agreement on what to do, and unwilling to extend demonstrably successful approaches.”

Manly says the Obama administration tried to sidestep the divide by issuing executive orders and agency mandates instead of continuing to butt heads with Congress. He cites 2014’s Clean Power Plan, where the president deployed a rarely used provision of the Clean Air Act of 1970 that gave the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority to issue regulations on carbon dioxide. “Instead of relying on the market, the Clean Power Plan relied on directives. It would’ve been a colossal bureaucratic morass,” says Manly. At the same time, Spaanstra notes, President Obama’s initiatives were successful in pushing the envelope. “The regulations were, in part, intended to drive innovation to meet environmentally protective standards that seemed impossible to achieve. Along the way, EPA’s push perhaps beyond the outer edge of what was bureaucratically achievable and legally defensible had the intended result, I believe, of motivating companies and jurisdictions nationwide to plan for the inevitability of having to address climate change.” Spaanstra says the industry’s shift in thinking was evident when the leadership of his utility client, Xcel Energy, appeared next to Obama when he announced the Clean Power Plan. “They recognized early on that their business plan had to change, and in my view, that recognition isn’t going to be affected materially by who’s in the White House at any given time.”

A March 2018 Gallup Poll found that 59 percent of Americans think the United States should prioritize the environment over energy production. How much more would that same 59 percent be willing to pay in order to protect the environment better? And what about those who struggle to pay their existing utility bills?

“Everyone expects that when you flip a switch, the lights will come on,” says Steven Fetter, ’79. “But there’s only a limited amount of funds you can pull from the customers to accomplish that. Alternatively, if you lay the burden on investors, they will lose interest in supporting the utility sector with its long-term financial needs, both equity and borrowing in the form of bonds.” Democratic Gov. Jim Blanchard appointed Fetter to the Michigan Public Service Commission in 1987, and Republican Gov. John Engler
elevated him to chairman in 1991 and reappointed him in 1993. Fetter later was managing director and head of the global power group at Fitch IBCA Duff & Phelps, which determines bond ratings for the utility industry. These ratings are important for utilities to secure long-term funding for multiyear projects like building new plants, since they cannot rationally recoup the entirety of those costs by immediately placing them into customer rates. Rather, support from the financial community allows utilities to build plants with cost recovery coming over an extended period from current and future customers who will benefit from the utility infrastructure.

Today, Fetter is a Seattle-based consultant who provides expert witness testimony, usually in support of a utility, but also at times on the consumer side. He also serves on the board of Central Hudson Gas and Electric in New York State. He worries about the costs of mitigating climate change, and who will shoulder the burden. “Regulated utilities believe that if they take prudent steps to comply with the law or with regulation from a state or federal commission, then they should receive 100 percent recovery on the expenditures they incur in order to be compliant.”

The pressure, says Fetter, stems from regulators’ sensitivity about the cost of electricity and natural gas, and its impact on the populace. “You can’t mandate utility actions through regulation and then either not compensate them or expect them to be able to collect the added costs from their customers without limit. Those customers span everyone from the largest of corporations to people who rely upon social welfare programs to get by day to day, so financial cost and recovery is an incredibly complex issue.”

The prevailing regulatory principle for the past century has been that utilities enjoy a monopoly in exchange for producing reliable power at the lowest reasonable cost. As they continue to increase in reliability and decrease in cost, renewable energy is changing the equation, Manly says. He points out that the majority of states also have passed renewable portfolio standards mandating that a percentage of electricity generation come from non-polluting wind, solar, or hydro power, but says that the economics of renewables justifies their choice, certainly over new coal or nuclear generation. “I was a great believer in unregulated business—like renewables in the early days—and the opportunities that unregulated business provided to do beta tests and be prepared for the unknown,” says Manly. “I was such an advocate for these businesses, that for my last years at Duke Energy, I was asked to run them.” As the head of Duke Energy Renewables, Manly was a self-proclaimed agnostic between wind and solar; he also oversaw renewable energy (mostly hydro) projects in Latin America. “Whichever project was the best in terms of reduced risk and highest returns got my support. At the end of the day, we were running a business required to achieve acceptable returns.”

If Manly is an agnostic in the churches of wind and solar, China could be considered a zealot—the country leads the world in production of wind energy. China also relies heavily on hydro power as it moves away from fossil fuels. Xi Qin Fan, LLM ’09, is at the forefront of this change as China general counsel for GE Renewable Energy. Based in Shanghai, she oversees legal affairs for the company’s onshore and offshore wind businesses and hydro business, as well as a wind blade manufacturer that GE acquired recently. Primarily an original equipment manufacturer (OEM), GE Renewable Energy in China sells wind turbines and blades, hydro turbines and generators, and related services for the renewables market, including parts, service, and digital solutions. “I joined GE’s renewables business because I think this is where the future will be,” she says. “I don’t know when renewable energy use will exceed traditional energy use, but we see the growth potential—and that is reflected by our company’s performance in the renewable business improving year after year.”
Renewable energy in China in the past has relied heavily on subsidies from the government, but Fan says those subsidies may diminish because the Chinese government is aiming for grid parity by 2020. Power generation companies, as a result, are expected to focus more on power generation efficiency and parameters like levelized cost of energy or internal rate of return. Accordingly, OEMs in the renewables sector need to pivot to introduce new or upgraded turbines, generators, and other parts that can demonstrate greater performance in power generation efficiency.

She thinks that to some extent, most Chinese share Americans’ general sense of complacency about the source of their power, as long as their power is reliable and cheap—but with one critical difference. While smog is legendary in Los Angeles and its suburbs, and becoming an increased concern in other cities, poor air quality in some parts of China—to the point where people wear masks, especially in the winter—has raised a lot of public concern. That is driving the government’s push toward renewable energy, as well as public awareness of the need to produce cleaner energy, Fan says. “China is growing, and it’s a relatively resource-restricted country, so the government has been very determined with regard to increasing the proportion of renewable energy as a source of electricity. And the average citizen’s consciousness about the need for renewable energy is increasing as air pollution affects their daily lives.”

Public awareness also will increase, she notes, if renewables move to a distributed energy model. Instead of a wind farm harnessing energy hundreds of miles away that then is transported to cities, a small group of homes or apartment buildings could share a renewable energy source, like a turbine, under this system. “It reduces the amount of investment needed to build a large-scale farm,” Fan says, “and it makes people see that renewable energy is powering their homes in a much more vivid way.”

China’s push to reduce carbon emissions is more than a domestic matter; it is equally determined to drive the global cooperation toward combatting climate change, says Fan. “We regret the Trump administration’s decision to withdraw from the Paris Accord, but China will continue its efforts to promote a fair and reasonable global climate governance system.”

Within the United States, individual states and businesses will continue their efforts, too, Manly says. In the last 10 years, the push away from coal to natural gas and renewables has reduced the energy sector’s total carbon emissions by 15 percent, and he sees the economic viability of environmentally friendly energy production continuing to be the driver of change. “The substance as well as the optics on this issue facing humanity are important, so I would hope a new administration will recommit to [the] Paris [Accord] or reestablish U.S. leadership in some way. But in the meantime, at least for the electric sector, which is responsible for about 50 percent of carbon emissions, we are on track to meet the commitments of the Paris Accord by the due date of 2030.

“Between the ideological poles is the big middle ground of Americans who believe climate change is an issue and want something done about it,” Manly continues. “And they’re willing to support getting their energy from renewable sources—especially now that it doesn’t cost more.”
To the extent that you make money burning coal, people are gonna do that. But here’s the thing: It’s hard to make money burning coal anymore.

—PAUL ASTOLFI, ’00
Co-Head, Global Projects Group, Mayer Brown LLP
When Alan Miller’s state representative knocked on his door in 2015, asking what issues were on his constituent’s mind, he perhaps got more than he expected. “I said that I didn’t think Maryland was adequately considering the risk climate change poses for its pension fund,” Miller says. Rep. Marc Korman asked Miller to help draft a report about the issue—and later to review draft legislation based on the report. House Bill 993, the Maryland Pension Risk Mitigation Act, was approved by the governor in May. The act requires periodic consideration and disclosure of climate risks—the first such law in the United States.
Miller, ’74, is an internationally recognized expert on climate finance and policy whose career includes a decade in the climate business department at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private-sector lending arm of the World Bank. Prior to joining the IFC, Miller spent six years as the climate change team leader at the Global Environment Facility, an international environmental fund, where he managed approval of more than $1 billion in donor funding for clean energy projects in more than 70 developing countries.

Nowadays, Miller consults for USAID and the United Nations, including a donor-funded UN project to modernize weather observation systems in 11 of Africa’s least developed countries. He began exploring the risks that climate change poses for long-term asset management, especially pension funds, while at the IFC. From smaller pieces of a portfolio, such as coastal real estate and agriculture, to anchors like insurance companies and fossil fuel stocks, “there’s a growing recognition that many investments might be affected,” says Miller, “and I saw a real range in responsiveness on the part of the pension funds.” He cites the long-term ripple effect of volatility in the oil and gas industry as one concern. Today, the Trump administration wants to increase offshore drilling, but in the coming years, “climate change could become enough of a politically significant issue that you cannot continue burning oil and gas. Then you’ve got a real financial problem—hundreds of billions of dollars in stranded assets affecting pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, and insurance companies.”

One of those navigating the uncertain landscape is Joe Blum, ’82, the London-based general counsel at Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP), a private equity firm that primarily invests for pension plans, sovereign wealth funds, and insurance companies. “Our fiduciary duty is to get the best possible risk-adjusted returns for our investors,” Blum says. “Some have made it clear that they no longer want us to invest in coal, and at the same time, some of the strongest returns recently have been in renewable energy.” GIP’s portfolio includes companies in the energy and transportation sectors—London’s Gatwick Airport is among its holdings—but in the past few years, the energy portfolio has seen a surge. GIP recently acquired Equinergy, which has renewable assets in eight Asian countries, and the firm owns offshore wind farms in Europe—an area where Blum sees great potential. “Last year, Germany did a tender for offshore wind development without any subsidies. When you have blades as big as the Eiffel Tower and the ability to produce 13 megawatts, that’s huge. And the marginal cost for running them is zero.” He also thinks the public is starting to shift away from the not-in-my-backyard aesthetical controversies that plagued previous onshore and offshore developments. “Even in several ‘red states,’ leaders have been supportive of wind farm development because of the strong wind resource. It creates jobs, so it’s economically advantageous. But in a sense, a politician’s attitude is less relevant because renewable energy is efficient—and the capital will flow to the most efficient energy provider.”

Annise Maguire, ’09, looks at private equity from a different angle but also with an eye to the long view. “Research shows that sustainability initiatives make companies more profitable in the long run, but U.S. companies have fiduciary duties, which usually result in a short-term focus on their quarterly returns. It’s difficult to sell boards and shareholders on sustainability efforts that might not show results for years.” As an associate at Willkie, Farr & Gallagher LLP, Maguire’s practice centers on transactional environmental work. The majority of her practice involves negotiating mid-market private equity deals, and advising on real estate matters for public and private companies. Most of the environmental issues surrounding Maguire’s work focus
on contamination and pollution, but she says climate change, related to the increase in the amount and severity of natural disasters, is becoming part of the conversation. “One recent deal involved a lot of calls and detailed questions about whether facilities were affected by Hurricane Harvey. As these events increase in frequency and destructiveness, the impact on facilities that have environmentally sensitive operations will more and more become part of our diligence.”

Many of Maguire’s private equity clients look to exit within three to five years of a purchase, and “want to maximize efficiency and profits to better position them to sell,” she says. Environmental cleanup increasingly has become a way to do so, even if the damage predates their ownership and thus, in many instances, indemnifies them from the responsibility. “I see a lot of proactive steps being taken in order to avoid points of contention at exit,” says Maguire, who also does pro bono work for CDP North America (formerly known as the Carbon Disclosure Project), which rates companies’ carbon footprint based on data they voluntarily provide. “Erasing the false narrative that protecting the environment and development/increased profits are inherently at odds is critical. Whether companies are embracing sustainable practices because they want to be good environmental stewards or because they want to boost their bottom line matters not. Motivation for the action is far less important than the result, which is a healthier planet and, in almost every case, also increased profits. It’s a win-win situation.”

His clients’ bottom line is at the core of Paul Astolfi’s work as the co-head of the global project finance group at Mayer Brown LLP. “People build renewable energy projects not out of the goodness of their hearts, not because they’re against global warming—but because they’re making money doing it. But at the same time, they are taking actionable steps to solve our global warming problem.”

Astolfi, ’00, has worked on both sides of alternative energy financing—now at Mayer Brown, where he helps his clients build, buy, and sell wind farms and solar fields, in addition to financing oil and gas plants and pipelines—and previously as the general counsel at Acciona Energy in the United States. Acciona was Astolfi’s first foray into renewable energy; it was his first client in a complex project finance deal when he was an associate at another Chicago firm. He continues to represent Acciona, among other clients with diversified interests in the renewable energy market.

Astolfi says the growth of solar energy has been the biggest change during his time in practice, as the price of photovoltaic (solar) panels has dropped. But he cautions that solar and wind energy alone cannot presently meet the world’s energy demands. Astolfi points to natural gas as the current best alternative, given its cheap availability thanks to hydraulic fracturing (fracking), a controversial extraction process. “Unless we all want to go back to the 19th century, the lights and computers have to go on and the cars have to roll, so how are we going to do that today? The energy industry is a very practical industry, and now gas is an important part of the answer—but the answer tends to be fluid.” In the meantime, Astolfi says he will continue to be part of making sure that those answers have the resources to flourish. “I don’t want to pay lip service to these problems; I want to be part of actually building the solutions, and helping my clients in the process.”
When it comes to water, the world has changed a lot, but the law hasn’t kept up.

—REED BENSON, ’88
University of New Mexico School of Law
The saying goes, “the writing is on the wall.” But one day in the late 1980s, in a conference room in Colorado’s state capitol building, it was on the chalkboard. Chris Meyer, ’81, then a lawyer for the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), sat there as part of a group of dueling environmental activists and municipal water providers convened by Gov. Roy Romer to discuss the Two Forks Dam—a controversial proposal for the South Platte River near Denver. The governor closed the doors and announced that no one would be leaving. One by one, he called the municipal representatives to the chalkboard and asked each to write their projection of their city’s future water needs. At first, no one knew what Romer was up to. But it soon became apparent, Meyer says, that the sum total far exceeded the amount of water in the entire state. “No one was thinking holistically about the needs of the region. Every city was positioning itself to grab enough water to ensure that it—not its neighbor—would be the biggest water provider. Largely as a result of that exercise, the justification for the dam collapsed.”
Thirty years later, the South Platte River remains undammed, and people continue to grapple with how to reconcile increased demand for water with increasing scarcity. The debate has high stakes. Seven of the top 10 fastest-growing U.S. cities on Forbes’s 2018 list lie west of the Mississippi River. California’s Central Valley produces two-thirds of the nation’s produce, and relies heavily on irrigation to do so. And a 2014 Arizona State University study estimates that the Colorado River alone supports $1.4 trillion in annual economic activity and 16 million jobs in seven states.

But water is not just a western problem. Florida sued Georgia over water rights in a case recently decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. More than 25 percent of South Carolina was under drought conditions in 2015. The City of Waukesha, Wisconsin, made headlines in 2016 with its successful bid to divert water from Lake Michigan because of contamination to the city’s water supply—despite opposition from environmentalists concerned about the integrity of the Great Lakes.

“The focus is shifting—slowly—to regional planning and cooperative efforts to squeeze more efficient use out of a limited resource,” says Meyer, a partner at Givens Pursley LLP in Boise, Idaho, which holds the top spot on that Forbes fastest-growing list. He also serves on the board of advisers to the National Judicial College’s Dividing the Waters program. “Back in the day, it seemed we could simply build our way to plentiful water. Now there is a glimmer of recognition that the easy projects are done; we can’t afford to make more water. Like all limited resources, market forces will most efficiently allocate water, and an efficient market will incentivize more efficient use of water. But it must be tempered by sound regulatory oversight that channels those forces productively, avoids social disruption, and protects environmental values.”

Meyer is a water rights lawyer who mostly represents municipalities, along with a mix of other water users and environmental entities. He also helped to draft legislation that allows Idaho cities to obtain water rights to meet long-term future needs without speculation. “In Idaho, you can’t sell future-needs water rights. We took the incentive out of water hoarding,” says Meyer.

While state laws like the one Meyer had a hand in drafting in Idaho are helpful, Reed Benson, ’88, says the decentralization of water policy exacerbates water conflicts. Benson spent the early part of his career at the Environmental Protection Agency and as legal counsel at WaterWatch of Oregon and the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies in Colorado. Now he is a professor at the University of New Mexico School of Law, where he concentrates on water law and environmental issues facing the West. Part of his work focuses on what climate change means for water policy and management, and how the region can adapt while lessening its impact. “One problem is that so much water policy is left to the states, and not all western states accept climate change, politically.”

Benson has written about and testified before Congress about the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), part of the Department of the Interior, which operates many of the big dams in the West. He sees the Bureau as a potential key player in helping the region adapt. “[The Bureau of] Reclamation needs to take a really forward-looking view of how projects could be operated in a way that addresses the impacts of climate change, and how it can provide the best mix of benefits resulting from dams’ storage and release of water.” The plans that the USBR uses to operate some of its dams are more than 50 years old, and Benson has argued that the public, including stakeholders and scientists, should be involved in considering how to adapt reservoirs as one way to cope with climate change.

Benson says one of the most surprising aspects of water law is how little it has changed during his time in practice and the academe. “Most state water codes in the West are about a century old. At the federal level, most of the environmental laws haven’t changed in decades, and the Clean Water Act was last amended more than 30 years ago. One of the big
challenges in this field is using old laws to manage problems they weren’t designed to address.”

Even when constrained by existing laws, Meyer believes that in some cases, the challenges surrounding water rights can be reconciled through cooperative efforts. “Compromise is essential to success. Purists on both sides can bask in their purity, but rarely get anything accomplished on the ground,” says Meyer.

At Givens Pursley, Meyer represented the City of Boise’s municipal water provider, which sought a new appropriation of water out of the Boise River. Environmental groups opposed the plan, and Meyer brought the parties together. His client agreed to honor a subsequently established in-stream-flow water right to protect minimum flows. “Suddenly, everybody’s happy,” Meyer says. “We could have litigated and won because, as the senior user, my client had no obligation to subordinate to anyone. But my client agreed that accommodating legitimate community concerns about the effect on the fish population was the right thing to do.”

Increasingly, municipalities are turning to long-term planning, efficiency improvements, and reuse to address fluctuation in water supply and increasing stress on water quality. Old-school physical solutions like dams aren’t necessarily the best answer. “There are many opportunities for creative thinking that use engineers as much as lawyers. Lawyers are better tasked to help implement new, more complex uses and reuses of water, rather than fighting over what exists,” says Meyer.

Companies are seeing increased efficiency in water treatment and delivery as an important way to conserve the resource, says Gary Ballesteros, ’88, vice president, law, as well as ombudsman at Rockwell Automation, based in Milwaukee. The company’s customers include a number of large utilities who use the company’s technology to purify and provide safe drinking water around the world.

Rockwell Automation’s technology also is powering desalination plants that can turn salt water into drinkable water—an idea that is gaining traction as an abatement to the increased scarcity of fresh water. One such plant is the Soreq Desalination Project, located south of Tel Aviv, which will provide 10 percent of Israel’s drinking water and about 20 percent of its total domestic water. Another is on the north shore of the River Thames, in England.

Beyond making the business case for customers’ bottom lines, Ballesteros says that Rockwell Automation started to push the environmental benefits of its products in the early 2000s. “Our customers were asking more questions about environmental impact, and we realized we should talk more about the fact that when you buy our equipment, you’ll use less energy and emit less greenhouse gases. That you can apply our equipment to cleaning water and processing water faster, at a higher volume, and more efficiently. And that in so doing, we can do a lot to clean up the environment and impact climate change—just simply by doing what we do well, which is to bring engineering expertise to big, thorny problems.”

It also demonstrates that business cares about Planet Earth, too, says Ballesteros, whose volunteerism includes serving as the corporate representative on the Milwaukee Water Council and chairing the board of directors of the Alliance for the Great Lakes. “With environmentalism, there’s this belief that the good guys work for the Sierra Club and the bad guys work for corporate America. I’m not completely naïve to the basis for the belief in this dichotomy, but I reject it. By working inside the system, you can ensure that decisions are made and implemented in an environmentally responsible way.”

Ballesteros has taught water law at Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and he was part of the task force that drafted the Great Lakes Compact—an interstate cooperative that was created in 2008 to manage the water supply of the basin that contains 90 percent of the country’s fresh surface water. “Many of us in the Great Lakes region view them as vast and endless, and never able to dry up. But as water is becoming more scarce around the world, more covetous eyes are focused on them. It will test the legal teeth of the Great Lakes Compact in the decades to come.”
Did the insurance industry assume some risks of climate change over the last 75 years? While governments and policymakers must address these risks now, the debate over who bears the cost of historical conditions may intensify in the coming years.

—MARTY MYERS, ’87
Partner, Covington & Burling LLP
As Hurricane Sandy bore down on the East Coast of the United States in 2012, Damon Vocke, ’89, stepped into his Connecticut yard with his two dogs, Winston and Diva. For Winston, it was business as usual—he seemed oblivious to the approaching storm. But Diva knew something was wrong. She was scared and wanted back into the house, where she then went to hide.
Preparedness & Recovery

When it comes to the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters and their underlying cause, one could argue that many Americans behave eerily similar to Diva and Winston. Some carry on under the belief that headline-gripping disasters could never happen to them. Others hope that the problem will go away. But to adapt to a world where the climate is going to differ dramatically from what it once was, preparation will be important. One of Michigan Law’s alumni, Victoria (Tori) Roth, ’12, works in the field of preparedness. Roth is an attorney-adviser at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in the Office of Chief Counsel for the Resilience-Preparedness and Continuity Legal Division (though the opinions she expresses in these pages are in a personal capacity and are not official statements on FEMA’s behalf). “A lot of the attention and the money come after something bad happens,” she says. “It’s a struggle to get people’s attention before that moment because resources are scarce and there often is not as much political will to embrace preventative measures. But waiting until disaster strikes means waiting until it’s too late.” According to Roth, FEMA recognizes the need to change that attitude, which is why the first goal of FEMA’s new strategic plan is to build a culture of preparedness.

Vocke had a front-row seat to disaster when Sandy hit. Called a “superstorm” because of its collision with cold Atlantic waters and cold Arctic air, as well as its extraordinary storm surge, Sandy was barely a Category 1 hurricane when it made landfall less than 200 miles from Vocke’s house, but it was a hurricane that packed a huge punch. It killed 106 people in the United States alone, rendered some 11 million people without power, suspended trading on the New York Stock Exchange for two days, crippled air travel throughout the country, and caused an estimated $65 billion in damage just in the United States. “It was far more devastating than I would have expected,” says Vocke of the storm’s aftermath. “We’re pretty close to the coast but not directly on it, and still, it was like a movie scene—an amazing amount of devastation. So I can only imagine a Category 3, 4, or 5 storm. The power of nature is just unbelievable.”

Of course, residents of New Orleans, Houston, the Florida coast, and the Caribbean don’t have to imagine those levels of storms—they’ve experienced them firsthand. In 2005, the Category 5 force of Hurricane Katrina and the ensuing breach of New Orleans’s levees put 80 percent of the city under water that was 20 feet deep in places. At $161 billion in damages, Katrina holds the dubious honor of being the costliest storm in U.S. history, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Yet recent history seems to indicate that another disaster will challenge its top spot sooner rather than later. Hurricane Harvey caused at least $125 billion in damages in the Houston area in 2017. The combination of that storm; the catastrophic damage to Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands from Hurricanes Maria and Irma; and the incinerating fires in California’s Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, and Santa Barbara counties made 2017 the most expensive year on record for natural disasters—at an estimated $306 billion—according to NOAA.

So who pays for the damage?

As Vocke stood with his dogs in his yard, he was thinking about what was to come as a homeowner and family man, but also as a lawyer. “We all know that things like natural disasters, as unfortunate as they are, are going to happen periodically, with the potential for massive property damage losses, business interruption, and in the worst-case scenarios, even loss of life. These kinds of events, along with the inevitable accidents that happen in daily life, and even our own mortality, give rise to the need for insurance products that assume financial risk to protect individuals and business enterprises from these kinds of unfortunate events.” At the time of the storm, Vocke was global general counsel at General Reinsurance Corporation (Gen Re), which insures insurance companies, many of whom are household names. According to Vocke, “Reinsurance provides capital backstop for the insurance industry and also permits insurance companies to write a greater amount of business than they would be able to write with their own balance sheets.” Today, he is a partner at Duane Morris LLP and has several insurance companies, including Gen Re, as clients. Some of his matters involve litigation and arbitration concerning whether his clients are obligated to pay claims that they dispute for a variety of reasons, including many related to climate change and its fallout. As one example, he cites damage to or destruction of homes as the result of water events stemming from hurricanes. Personal homeowners’ policies cover damage from wind, but not from flooding. “But what about a storm surge caused by hurricane-force winds that wipes out coastal homes? Is that wind or water? In the aftermath of Katrina, there was a lot of litigation surrounding these questions,” Vocke says.

Vocke is adamant that the burden should be on policymakers to lead the charge in adapting to climate change, not on the insurance industry to pay the bills. “Insurance is a private
industry that, as with any for-profit business, seeks to return a modest profit for its stakeholders. This industry is also regulated to carefully evaluate risks, price them appropriately, and manage its exposures to ensure its ability to pay claims when they arise, and maintain financial solvency. It’s the only business I know of that sells a product whose costs of goods sold is unknown at the time of sale. Therefore, the industry will be both opportunistic, and very cautious, in assuming climate change-related risk exposures as they unfold in the coming years and decades.” Although climate change presents a huge amount of potential exposure for insurance companies, the fact that most write contracts on an annual basis tempers the industry’s risk exposure at this time, he adds—and as the climate continues to change, the industry will adapt. “The insurance industry will evolve, in terms of the products they offer, the pricing of those products, and what they are willing to cover as climate change becomes more understandable. There is a growing urgency within the insurance industry to do extensive research and to create partnerships to better understand climate change risk so that they can model it and try to understand how it will evolve and the scenarios to consider, and then work with government agencies on the policy decisions that need to be made.”

That cooperation with the government and other stakeholders also will shine a brighter light on insurance companies’ roles as investors, Vocke believes. Besides charging premiums and purchasing reinsurance, insurance companies (and reinsurance companies) invest heavily, just like citizens saving for retirement. As investments in the fossil fuel industry become more uncertain, for example, billions of dollars’ worth of assets—and the correlating ability to pay out claims—are at stake. “There is growing concern that there should be, through policy and regulation, investment restrictions in those areas by insurance companies so that they aren’t putting their assets at risk,” says Vocke, noting that California-based insurers now are being asked to perform stress tests relative to their investments in the utility and fossil fuel industries.

As insurance companies shore up their ability to pay claims, environmental groups, municipalities, and states increasingly are calling for the companies whom they hold responsible for global warming to pay for the ensuing damages. The cover of the May/June 2018 issue of the Sierra Club’s magazine reads, “It’s time the carbon barons paid for our unnatural disasters.” Big Oil is facing lawsuits from municipalities including San Francisco and New York City—which filed suit in January in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. The complaint “seeks damages for the costs already incurred, and for actions the city currently is taking, to protect city infrastructure and property, and to protect the public health, safety, and property of its residents from the impacts of climate changes,” according to Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro LLP, which is representing the City of New York. The firm’s managing partner, Steve Berman, holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan. “The defendants knowingly continue their environmentally destructive behavior, seeking to shroud it with a sophisticated campaign to convince their consumers and the public that pervasive fossil fuel use is beneficial and environmentally responsible, and that defendants have misleadingly downplayed the risks of global warming with a campaign of denial,” the firm says.

It’s the next wave of climate change reparation litigation most famously represented by Kivalina v. ExxonMobil Corporation, et al, says Marty Myers, ’87, a partner in the insurance recovery practice at Covington & Burling in San Francisco. “The first wave was largely unsuccessful, but the new groups of plaintiffs have retooled, studied the results, and re-evaluated their forum and strategic choices.” In 2008, the City of Kivalina, Alaska, sued business interests for up to $400 million to relocate the town inland. The suit claimed that the defendants had contributed to the excessive carbon production that caused global warming, which, in turn, is responsible for the melting ice and rising sea levels that will render the town uninhabitable within a decade or two. In 2012, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit upheld the U.S. District Court for the
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Northern District of California’s dismissal of the case on the grounds that Kivalina’s federal common law claim of public nuisance was displaced by the Clean Air Act and Environmental Protection Agency regulations. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the case in 2013. “Our conclusion obviously does not aid Kivalina…,” wrote U.S. District Court Judge Sidney Thomas. “But the solution to Kivalina’s dire circumstance must rest in the hands of the legislative and executive branches of our government, not the federal common law.”

One of the defendants in the Kivalina case was AES Corporation, a Virginia-based, Fortune 200 energy company that asked its insurer, Steadfast (part of the Zurich Group), to provide a defense and coverage under its commercial general liability policy. AES argued that Steadfast, and the insurance industry generally, assumed risks of climate change through general liability policies, which did not exclude such risks. When Steadfast refused to cover, the case made its way to the Virginia Supreme Court, which upheld the lower court’s ruling in favor of Steadfast, in part because it found there was no occurrence or “accident” that triggered Steadfast’s duty to defend. Instead, the Virginia Supreme Court found that AES’s actions, which caused excessive carbon emission, were intentional, regardless of whether they were negligent. Myers, who represents large-scale business interests attempting to recover insurance proceeds, says, “this next wave of climate change coverage litigation will involve the central question of what constitutes an accident, and whether or not courts outside of Virginia will view the answer differently in the years since the AES ruling.” Myers represents several large companies in the energy sector facing high-profile climate change-related litigation. He is closely watching Liberty Surplus Insurance v. Ledesma & Meyer Construction, a negligent supervision case pending before the California Supreme Court with a similar “what constitutes an accident” question as AES Corporation. “Insurance is very much a creature of state law, and Ledesma & Meyer may well give us a lot more data on how courts will construe coverage for climate change-related litigation,” Myers says.

Although they litigate on opposite sides of the courtroom, both Vocke and Myers say a big part of their jobs is to counsel their clients on risk management and how to, as Vocke says, “mitigate their exposures before the bad thing happens.” For Vocke, whose clients are insurance and reinsurace companies, the focus is on writing policies that protect the insurers’ interests, with increasing consideration of the effects of climate change. “There’s a greater discourse now by the insurance industry with their clients, particularly commercial clients, about risk management. It’s analogous to making sure that buildings you insure have a sprinkler system to protect against fire. How strong are the building materials? Where is the building located? Are you considering what will happen if there’s a six-inch rise in sea levels in the next 40 years?”

Meanwhile, Myers, whose clients include several large companies in the hospitality, oil and gas, and transportation infrastructure sectors, says a significant portion of his practice “involves advising clients on insurance placements and policy language to focus on specific anticipated risks.” Heavy on that list of anticipated risks are those stemming from the effects of climate change, especially in coastal areas, and Myers works with clients to protect their businesses from multiple angles, including via flood insurance, general liability insurance, and property insurance. For example, a coastal-area transportation facility client may require specific protection from future storms of particular magnitude and/or from rising sea levels that could cause flood or water intrusion damage. Directors and officers liability insurance also is part of the equation, as leaders of companies increasingly face public and shareholder pressure to disclose what they knew and when they knew it with regard to how their businesses were and are affecting the climate, and how they prepare for future potential losses.

“Boards of directors increasingly are focused on their companies’ exposures to climate risk from all angles,” Myers says. Myers also has been working with large environmental nonprofits exploring “parametric” insurance to restore natural resource areas like reefs, which may suffer specific impacts driven by climate change.

But clutching the appropriate insurance policies is only part of the equation. As climate change continues to increase the volatility of weather patterns and alter shorelines, Americans continue to face a moral hazard problem: People can get flood insurance to replace their homes in places that are flood prone. But how many times should a ruined house in a flood zone be rebuilt?

Within FEMA, the Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration (FIMA) administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)—which Congress established in 1968 to provide relief for private insurance companies—under which FIMA issues flood insurance policies for some five million Americans. However, the program, operated by a different FEMA office and supported by a different legal division than the one where Roth works, is about $25 billion in debt according to the Congressional Budget Office, even after a $16 billion congressional bailout in October 2017.
There have been efforts to privatize some of NFIP’s risk through reinsurance, “but the challenge is that the insurers have had some difficulty obtaining the data they need in order to intelligently analyze risks,” says Vocke. “That’s a fundamental key to insurance: reliable loss data in order to determine your exposures and how much you should charge for them. But in addition to better data sharing, we must have basic policy reformation that addresses the recurrence of these coastal events. There hasn’t been enough of an incentive for seafront properties to purchase proper construction materials and to try to mitigate those risks from happening again.”

While FEMA garners headlines for its response to disasters and its administration of NFIP, Roth says the work her legal division supports, which focuses on preparedness and continuity of operations, is equally important. Her work focuses more directly on terrorism than on natural disasters, but says that in terms of the “all-hazards mission” of her daily work, the cause of the disaster is less important than the response. “We don’t get to choose what disaster will strike us next, whether it be a tornado, a hurricane, or a terrorist attack. My job is to help Americans be prepared for anything.”

In FEMA’s legal division for preparedness and continuity of operations, Roth is part of a team that advises FEMA staff who administer hundreds of grants totaling billions of dollars to help communities prepare for disasters, especially those stemming from terrorist attacks, among other preparedness purposes. In October, as part of what she calls “an all-hands-on-deck situation,” she spent a month in Florida, helping communities understand the procurement rules for the grants they received in the wake of Hurricane Irma. She has conducted trainings nationwide so that communities understand what resources are available in the wake of a disaster, and how to abide by the rules in obtaining and using federal grants. Understanding the applicable rules in advance of a disaster or even in the aftermath of a disaster, but before funds are expended, is part of a culture of preparedness that needs to permeate not just FEMA, but the entire country, Roth says. “Instead of just focusing on disaster response and recovery, we also need to emphasize mindset shifts to focus on preparation. We need to get citizens more engaged and more aware of how to prepare for any situation. Usually the community and the victims themselves are the first responders, so it’s important for people who are directly impacted by any manmade or natural event to be prepared to help each other until those who traditionally are seen as first responders arrive.”

In this vein, Roth notes that “FEMA recently reorganized and created a new Resilience office in order to further promote a culture of preparedness. This new office encompasses FEMA’s various mission areas regarding flood insurance, mitigation, preparedness, continuity of operations, and grant programs. All of these elements are essential to building a more resilient nation able to respond to and recover from all hazards, regardless of cause.”

Readying communities for disaster also includes grants to mitigate the damage caused by rising sea levels. One FEMA program can help homeowners elevate their homes on stilts; shoreline reinforcement is another commonly discussed mitigation measure. But insurance is one of the foundations of recovery, Roth says. “Part of the culture of preparedness is encouraging citizens and businesses to have adequate insurance coverage. An insurance policy should be the first line of funding because the federal government cannot always step in. Disasters first are local issues, and then state issues; the federal government only provides grant funding or other assistance when the local, tribal, and state governments are overwhelmed, and only really when they request assistance.”
For most of her law career, Neeru Chadha, LLM ’85, served as a legal adviser in relative anonymity in the Ministry of External Affairs her native India—despite having represented her home country not only in the United Nations, but also on the global stage in disputes with Italy, Bangladesh, and the Marshall Islands.

But in June 2017, Chadha became the first Indian woman (and second female from any country) elected to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)—the Hamburg-based UN judicial body that was established in 1994 to settle maritime disputes worldwide. She was anonymous no more.

Back home, her election was trumpeted by one top national newspaper as “a significant victory for India at the UN,” and another declared it a “significant win for Indian women.” It was the second cracked glass ceiling for Chadha; in 2011, she became the first woman chief legal adviser to India’s Ministry of External Affairs.

BY DAN SHINE
Despite the dizzying heights of her achievements, Chadha says her formula for success is quite down-to-earth. “My only mantra has been hard work, keeping up to date in my area of expertise, and doing my job with sincerity and to the best of my ability,” she says.

Chadha’s experience in arbitration and litigation cases is extensive, and she credits Michigan Law with stoking her interest in legal research. She already had a law degree from the University of Delhi when she decided to come to Ann Arbor. Some of her professors in India had studied law in the United States and talked about those experiences in class. It made her want to “study in America for a short period to experience the teaching methods adopted by U.S. law schools,” she says.

The “well-equipped” library at Michigan Law and online resources such as Westlaw and Nexis—not available in India at the time—“showed me the vast potential in the field of legal research and encouraged me to pursue it and the field of law further,” Chadha says.

After graduating from Michigan Law, she returned to India and the University of Delhi for her PhD. Prior to her election to ITLOS, she spent most of her career with the ministry in various roles, including as legal adviser to the Permanent Mission of India to the UN in New York.

She also represented India at the International Court of Justice when the Marshall Islands accused the country (along with Pakistan and the United Kingdom) of not taking steps to end the nuclear arms race. Earlier, she defended India in an Annex VII Arbitration in the Permanent Court of Arbitration in a maritime boundary dispute in the Bay of Bengal with Bangladesh.

And she was the lead agent in a high-profile 2012 case of two Italian marines accused of shooting two Indian fishermen in international waters off the coast of India, whom they mistook for pirates. Indian authorities arrested the two marines, setting off a tense diplomatic standoff between the two countries, which included proceedings in front of some of her future colleagues—the judges of ITLOS.

ITLOS, which has judges representing all regions of the world, including Africa, Asia, Eastern and Western Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean, has jurisdiction over any dispute that involves the interpretation or application of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. The tribunal currently is hearing, for instance, a dispute between Panama and Italy regarding the arrest and detention of a Panamanian-flagged vessel that refuels yachts in international waters.

One issue that Chadha believes will become more prominent is how climate change will impact the law of the sea. Studies show that sea levels have been rising over the past 100 years. In 2016, the global sea level was 3.2 inches above the 1993 average, which was the highest annual average in the satellite record (from 1993 to present), according to an American Meteorological Society report.

The level continues to rise at a rate of just over one-eighth of an inch per year, according to the report, due to a combination of melting glaciers and ice sheets, and thermal expansion of seawater as it warms.

Chadha says the oceans play a critical role in regulating the earth’s climate, as they absorb the extra energy trapped in the climate system as well as a large amount of the carbon waste that is emitted into the atmosphere. As a consequence, the oceans are warming and expanding and their chemical composition is changing, which leads to sea level rise and ocean acidification. Both have an adverse effect on the marine ecosystem and biodiversity.

A recent report from the UN secretary general states, “the results of these effects include loss of life, destruction of property, erosion of coastlines, migration of fish stocks, coral bleaching, and other ecosystem degradation. These impacts act as threat multipliers by combining with other anthropogenic impacts, thus exacerbating challenges relating to food security, livelihoods, and the development of communities.”

Sea level rise, depending on the extent, is expected to be the most serious consequence of climate change, posing a risk to all the coastal states, Chadha says. Its effects could range from erosion of coastlines to loss of territory for some low-lying states.

“From the law of the sea perspective, this will have a direct impact on ‘baselines’ that may either retreat or lose base points that are established on low-tide elevations or islands,” she says. “This will impact the breadth of the maritime zones because the extent of maritime zones is determined from these baselines. For many coastal states, some studies indicate these shifting baselines not only will result in loss of entitlement to maritime zones, but also a loss of critical maritime area as their outer limits will move landwards. For some island states, the fear is it could radically reduce or eliminate entirely their maritime entitlements,” Chadha says.

The loss of maritime zones and the resulting reduction in available resources is expected to have huge economic consequences for coastal states. “Shifting baselines also will change maritime boundaries, create uncertainty, and, hence, give rise to new challenges not only under the Law of the Sea Convention but also international law in general,” Chadha says.

While she anticipates that her nine-year term on the tribunal will be a busy one, Chadha embraces the challenge. To succeed in any field, “there are no shortcuts, and there is no substitute for hard work and total dedication,” she says. “This is the advice I give to all my young colleagues and other young people with whom I have had the opportunity to interact.

“With regard to being a role model, I will be glad if young women view my success as an example of ‘all doors open and no glass ceiling.’”
A few years out of law school and itching for a new adventure, Hessel Yntema IV, ’13, was working as an assistant city attorney in his hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico, in April 2017 when an unusual job advertisement caught his eye.

“I thought, ‘I could be an assistant attorney general on Saipan. That sounds like fun,’” Yntema says. He submitted an application, sailed through a Skype interview, and, less than three months later, found himself traveling halfway around the globe to the Northern Mariana Islands. The trip itself took 23 hours, and when he stepped off the tiny propeller plane that carried him on the last leg of his journey, he felt very far away from the New Mexican desert or the snow of Ann Arbor.

“As soon as I walked outside, the humidity hit me,” Yntema says. “There were banana and coconut trees…the hottest day in Ann Arbor is every day here.”
The largest island in a limestone and volcanic archipelago nearly 4,000 miles west of Hawaii, Saipan is home to about 49,000 people spread over an area the size of San Francisco. Many make their living in the tourism industry, and with its clear waters, clean sandy beaches, and picturesque cliffs, Saipan is a classic island paradise. But as Yntema found, that doesn’t mean there isn’t plenty of work for a dedicated attorney.

“As soon as I got here, I was drinking from a firehose because there was a U.S. Supreme Court case regarding the commonwealth’s sovereign immunity,” he says. “The guy who would have been the solicitor was conflicted out, so I actually submitted a brief in opposition to cert to the U.S. Supreme Court as a fourth-year attorney, which was kind of exciting.”

The Northern Mariana Islands are a commonwealth of the United States, a U.S. territory that reserves some of its own rights to self-governance. The details of that relationship are a sensitive subject with local residents, and Yntema had to get up to speed quickly.

“The position of the commonwealth is that, while the United States is sovereign, it’s a kind of co-sovereign,” Yntema explains. “We’re a ‘commonwealth in union with the United States.’ Saipan never was a U.S. colony. We have our own customs department, which I happen to be attorney for. We have our own tax and revenue department, and if you’re a permanent resident here, you do not pay taxes to the United States.”

The islands also have their own unique culture, with strong emphasis placed on preserving the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian languages. The dress code, even for government attorneys, is casual—Hawaiian-style shirts with khakis (a coat and tie, however, are still expected in court). The population is close-knit and interrelated, which can sometimes complicate litigation.

“It isn’t just when your client has the same last name as the judge that you have to check for a possible conflict,” Yntema explains. “The island is so small that our federal judge is married to one of our three justices on the State Supreme Court.”

In addition to the customs department, Yntema serves as general counsel for the islands’ departments of public safety, fire and emergency medical services, corrections, and homeland security, along with the parole board. His litigation docket includes medical malpractice and civil rights cases, and he frequently has stepped in to help other attorneys on issues ranging from extradition to free speech. It’s a busy schedule, but Yntema also finds time to teach criminal justice courses at the community college, help local high school students with college prep, and coach a children’s water polo team at the Saipan Swim Club.

“He has acclimated to island life quickly, which is rare,” says Charles “Ned” Brasington, the Northern Marianas’ chief solicitor and a good friend. “It is hard for most mainlanders to come to terms with the lack of certain amenities.”

Food and other basics are expensive, and it can take months to receive a package from the mainland. But the hardest thing, Yntema says, is that the time difference—Saipan is 17 hours ahead of Albuquerque—makes it hard to stay in touch with friends and family. Still, Yntema credits much of his adaptability to the time he spent in his mother’s native El Salvador, which has a similar climate and significantly greater depths of poverty.

In 2015, Saipan was nearly destroyed by Typhoon Soudelor. It took months to rebuild the power and telephone grids, and some families still live without reliable electricity.

“It’s always at the back of everybody’s mind,” Yntema says. “You can’t talk with anybody who was here during the hurricane for more than an hour and not have it come up.”

Saipan is geologically unique in that plate tectonics are actually pushing it higher, so rising sea levels due to climate change are less of a concern than they are for many Pacific islands. However, according to the U.S. Global Change Research Program, the climate will likely get hotter and dryer, meaning warmer oceans will threaten the area’s coral reefs, freshwater resources may be affected by saltwater intrusion, and migration from flooded islands may cause turmoil. Islanders worry most about the increasing frequency and severity of typhoons, and Yntema’s client, the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, is working to mitigate the threat as best it can, including replacing wooden utility poles with concrete.

On days when the weather is clear, however, Saipan remains an island paradise.

“Every Saturday or Sunday after brunch it’s, ‘Let’s go to the beach,’ and you just hang out there for four or five hours,” Yntema says. “There’s a crystal-clear coral lagoon where you can walk out half a mile. I do an ocean swim once a week past two American tanks that were sunk during World War II. Now the fish from Finding Nemo—clownfish and blue tang—as well as angelfish live inside them. The water is 82 degrees year-round.”

Yntema laughs when he imagines what his 22-year-old self would think about where he wound up. Despite a family legacy in law—his great-grandfather, Hessel Yntema, was a renowned Michigan Law professor—he originally planned to become a field geologist. But after a year of working at an MIT lab, Yntema decided that he didn’t want to spend his life working for oil companies in remote locations.

“As a geologist, you go where the oil company or the grant sends you,” he says, “and I wasn’t thrilled about living in a compound off the coast of Africa. When I was 22, I wanted to be in a city, New York or London. But here I am now. Things change!”
Detroit Neighborhood Entrepreneurs Project
Links Small Businesses with U-M Resources

By Jordan Poll

Jevona Watson’s coffee shop, Detroit Sip, is a gem hidden among the underdeveloped buildings of West McNichols Road. It opened its doors on November 18, 2017, with no small amount of gratitude to the University of Michigan’s Detroit Neighborhood Entrepreneurs Project (DNEP).

“All I can say is thank you,” says Watson to the law, art and design, and business students who worked with her. “They took me on this journey and will always be a part of this place.”

It was a journey that began four years ago when James Wahls, ’06, approached his former professor, Michael Barr, with an idea for a loan fund to support Detroit’s small businesses and entrepreneurs of color. Barr liked it and, together with Paul Brown, MBA ’08, a partner at Michigan eLab, they analyzed the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Detroit. Their findings led the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, JPMorgan Chase & Co., and the Detroit Development Fund to establish the Entrepreneurs of Color Fund (EOCF) in 2015. “The fund was just the start,” says Barr, dean of U-M’s Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy and the Roy F. and Jean Humphrey Proffitt Professor of Law at Michigan Law. “With much of Detroit’s rebirth focused on the downtown and midtown areas, I saw an opportunity to make a difference for the neighborhoods left behind.” This meant harnessing the talent and enthusiasm of U-M students by partnering with the Law School, the Ross School of Business, and the Stamps School of Art and Design. When the U-M Center on Finance, Law, and Policy received grants from MCubed and the JPMorgan Chase Foundation in 2016, they used the funding to launch DNEP—an interdisciplinary clinic drawing together U-M resources to serve small businesses, selected by the clinic, in Detroit.

Enrolling in the Community and Economic Clinic (CEDC) provides law students with the avenue to become involved with DNEP. Founded in 1991, the CEDC is dedicated to promoting vibrant, diverse, and sustainable communities by providing transactional legal services to nonprofit and community-based organizations and social enterprises. To give DNEP a home at the Law School, the clinic expanded its services to include neighborhood-based entrepreneurs and small businesses. It also welcomed Dustin Marlan, a clinical teaching fellow, to lead this new entrepreneurial clinic initiative. “DNEP is an opportunity for law students to contribute to the exciting entrepreneurial ventures that are taking place in Detroit,” says Marlan. “It’s important that Detroit and Ann Arbor join forces in a way that the two communities haven’t in the past.”

In its first year, DNEP engaged 20 law students, 20 art and design students, 31 business students, and 13 startups. “These are real clients,” says Alicia Alvarez, clinical professor of law and director of the CEDC. “Our students are given real issues and are proposing solutions to be implemented with real consequences.” DNEP provides comprehensive (“wrap-around”), one-on-one services to help solve small business owners’ most pressing problems.

3L Barbara Moore joined DNEP the winter of her 2L year. She worked closely with Watson and her colleagues to submit Detroit Sip’s name and logo for trademark registration. “Entering law school, I didn’t think I would be advising art and design students on how to make steam [an aspect of the logo’s design] more imaginative, but I did and it was really fun,” says Moore, who took the opportunity to observe her counterparts and their work outside the realm of the Law School. “Students from other disciplines were proactive in a way we law students were not. They would set a plan of action and want to act on it immediately. However, lawyers are taught to think cautiously and analytically, so we took more time to address legal issues and minimize risk. It was tricky at times, but we found a balance and made it work.”

The parallels and synergies created by this collaboration inspire students and faculty alike. “I enjoy these interactions,” says Marlan. “It’s rewarding seeing students apply their legal knowledge and come to understand the interdisciplinary dimensions, witnessing the larger economic and societal impact their work generates.”

Moore encourages anyone with an open mind and looking for a challenge to join DNEP. “Community development should be in the hands of local people,” she says. “We help those individuals, who have identified local needs, to grow their ideas. We fill the gaps in their already established dreams, and the experience has definitely made me a better lawyer.”
Child Welfare Appellate Clinic Drafts New Legislation

Clinical Professor Vivek Sankaran, ’01, director of Michigan Law’s Child Welfare Appellate Clinic, and his student-attorneys were helping a mother regain custody of her young son after a neighbor found him wandering outside early one Saturday. By Monday morning, Child Protective Services (CPS), in accordance with Michigan law, had removed the 3-year-old from his home. The law stipulated that because his mother, Michelle Gach, had a prior termination of parental rights on her record, CPS could permanently terminate her rights for any subsequent violation. Gach had no recourse—or so she thought.

After carefully reviewing their client’s case, Sankaran and his students determined that the previous termination of Gach’s parental rights had been due to her former husband’s actions—not hers. His behavior years earlier was resulting in her current custody loss, which was patently unfair. Under Sankaran’s direction, Shannon Seiferth, ’16, and her clinic partner, Rory Pulvino, ’15, who were assigned to the case, wrote the brief that they argued before the Michigan Court of Appeals. The panel ruled in their favor, reuniting Gach and her child.

CPS falls under the umbrella of the state’s Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)—which is historically overloaded and understaffed due to budget constraints, Sankaran noted. As a result of the case, DHHS officials agreed that the current law was flawed, and offered to work with Sankaran and his students to craft language amending it. Senator Rick Jones introduced SB 421 to amend 1982 PA 250, which Gov. Rick Snyder, ’82, signed into law in March. It took effect on June 12.—KD

Pediatric Advocacy Clinic Supports a DNR Bill

Michigan Law’s Pediatric Advocacy Clinic (PAC), under the direction of Clinical Professor Debra Chopp, has been working on legislation that would give parents in Michigan greater control over end-of-life care for their children.

The legislation would amend the Michigan Do-Not- Resuscitate (DNR) Procedure Act to ensure schools are obligated to honor a DNR order in place for a student without being held liable for doing so. Chopp testified in February on behalf of the amendment, which would apply to a miniscule, but growing portion of society—school-aged children with terminal illnesses. The legislation was introduced by Senators Rebekah Warren and Rick Jones.

The legislation stems from a PAC case involving Willy Pickett, a child who was born with a brain condition, doctors speculated, might allow him to reach age 2. He outlived doctors’ predictions by nine years, but not without multiple health setbacks that made his parents sign a DNR for him. Washtenaw Intermediate School District, where he was enrolled, refused to honor the DNR without a court order. Sadly, Willy passed away while litigation against the district was pending.

“With updated medical care and procedures, children with incurable diseases are living much longer,” Chopp says. “This bill was not just about Willy, but about kids like him, whose parents will know that when the time comes, their child will leave this life as painlessly as possible.”—KD

3L Abbey Lent, a student-attorney in the Michigan Innocence Clinic who discovered a forgery that led to the disbarment of Robert Slameka. He was accused of filing court documents under the name of attorney Matthew Evans just before Slameka began serving a 90-day suspension for misconduct in another matter. Lent was reviewing a file as a possible new case for the clinic and noticed that Slameka had told the appeals court that Evans was taking over as the attorney. “Evans’s signature looked weird,” Lent told the Associated Press, so she asked Evans to fax his signature to her. “He confirmed he had never worked on this case.”

“His signature looked nothing like the signature on the substitution form.”

ONLINE EXTRA Read more at quadrangle.law.umich.edu.

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By Lori Atherton

Six people who filed a lawsuit against the State of Michigan, challenging the constitutionality of its Sex Offender Registration Act (SORA), have been removed from the public sex offender registry after a final order in their case, Does v. Snyder, was issued in January.

The judgment, signed by The Hon. Robert H. Cleland of the Eastern District of Michigan, enforced a unanimous panel ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. The court held that the 2006 and 2011 amendments to Michigan’s SORA violate the Ex Post Facto Clause of the U.S. Constitution, and therefore cannot be applied retroactively to people convicted before the changes went into effect. The court said SORA “brands registrants as moral lepers solely on the basis of a prior conviction. It consigns them to years, if not a lifetime, of existence on the margins, not only of society, but often… from their own families.” The decision became final last October when the U.S. Supreme Court denied the state’s petition for certiorari. As a result, the Michigan legislature will have to rewrite the state law.

“The Sixth Circuit’s opinion is the first federal appellate decision to hold that a second-generation SOR [sex offender registration] statute—modeled on the federal sex offender law—is unconstitutional,” says Clinical Professor Paul D. Reingold, director of Michigan Law’s General Clinic. Reingold, together with Miriam Aukerman, senior staff attorney with the ACLU of Michigan, represents the plaintiffs. “Does is one step in bringing sanity back to SOR statutes—which don’t make communities safer, burden police resources, waste taxpayer money, and create a permanent pariah class,” Reingold says.

The six plaintiffs—five men and one woman—filed Does v. Snyder in 2012. One of the plaintiffs never was convicted of a sex offense, another never was convicted of a crime, and others were convicted as young adults of having consensual sex with younger teens. One offense dated back to 1980, but the person was added to the registry for life under a new “recapture” provision after taking scrap from a building in 2011.

The 2006 amendments to SORA barred registrants from living, working, or loitering within 1,000 feet of a school. The 2011 amendments upped the registration term for most registrants from 25 years to life, and added a host of new reporting requirements, many of which—including work addresses—are accessible via a public online database.

The 2011 amendments also required registrants to report in person—sometimes within three days—changes like using a cell phone, renting a car, switching jobs or residences, or updating “Internet identifiers” such as email addresses or user names. Other amendments required registrants to be
categorized into three tiers, based not on any individual assessment of their current “dangerousness” but based solely on the crime of conviction. All six plaintiffs were listed as Tier III offenders (the most severe category), regardless of whether their crimes were violent, recent, consensual, or even sexual in nature.

“Once you put people on a public registry where anyone can see them, and keep them there for years after their crime, you are ruining their lives and their families’ lives,” Reingold says. “Under SORA they can’t find work, they can’t find housing, they can’t attend parent-teacher conferences or school plays, or pick up their children when they are sick. Many of these people have not had a second offense or charge for years and have led respectable lives but for the one mistake they made back in the day, and which often involved poor judgment.”

Michigan has approximately 43,000 registrants, and adds about 2,000 people to the registry each year, according to Reingold. The state has the fourth-largest sex offender registry in the country.

While the six Does plaintiffs were removed from the public sex offender registry after the final order was issued, Reingold says it’s unclear what will happen to the thousands of other registrants to whom SORA is being applied retroactively and who are awaiting passage of new legislation. He and the ACLU of Michigan have joined forces with a local private attorney who has filed a class action lawsuit challenging the SORA amendments. “The purpose of the new case is to apply Does to everyone in the same situation,” Reingold says.

Reingold hopes the legislature will utilize the research of psychologists and social scientists, which he says shows that registrants have one of the lowest recidivism rates of any group of offenders. “Current social science research shows that modern SOR laws probably increase recidivism, without making communities any safer.” He points to the empirical work of Michigan Law Professor J.J. Prescott, who wrote an article cited by the Sixth Circuit. (Professor Sonja Starr also helped draft an amicus brief in support of the plaintiffs on behalf of law professors from across the country.)

“It’s my hope that there will be committee hearings where social scientists and other experts in the field can talk about the low recidivism rates among sex offenders, and push back on the fears and myths that drive these laws,” Reingold says. The case produced three published opinions by the federal district court in addition to the Sixth Circuit’s published decision. About 20 advanced clinic students worked on the litigation from 2012 to 2018.
In December, Professor Vikramaditya S. Khanna participated in two major events in India, hosted by the Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession, to celebrate the publication of *The Indian Legal Profession in the Age of Globalization: The Rise of the Corporate Legal Sector and its Impact on Lawyers and Society* (Cambridge University Press, 2017). Khanna, the William W. Cook Professor of Law, is a member of the American Law Institute and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He calls the republication “an astonishing honor for the book.”

The book was one of the subjects of the festschrift, *Living in a Law Transformed: Encounters with the Works of James Boyd White* (Michigan Publishing, 2014), edited by Julen Etxabe and Gary Watt. It also was a focus of the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities, held in Washington, D.C., in March. White, the L. Hart Wright Collegiate Professor of Law Emeritus, is a member of the American Law Institute and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He calls the republication “an astonishing honor for the book.”

Revered for pioneering the law and literature movement, in *The Legal Imagination,* White frames discussions on topics that intersect both legal and non-legal discourse, like reading the utopian *Constitution of Brook Farm* alongside Shakespeare’s *The Tempest,* or a judge’s sentencing decision alongside Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice.* He asks his readers not only to analyze legal and non-legal literature, but to consider the power of language and how it can be reimagined. When Little, Brown and Company originally published the book in 1973, *The Legal Imagination* broke convention by urging students to understand the law beyond mere memorization and “to trust and follow their own curiosity.” White writes in the new foreword, “I think…it may be of wider relevance now than when it was first published, for its central concern is with integrity—integrity of the law, of language, of the individual person—at a time when integrity itself sometimes seems to be threatened as a value.”

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$1.9M

RAISED BY STUDENT FUNDED FELLOWSHIPS (SFF) THROUGH ITS ANNUAL AUCTION, AS WELL AS OTHER GIFTS, SINCE ITS INCEPTION. THE 40TH SFF AUCTION TOOK PLACE IN MARCH.

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45th Anniversary Edition of *The Legal Imagination* Published

This spring, Professor Emeritus James Boyd White’s classic text, *The Legal Imagination,* was republished by Wolters Kluwer, with a new foreword by White. It is a unique decision to bring back a book that has been out of publication for nearly 25 years.

“When we first published *The Legal Imagination,* it was groundbreaking and inspirational to a generation of legal faculty and students seeking to restate the foundations of law in language and the human experience,” says Joe Terry, publisher of Wolters Kluwer’s legal education division. Although *The Legal Imagination* was out of print by the early 1990s, “today, again, faculty are looking for ways to convey the importance of language as critical context for the growing focus on experiential education and effective legal writing. So in response to significant public request, and with great delight, we are issuing a newly updated anniversary edition. We hope that it will inspire a new generation facing new 21st-century challenges,” says Terry.

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Students Study and Experience Law and Economic Development in India

By Jason Searle

Vikramaditya Khanna, the William W. Cook Professor of Law, was born in India and often returns to visit. He also has made India, which is undergoing a rapid transition from a planned economy to more of a free market, a focus of his academic work. “People have a lot of perceptions about India,” he says. “But when you go there, the thing that strikes you is the non-stop activity.” In recent years, Khanna has taught Michigan Law students about how India’s policies and laws are shaping that growth. This year, he took it a step further by taking students from his Law and Economic Development in India seminar on a trip to his birthplace during winter recess.

The seminar, which Khanna taught in fall 2017, gave students a holistic view of India—its cultural, economic, and political climate, and how those elements influence its legal system. As a common-law nation with English as its leading language, it is akin to the United States in significant ways. But India—the world’s largest democracy—also differs in important respects. For instance, while India’s government recognizes 23 official languages, hundreds of other languages and dialects are spoken. Also, until recently, India’s economy was driven more by government than private forces. How successfully India will weather this transition, Khanna told students, depends on how its law is adapted and developed to reflect the new economic landscape balanced against populist demands for better education, environmental sustainability, and social justice.

India’s legal complexities were more fully understood once the students were there, says 2L Luke Salisbury. “I had no specific expectations going in. What I ended up experiencing was different than anything I had ever seen.” On the one hand, everything seemed so large, says Salisbury—the population, the number of laws and political issues, and the all-around volume of activity—that it became overwhelming at times. “But altogether, India’s culture, history, politics, and industry were inspiring.”

While in India, students met with senior-level officials, including Bibek Debroy, chairman of the Prime Minister’s Economic Advisory Council (pictured above). “[Debroy] offered a nuanced and sophisticated view of how reform gets done effectively,” Khanna says. “He highlighted the challenges, explaining that even just identifying the goals of reform can be complex.” Students also met with officials from the Securities and Exchange Board of India; the team at LightBox, a venture capital company whose partners include Jeremy Wenokur, ’92; and the justices of the Delhi High Court. 3L Adam Osielski assumed he would experience a one-way learning process, “but what was particularly surprising was that the officials were asking us about how things work in the United States. They wanted to learn from us, too.”

In addition, Khanna’s class visited different sections of Delhi and Mumbai to meet with people of different strata in Indian society. They visited several slums, places often thought of in a negative light, but which Khanna and his students witnessed as centers of economic activity. Khanna recalled visiting Dharavi, the largest slum in India, with 1.2 million people. “It was surprising how entrepreneurial it was. The children weren’t begging. They were asking the students in English about where they were from and talking about cricket. It was a vibrant community.”

Students also experienced India’s historical and cultural fabric. Off the coast of Mumbai, the class visited the centuries-old Elephanta Caves, hand-carved out of mountains to create intricate sculptures depicting Hindu and Buddhist deities and symbols. They also visited the Taj Mahal, world-renowned for its beauty but, the class saw, subject to degradation from the environment and the pollution of nearby factories. The Taj, in a way, stands as a symbol of the India that the students learned about during the past year, Khanna notes—vibrant and promising in many ways, but facing serious and urgent challenges. Challenges that Khanna hopes his students are now interested in helping to address.
Alumni and Friends Service Day in Chicago Supports a Fellow Alum’s Labor of Love

By Kristy Demas

“For a refugee like me, going to the University of Michigan Law School was a life-changing experience,” says Bernard Cherkasov, ’03. As executive director of the Chicago branch of Cradles to Crayons, a nonprofit connecting those who can give with those who are in need, Cherkasov’s work involves providing everyday necessities for children from birth to age 12.

“Working at Cradles to Crayons, I have the opportunity to help fuel other kids’ dreams, just as so many others helped fuel mine. And this year, I am grateful that I was able to share my work with my fellow MLaw alumni as part of Alumni and Friends Service Day.”

This year’s Service Day, sponsored by the Law School’s Office of Development and Alumni Relations (ODAR), featured projects in 11 locations nationwide. Chicago-area alumni volunteered in the Cradles to Crayons Giving Factory, where they assembled donated clothing, shoes, toys, books, and toiletries into KidsPacks. Volunteers personalized each pack according to a child’s preferences and age, and enclosed an encouraging note—a small gesture that makes a big impact, says Cherkasov.

He understands too well what it means to receive a new pair of shoes or a winter coat. Nearly 30 years ago, Cherkasov and his family immigrated to the United States from Azerbaijan. During that first year, he and his brother received almost everything they needed from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

“Copious amounts of research show early childhood years, especially the preteen years, are some of the most critical. If children don’t have developmentally appropriate books and toys by the time they get to school, they start a year or two behind their peers,” Cherkasov said in a 2016 Chicago Tribune article.

Laura Gray, ODAR's director of events, learned from a colleague about Cherkasov’s work. She told a Chicago Service Day site leader, Judy Conway, ’14, that the executive director of Cradles to Crayons was a Michigan Law alumnus.

Conway was intrigued. “I read about the organization and its wonderful mission, and then I immediately reached out to Bernard to reserve the site for our service day. We love supporting the places where our alums devote their time and energy, so this was a natural choice.”

Ironically, after Conway secured the location, Gray heard that Stacy and Neill Jakobe, both 2002 graduates and active volunteers with Cradles to Crayons, wanted to suggest it for Chicago Service Day. They were delighted to know it had been selected already.

Now in its 10th year, “Service Day speaks to the spirit of the Michigan Law community,” says Gray. With alumni team leaders planning volunteer activities for their fellow alumni, the Law School’s tradition of community service continues well after graduation. Once solely the domain of students during orientation, Alumni and Friends Service Day keeps alumni connected with the Law School and their peers, and always takes place on the same day as the University’s spring commencement.

ONLINE EXTRA
Learn more about Alumni and Friends Service Day, and view photo galleries from this and previous years, at events.law.umich.edu/alumniserviceday.
MLaw Launches Master of Advanced Corporation Law

Beginning in May 2019, lawyers looking to advance their career will have the opportunity to earn a Master of Advanced Corporation Law (MACL) from Michigan Law. MACL is the first degree of its kind designed for U.S. and internationally trained lawyers who want to specialize in U.S. corporate and securities law, and gain an international comparative perspective on both.

“MACL is a unique opportunity for students to focus intently on corporate law, learning in Michigan Law’s enriching environment from accomplished and experienced professors,” says Theresa Kaiser-Jarvis, assistant dean for international affairs. “This degree is perfect for early and mid-career practitioners who want to move into corporate work or take their corporate practice to the next level.”

The new degree program is an intensive, single-summer experience that will require lawyers to complete 20 credit hours in-residence, including three mandatory courses, three elective courses, and a writing requirement. Learn more at macl.law.umich.edu.

Anti-Apartheid Leader, Former Constitutional Court Justice Delivers Bishop Lecture

Justice Albie Sachs knew Nelson Mandela “before he was the Nelson Mandela,” and during this year’s William W. Bishop Lecture in International Law, he regaled a standing-room-only crowd with tales from the frontline of the anti-apartheid movement and South Africa’s burgeoning democracy.

Justice Sachs entered law school shortly after the beginning of the apartheid era and wasted no time getting involved in the fight against his country’s policy of legalized racial segregation. Having met Nelson Mandela early on in the struggle against apartheid, he had a firsthand view of Mandela’s rise to lead the movement.

“There were lawyers amongst those raided, accused, and put on trial for treason in 1956,” he said. “One of them stood out, quite literally: Nelson Mandela. He was taller than everybody, and he had an eloquence, a command of the situation, a focus—people would listen when he would speak. And that was the moment when Nelson Mandela started becoming Nelson Mandela.”

In what he called “act three” of his story, Justice Sachs skipped ahead to 1995, after apartheid had ended and when Mandela appointed him, along with 10 other judges, to serve as the first panel on the newly established Constitutional Court of South Africa. In what Justice Sachs described as one of the first tests of the strength of the Constitutional Court, Mandela accepted the Court’s decision to strike down one of his proclamations.

“To me, that day was one of the most important,” he said. “That was the day South Africa became not just a democracy, but a constitutional democracy.”

Although South Africa still has a lot of work to do to combat ongoing corruption, racism, and inequality, Justice Sachs has confidence in its ability to keep moving forward. “We have a lively, free, open press; our judiciary is one of the strongest in the world; and we have a country with a constitution that enables the citizens to insist on the things that we were fighting for.”—AH

The Bishop Lecture was established by the friends and family of Professor William W. Bishop, a pioneer in the fields of international and comparative law, following his death in 1987.
Grossly Missed

Professor Sam Gross taught his last class at Michigan Law in December and retired in May. He also delivered the spring Blue Jeans Lecture in April, during which he encouraged students to keep their courtroom personas separate from their personal lives. Gross has been the editor of the National Registry of Exonerations—the preeminent and highly cited online database of all known exonerations in the United States since 1989—since its inception in 2012. Gross, who joined the Michigan Law faculty in 1987, taught Evidence and Criminal Procedure, among other subjects. Faculty continued the tradition of celebrating retiring faculty by visiting Gross’s class and erupting into applause when it ended. “Truly one of the greats,” wrote one alumnus when the clap-out was posted on Facebook.

Bayrex Martí, ’06, Named Assistant Dean for Student Life

Bayrex Martí, ’06, joined the Law School in October 2017 as assistant dean for student life. He previously was the executive director of admissions and financial aid at Villanova University’s Charles Widger School of Law, and served in a similar role at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

“I’m happy to be back at my alma mater,” Martí says. “There’s an energy here, and it’s something I haven’t gotten anywhere else. I feel invigorated coming to work every day.”

Martí follows David Baum, ’89, who served for 22 years in the role before joining U-M’s Office for Institutional Equity. Following in Baum’s footsteps is “wonderful, but surreal,” Martí says, particularly since Baum encouraged him to consider administration as a career path.

As the head of the Office of Student Life, Martí works with faculty and administrators “to deliver consistent and coordinated student support.” He also serves as dean of students, with the goal of “providing a vibrant, challenging, and academically rewarding environment in and out of the classroom.” For Martí—who was involved with Outlaws, the Latino Law Students Association, and the Law School Student Senate as a student—diversity, equity, and inclusion is a top priority. “I want to examine the ways we are supporting, empowering, and engaging students, and making them feel that they belong here,” Martí says. Another focus is mental health and wellness, which Martí says often is taboo in higher education. “The more that students see and hear from us, the more it creates a culture that it’s okay to ask for help and to take care of yourself.”—LA

MLaw Announces Faculty Fellow Program

Michigan Law will launch a program of two-year fellowships for highly promising scholars with outstanding academic records, giving them an opportunity to develop their scholarship and teaching skills in preparation for the academic job market. The Michigan Faculty Fellow program is special among such increasingly prominent post-doc or visiting assistant professor programs around the country in that it will focus on the professional development of each Fellow.

“The Law School has long been one of the nation’s leaders in educating aspiring legal scholars,” says Daniel Halberstam, associate dean for faculty and research and the Eric Stein Collegiate Professor of Law. “The program will further strengthen our reputation in this area, help bring promising aspiring academics to the Law School, and place Michigan-inspired scholars in law schools in the United States and around the world.”

The program will provide mentoring in both scholarship and teaching, while encouraging the Fellows to take full part in the intellectual life of the Law School. The Michigan Faculty Fellow program will take applications this fall for fellowships to begin in September 2019.
Law Quadrangle • Spring/Summer 2018

Latham’s Leading Women Series Kicks Off with Microsoft VP Carolyn Frantz, ’00

Just because you can’t see the glass ceiling doesn’t mean it is nonexistent, Carolyn Frantz, ’00, told a packed room of Michigan Law students at the inaugural Leading Women talk in February. Sponsored by Latham & Watkins LLP, the series profiles Michigan Law alumni who are leaders in business.

“When I attended Michigan, I didn’t join the Women Law Students Association because I was adamant that I was a law student, not a woman law student,” said Frantz, who is vice president, deputy general counsel, and corporate secretary at Microsoft Corp. “When I entered the workforce, I assumed that because I was doing great, it must mean that gender discrimination didn’t exist.”

Frantz was introduced by Latham Vice Chair Ora Fisher, ’91, who shared her own story of working on Wall Street in the 1980s—a conservative, male-dominated atmosphere where she was expected to dress like a man. Today, Fisher noted, women still must struggle to balance being authentic and projecting the image that clients expect. “You’re being hired by clients to handle their problem, so you need to show that you are strong and confident,” said Fisher, who is based in Latham’s Menlo Park, California, office. “You also get the opportunity to promote the abilities of your colleagues, which is easier than promoting your own.”

Frantz encouraged the women in the audience to find mentors within and outside their organizations, citing her main internal client—Microsoft Executive Vice President and CFO Amy Hood—as one of her own role models, both personally and professionally. “If you are thinking about joining an organization that doesn’t have any women in leadership positions, what makes you think that will change?” Frantz asked. Fisher also encouraged students to look closely at organizations’ structure and culture. “I once had a professor tell me the following: ‘You cannot underestimate how much a law firm cares about you.’ But I always have felt greatly valued at Latham,” she said. “If you consider going in-house, the most important question you should ask is, how much does the company value the opinions of its lawyers?”

While both acknowledged that women face unique challenges in advancing in the legal profession, Fisher and Frantz were adamant that some key factors for success transcend gender lines. “I still attend meetings where I’m the only woman, but at Microsoft, I generally find that what I get out of the day is proportional to what I put into it,” Frantz said. “People listen to my good ideas, less so to my bad ones. That’s exactly how it should be.”—AS

ONLINE EXTRA
Prior to the Leading Women talk, Fisher and Frantz sat down with the Law Quadrangle to reflect on opportunities and challenges for women in the legal profession. View the discussion at quadrangle.law.umich.edu.
Cook Professors Earn International Accolades

William W. Cook Global Law Professors Christopher McCrudden and Christine M. Chinkin have received international recognition for their legal work. McCrudden, who concentrates on issues of equality and discrimination as well as the relationship between international and comparative human rights law, was elected a member of the Royal Irish Academy, Ireland’s oldest and premier learned society, which was established in 1785. It is the Irish equivalent of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the British Academy, where he also is a Fellow. Election to membership in the Academy is regarded as a public recognition of academic excellence and may be considered the highest academic honor in Ireland, according to McCrudden. Chinkin was recognized as a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in the 2017 Queen’s Birthday Honours list for her efforts in advancing women’s human rights worldwide. The Queen’s Birthday Honours List “recognizes the achievements of a wide range of extraordinary people from across the United Kingdom.” Chinkin is an internationally respected scholar of public international law; alternative dispute resolution; international criminal law; international human rights, especially women’s human rights; and the intersection of feminist jurisprudence and international law. She received her award at Buckingham Palace last fall.

Winter Break, LAW Breaks Style

While Michigan Law first-year student Colleen Devine’s recommendation to “bring lots of sunscreen” may be common advice for the average spring break trip, rarely do those trips mean more time doing legal volunteer work than time at the beach. Yet that is exactly what dozens of Michigan Law students did during this year’s Legal Alternative Winter (LAW) Breaks trips. A Michigan Law tradition since 2011, LAW Breaks service trips give students hands-on legal experience while volunteering with a legal services organization. LAW Breaks organized six trips this year, each working in a different area of the law—from housing and foreclosure law in Detroit to LGBTQ rights in Belize. One new trip was to Dilley, Texas, to work with the Dilley Pro Bono Project, an initiative of the CARA Family Detention Project. The group worked at the South Texas Family Residential Center, an immigration detention center for women and children who are seeking protection in the United States. All of the students who participated in a LAW Breaks trip agreed that doing legal service was an excellent way to spend their break. “This has been my favorite law school experience,” says Rana Ayazi, a 2L who co-led the Texas trip, “and I highly recommend it to everyone.”—AH

16,486

The number of days spent in prison by Michigan Innocence Clinic client Richard Phillips, who was exonerated in March for a murder he did not commit. Phillips was sentenced on October 25, 1972, and was released on December 14, 2017. He is the longest-serving exoneree in U.S. history.
New Law and Mobility Transformation Project Driven by Michigan Law

Michigan Law and U-M’s Mcity, in close collaboration with Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, ’82, and the Michigan Council on Future Mobility, have announced the launch of a new Law and Mobility Project to promote research, education, and scholarship focused on the intersection of law and mobility transformation. The project, housed at Michigan Law, serves as a collaborative legal solutions incubator to Mcity, which focuses its research on leading the transition to a new world of connected and automated vehicles.

“With its rich history and deep roots in automotive technology, Michigan has long pioneered mobility transformation,” says Daniel Crane, the Frederick Paul Furth Sr. Professor of Law. “Michigan Law’s faculty have been working on the legal issues that challenge automated vehicle technology for some time, including with Mcity and its partners. This project is a natural fit for us.”

The U-M Law and Mobility Transformation Project includes the Journal of Law and Mobility. The digital journal will include analysis of legislative, regulatory, or technological developments, as well as short essays and long-form academic research. The project also will facilitate a speaker series focused on timely topics in law and mobility transformation and an annual conference co-organized with the Mcity Legal Working Group.

The project, jointly sponsored by Michigan Law, Mcity, and the U-M Office of the Provost, is co-directed by Crane and Bryant Walker Smith, an assistant professor at the University of South Carolina School of Law and a well-known expert on the law of driverless vehicles. It also is an extension of the work Crane and Smith began together as faculty in the Law School’s Problem Solving Initiative, where they work with transdisciplinary teams of graduate and professional students to explore industry, government, and academic solutions to the challenges—legal and otherwise—resulting from connected and automated vehicle technology.

Find the Journal of Law and Mobility and additional information about the Law and Mobility Transformation Project at futurist.law.umich.edu and on Twitter at @Futurist_Law.
The Allan F. Smith Scholarship made it possible for 2L Morgan Brown to not only go to law school and pursue the career of her dreams, but to explore her other interests in order to become a more well-rounded lawyer. “Anything I want to do, I can here,” says Brown, who joined the Black Law Students Association and the Privacy and Technology Law Association as a 1L. The same year she was the runner-up for the Alden J. “Butch” Carpenter Memorial Scholarship, Brown also was elected president of the Society of Space Law and the Law of the Sea. “People don’t realize the importance of these topics,” says Brown. The organization supports the Space Law Moot Court Team, of which Brown is a member. This year was its second time participating in the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition, a national competition held annually in Washington, D.C. “I may not ultimately practice in the field, but it is an interest I will continue to pursue,” says Brown, who is spending the summer at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati in Boston. “I am grateful for the opportunities that have allowed me to flourish.”

Be a Victor for Michigan Law
law.umich.edu/campaign
Most students make sacrifices to attend Michigan Law, but the biggest price Myint Zan paid came after graduation. Zan grew up in Mandalay, Burma, and earned a BA (Law) and LLM from Rangoon Arts and Science University, Burma’s only law school. During his LLM studies in Ann Arbor, the Burmese government invalidated his passport because he had not received the proper permissions to study in the United States. So, while his classmates advanced their legal careers post-graduation, Zan was—for all intents and purposes—a stateless man. He worked factory jobs and washed dishes in Los Angeles even though he had scholarship offers from three PhD programs in Australia, which he was unable to accept given his stateless status. He eventually shouldered the risk of leaving the United States and returning to Burma in order to see his dying father—and was arrested without trial and jailed without charge less than three months after his father died.

“It’s hard not to be bitter,” Zan, LLM ’82, admits. At that time, U Ne Win was the leader of Burma—a dictator who came to power after staging a military coup in 1962 and was known for isolating Burma while ruthlessly suppressing political opposition. Zan was arrested under Burma’s Law Protecting the State from Hostile, Subversive Elements—the same law under which Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and perhaps more than a thousand other people were detained before it was repealed in 2016. “The Passport Special Branch officer asked my late mother, ‘Why did Michigan offer him a scholarship? I’m not accusing him of anything, but what if they [Michigan Law] wanted to train him as a CIA agent?’” Zan says. On March 4, 1985, Zan was rounded up along with two other Burmese nationals with questionable international activities on their passports. Although Zan did not know the other two men, the perceived parallels of their travels reinforced the regime’s belief they were in collusion with forces opposed to U Ne Win’s socialist regime. “There was no habeas corpus,” says Zan. “The judge just stamped the order without reviewing it, and I was held without charge or trial, incommunicado for 10 months.”

When the Special Branch arrested Zan, his mother said to him, her voice choking, “We had to let go of your father, who was a very good and noble man. Nothing could be worse than that.” That perspective sustained Zan over the next 10 months, which he spent in the notorious Insein Prison in Yangon (Rangoon), pictured above and opposite. As a political prisoner with “incommunicado” status, he had no contact with the outside world. His mother didn’t even know if he was alive.

For seven of those months he was in solitary confinement. Not knowing how long he would be held, Zan only took two books with him when he was arrested—one, The Young Buddhist (written in English), was confiscated at the entrance to the jail; a Burmese-language book was permitted. At times a kindly fellow prisoner—a grandson of U Ne Win who was tried, convicted, and jailed on a drug offense but could roam the compound—gave Zan other books, including an English translation of the Bible. But those, too, were confiscated by prison officials during routine cell checks. “When I got bored, I tried to list as many American universities as I could think of, or as many Burmese kings and American presidents. I made a game of making lists.” After a prisoner in another cell was caught hiding iron nails, Zan and two other prisoners who also had been in solitary confinement were moved together as “collective punishment” into a tiny room with no water for bathing and three bowls for toilets, which they had to empty into a larger tank outside of the cell each day. “We nicknamed it the Shit Room,” he says, “and when some of my neighboring cell mates saw me walking from the cell to empty the bowl, they would joke that I had returned from America.”

Zan says he recalls seeing a note in charcoal on a cell wall (in Burmese) that read, “Friend: You will be released”—probably written by a former prisoner. It gave him hope. On January 10, 1986, a prison warden said, “Myint Zan, get up. We will read The Young Buddhist.” (Zan had been clamoring for the book to be returned to him.) But it was not time for reading; instead,
abruptly, he was released. “The night that I was arrested, I couldn’t sleep; the night I was released, it was the same,” says Zan.

Zan’s ordeal soured him on the judicial system. He never practiced law and instead spent more than 25 years teaching at nine universities in five countries outside of Burma, including a visiting professorship at West Virginia University College of Law. He also has published widely in academic journals on topics in international, comparative, and human rights law; and Burmese law and legal history. He lives in Yangon.

In spite of it all, Zan recalls his time in Ann Arbor fondly and appreciates the education he received. He says he is especially grateful for the late Professor Bill Bishop’s teaching and support. To pay it forward and help future generations of Michigan Law LLMs, last fall Zan made a gift to Michigan Law that he arranged during his 35th Reunion. The gift establishes the Myint Zan LLM Fund, which will support a fellowship for LLM students, mainly those from Southeast Asia. The fund also will award a prize to a high-achieving LLM student who has taken at least one course in international law, human rights law, comparative law, Southeast Asian law, legal philosophy, or related courses. Zan hopes the winners “will have shown interdisciplinary interests relating to law, and displayed a commitment to social justice and a sense of empathy with the plights of disadvantaged members of society.” The inaugural recipient of the prize is Ciaron Murnane, LLM ’18, who has worked with refugee programs in Thailand and his native New Zealand, and volunteered in Nepal. Zan and Murnane, pictured on the opposite page, met at Senior Day in May.

“I am proud to be the first and so far only Burmese to have graduated with an LLM degree from Michigan,” says Zan. “I have struggled with whether or not all I went through was worth it, but that in no way is a reflection on Michigan. I value my education very much.”

Zan’s parents instilled in him the importance of global education. His father, Dr. San Baw, earned a master’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania’s medical school in 1958 and became a renowned orthopedic surgeon who pioneered the use of ivory hip prostheses in Burma. Zan’s mother, Dr. Daw Myint Myint Khin, did a medical residency for a year at the University of Pennsylvania and then was a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh. She became a professor of medicine who later consulted for the World Health Organization.

Following in his parents’ medical footsteps didn’t suit Zan’s aptitude or his test scores, however. He was fascinated by the study of law but says he was “sickened” by the People’s Judicial System enacted by U Ne Win’s regime, in which the judges were regime appointees, and almost all had no law degrees or legal experience. Zan left for Australia and earned a master of international law from The Australian National University before attending Michigan. In 2007, he received a PhD by publication from Griffith University in Australia.

“For a kid from Mandalay to get admitted to and be awarded a scholarship from Michigan Law School, that’s really something,” says Zan. But in one important way, he hopes no future students from Burma—or anywhere else—ever follow in his footsteps. “I suspect that I am the only person who went to jail directly as a result of having the privilege to study at Michigan Law School. I hope future winners of the Myint Zan LLM Fellowship do not experience situations like mine.”—AS
David Breach, ’94, joined the San Francisco office of Vista Equity Partners in 2014 and serves as its chief operating officer and chief legal officer. A principal of Vista, he also serves on its private equity funds investment committees. Breach previously was a senior corporate partner with Kirkland & Ellis, where his practice focused on the representation of private equity funds in all aspects of their business. He was a member of the firm’s global executive management committee and a founding partner of Kirkland’s San Francisco office.

Recently, Breach and his wife, Emily, established the David A. and Emily A. Breach Law School Scholarship Fund. The need-based scholarship will give preference to students who are from a socioeconomically disadvantaged background or who already have loans—criteria that resonate with Breach, who came to Michigan Law as a transfer student. He talked with the Law Quadrangle about the impact of his Michigan Law degree and the importance of giving back.

How does this gift reflect what the Law School means to you?

Michigan Law made me who I am today. I came from fairly humble beginnings financially and academically. Both of my parents grew up in a rural part of Canada and dropped out of high school to support their families. I wasn’t a great student growing up, and I started my career in food sales. Fortunately, I had people in my life when I was young who saw potential in me and believed I could aspire to more. Getting admitted to Michigan Law changed my life’s trajectory in a profound way. It opened doors I didn’t even know existed and set me on a course for professional success.

My parents liked to say that those who have succeeded have an obligation to throw down ladders, so others can climb up. That’s how I see this gift. I want to do my part to help young people who have the intellect, aptitude, and desire, but not the means. I want to give them a chance to be their best selves.

How has your Michigan Law education shaped your career?

Michigan Law taught me how to be analytical. It was a legal education, but more than that, it taught me how to understand context and see the big picture. When I started my career in corporate law, I understood the need to align legal and business principles and goals. Lawyers can’t stay in one lane; they need to know how their counsel impacts all aspects of a client’s business.

I also found early in my career that a degree from Michigan Law is a master key that opens nearly any door. You’ll start out with the benefit of the doubt that you have a tremendous skill set, which you’ll have to prove, but it’s instant credibility.

How do you see your gift affecting the future of the Law School and the legal profession?

I am filled with gratitude for the life that Michigan Law has helped me lead. I’d like to see all alumni who go on to achieve success to realize that their success is shared. No one achieves it on their own. In some ways, as I reached a point where I could focus on giving back, I didn’t even see this gift as optional. I feel a sense of obligation to pay back the extraordinary gifts I received.

Why now?

I spent the first 25 years of my career focused on how I could achieve a level of success. While I still work just as hard, I’ve reached a point where it’s time to shift my focus to giving and to helping others achieve success. As I began to consciously make that shift, I thought hard about how to invest my philanthropic resources. This scholarship for Michigan Law is my first major gift, and I could not think of a more rewarding or deserving place to start.
Monthly Giving: 
An Alumna’s Simple Thank You

Jan Kang, ’87, is a lawyer from a family of doctors and scientists. When her mother came to visit during the spring of her junior year at college, she reminded Kang that it wasn’t too late for her to complete her pre-med requirements. “She didn’t know that it actually was,” says Kang, “I had only taken one science course, Biology for Humanists. My decision was a bit of a rebellion, but law is a much better path for me than the sciences. I love what I do, and it’s all thanks to my Michigan Law degree.”

Kang is chief legal officer of Chronicle, a startup dedicated to fighting cybercrime. Located in the Bay Area, Chronicle is a stand-alone company under the Alphabet umbrella, which also is the parent company of Google. “It’s an amazing environment on the cutting edge,” says Kang. “It’s the things you dream about.” Beyond the stimulating work, Kang, a longtime supporter of the Law School Fund, also appreciates Alphabet’s dedication to giving back to the community and providing vehicles for employees to be philanthropic. “I take full advantage,” she says. “I’ve been giving to the Law School for a long time now, and it’s nice knowing that part of what I give is matched by my employer, increasing the impact.”

Kang attended Michigan Law with her parents’ financial support, who placed premier importance on her education. Her father—a full-time researcher and professor—went back to school in his 40s and received board certification to moonlight in the emergency room to afford her tuition. “I didn’t appreciate it at the time, but I think about it a lot now,” says Kang. “I could not have taken a second, extremely demanding job in my 40s, and the fact that he was willing to do that to pay for my tuition is amazing. I was very lucky that my parents supported me, so I’m doing my part now by helping those students who need similar support.”

She frequently makes outright gifts to the Law School, including her Reunion pledge every five years and her support of the Douglas Kahn Professorship. She also has made a gift to the Law School Fund nearly every month since her graduation. “It’s simple, and I don’t have to think about it. It’s less daunting than making a large outright gift, but it adds up to something significant over time,” she says. “I’m not close enough to the Law School to say where the greatest need is, so I give to the Law School Fund because I trust the people who are running the School to identify that need and apply my gifts accordingly.”

Philanthropy is part of Kang’s fabric. Her parents, Korean immigrants, raised her to give back to the community, so she gives to the institution to which she says she owes everything. “I started at a prominent law firm. I went overseas to work in one of the premier firms in Seoul, came back, and found an in-house position at a large tech company. This was in large part because I had a degree from a well-respected law school. The reason I am able to give, that I am able to make a life for myself, is because of the education I received here. I give back to say thank you for the doors Michigan Law opened for me and for providing me with a strong community and a built-in network no matter where I go.”—JP

“I love what I do, and it’s all thanks to my Michigan Law degree.”
I wanted to be a lawyer since I was a young boy and enjoyed history and civics courses throughout school. I knew in my heart that I wanted to practice law in Grand Rapids, where I was born and raised. I knew some of the local lawyers because they were friends with my family. Many of those lawyers in the early 1950s went to Michigan Law. They were the best lawyers in town, and I wanted to emulate that, so I figured that I should attend the Law School, too.

I did not always know that I wanted to be a lawyer; I was a teacher before I started at the Law School. I taught literacy and math, but my favorite thing to teach, and the most gratifying, was English: how to use it to your advantage, how to affect others with it, and how to affect your own life with it. I don’t think it’s a commonly understood notion that the practice of law is about the use of language. It became clear to me over the course of time, and I decided that was how I wanted to use it in my life and career.
What was your favorite class? Your favorite professor?

**JOHN**

My favorite class was Constitutional Law. It was taught by Professor Paul Kauper, who was one of the greatest constitutional law instructors in the whole country. It was fascinating how much he could pull from a case and how important those cases were to the founding of our country and our legal system. I loved it.

**PAUL**

The very first class I ever walked into at the Law School was Legislation and Regulation. I’m not sure if it was based on the content or the delivery—it was taught by Professor Julian Davis Mortenson, who is an incredible teacher—but it drew me in. It was the first time in law school, and maybe in life, that I really examined my intuition about the law, society, and how government works. I examined it on a much deeper level than I had before. That experience was brand-new to me and really exciting.

Where was the best place to study when you were in law school?

**JOHN**

Janet Boyles, BSN ’58, and I studied in the Reading Room every Friday night—it was our date night. I am still taken aback when I walk through the library. We have three children and seven grandchildren, and we have taken them all through the Reading Room, so they can experience what it is all about.

**PAUL**

The best place to study is in the Upper Commons [the main level of the Robert B. Aikens Commons]. The windows overhead make it feel like you’re outside. When it snows, it feels like you’re inside a snow globe.

How has your time at Michigan Law helped you grow?

**JOHN**

I attended the U-M Ross School of Business and learned the mechanics of accounting and marketing. At the Law School, I learned how to think—how to analyze situations and come to a decision that makes sense. It was a great combination, particularly because my way of thinking helped tremendously in my business career. When I began practicing in Grand Rapids, several local businesses came to me with their legal problems because of my dual background, and I was actually operating a successful business.

**PAUL**

The way I think is more out loud and in-depth. When I am presented a problem, I now get down to the nitty-gritty details of an issue before proposing a solution. Even in everyday conversation with my family and friends, it is common for me to examine situations far past where I normally would have stopped before attending law school.

How has your Michigan Law education opened doors for you?

**JOHN**

I thought I would have to drop out of law school when my father died. My mother was an unexpected widow, and I had two younger sisters. Janet and I had been married for only six weeks. Dropping out was the easiest thing to do. When I told Roy Proffitt, ’48, LLM ’56, the dean of students at that time, of my decision, he said, “Don’t make that decision until you come back to see me in a week. In the meantime, I will meet with Dean [E. Blythe] Stason.” I came back a week later, and he told me of his plan. “If you can do this for the next two years,” he said, “you will graduate from the Law School.” I went to school Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. I traveled to Grand Rapids every Wednesday afternoon and returned Sunday evening ready to do it all again. I attended two summer school sessions but graduated in September 1959. I am forever indebted to Dean Proffitt and the Law School for making this possible and for changing my life in a very positive way.

**PAUL**

I will be clerking for The Hon. Benita Pearson, and it’s entirely a credit to the Law School and its offerings. I have taken courses across the spectrum. I was a student-attorney in the Child Welfare Appellate Clinic, and I have participated in numerous student organizations. There is a wealth of opportunity here at the Law School. The breadth of experience, academically and otherwise, that I gained here has prepared me well for all kinds of work. It has been truly incredible.

What does the John Duvall Boyles Scholarship mean to you?

**JOHN**

Michigan Law is very special to me. I have often thought about what my life would have been if not for Dean Proffitt—it could have taken a very different turn. I am indebted to the Law School and do my best to give back, which is one of the reasons why Janet and I established this scholarship. Also, for Janet and me, it is very energizing to meet our scholarship recipients. Every time we interact with these young students, it gives us faith that the country will be in good hands and that the future looks bright. We know that this endowment and the Law School will go on long after we are gone.

**PAUL**

It means that I get to be one link in a long chain of generosity and opportunity. Right now, I get to see one link of it—John and Janet, and me. Eventually, I’ll get to see more when I take their place and help, in any way I can, a future student of the Law School. However, it’s not just those two or three links that I participate in. The chain extends beyond even John and his experience, to generations before him. I am certain that it will go on generations after me. It is a long chain, and I am blessed to be in the middle.
A Legacy for a Lifetime

Professor Emeritus Douglas Kahn considers Michigan Law to be one of the most important, defining aspects of his life, which is why he documented a bequest to the Douglas A. Kahn Scholarship Fund. “I am privileged to be here among the great minds of my colleagues and being able to teach and, to some extent, touch the lives of my students,” he says.

Troubled by the significant rise in tuition costs since he graduated from law school in 1958, Kahn was deeply touched when a close friend and former student established a scholarship in his name. “I have gotten wonderful letters from past recipients who have been incredibly grateful,” he says. “I want to continue supporting students like these, particularly because I don’t know if I could afford to go to law school today.” Kahn hopes that by demonstrating this kind of affection for Michigan Law, alumni, particularly former scholarship recipients and those who knew him when they were students, may be inspired to do the same.

“Having spent 52 years on the faculty at the Law School, it is much closer to my heart than anywhere else. It is where I want to leave something after my passing to give back to the institution that has given me so much.”

Kahn’s recent bequest designating Michigan Law as the beneficiary of a portion of his retirement funds is something he has been thinking of doing for a long time. “People typically do this by simply adding Michigan Law to their will as a beneficiary of their estate, and normally I would have done this too,” he says. “However, the bulk of my assets are in my retirement funds, so designating the Law School as a beneficiary of a percentage of those funds was the simplest thing for me to do.” Having also made provisions in his will for family and other charitable organizations, Kahn assures that neither process is complicated.

“It’s important for the Law School to grow,” says Kahn. “But you also want your memories to live on.” Designating assets to Michigan Law—whether it is for a scholarship or another specific or general use—is an individual matter, but they all go toward the benefit of the institution and preserving the memories that mean the most to you. “Each person should decide for themselves,” says Kahn. “However, no matter how it is done, the School is better off. If you have an affection for the School and feel that you have benefited from it—whether as a faculty member or as a student—then this is a way of making that available for other people. It’s a way of letting them share the experience that you had. That was my inspiration.”

—JP
The Faces of Future Giving

Legacy gifts from generous alumni and friends provide the support needed to sustain the Law School’s long-term commitment to excellence. There are several ways to make a future gift—bequests, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, or naming Michigan Law a beneficiary of your retirement account—and all ensure the Law School continues to offer a transformative experience for faculty and students alike, for generations to come.

Designating Michigan Law a beneficiary of all, or a portion, of your qualified retirement account—IRA, 401(k), or 403(b)—is an easy way to make a legacy gift.

For more information about any of these options, or if you already have included the Law School in your estate but haven’t yet informed us, contact Erica Munzel, ’83, director of leadership gifts and planned giving, at 734.763.0414 or emunzel@umich.edu. We welcome the opportunity to thank you for your future gift, ensure that your gift is used for your intended purpose, and count it in the Victors for Michigan Campaign.
James Amend, ’67, made a $62,500 gift in honor of his 50th Reunion and the Law School Class of 1967. A portion of his gift will be used to establish the Michigan Law Class of 1967 Scholarship Fund; the remainder will go to the Law School Fund. He is a mediator/arbitrator at JAMS, the largest private alternative dispute resolution provider in the world, which is located in Chicago. He also is co-chair of the Class of 1967 Reunion Committee. The scholarship portion of his gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support.

Daniel Bergeson, ’82, and his wife, Diana, made an additional $100,000 gift to the Daniel and Diana Bergeson Family Scholarship Fund. He is the founding partner of Bergeson LLP in California and a member of Michigan Law’s Development and Alumni Relations Committee. His gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support.

Martin Bienenstock, ’77, made a $50,000 gift to the Victors for Michigan Law Scholarship Fund. He is chair of the Business Solutions, Governance, Restructuring, and Bankruptcy Group at Proskauer Rose LLP in New York. He also teaches corporate reorganization at Michigan Law and Harvard Law School. His gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support.

Arthur Block, ’78, and his wife, Janice, of Philadelphia, made a $250,000 gift to establish the Arthur R. and Janice N. Block Dean’s Discretionary Fund for Student Support. He serves as executive vice president, general counsel, and secretary of Comcast. She is a clinical social worker and therapist. Their gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support.

John Brian III, ’72, documented a $100,000 bequest to provide tuition support for students who matriculate to Michigan Law from Detroit. He is retired and, with his wife, Barbara, splits his time between St. Paul, Minnesota, and Cave Creek, Arizona.

Stephen Brown, ’69, and his wife, Faith, AB ’69, made a $150,000 gift to establish the Faith and Stephen Brown Law Scholarship Fund. They are enjoying retirement in Tiburon, California. Their gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support.

Mark Cohen, ’87, and Lawrence T. Gresser, ’86, the co-founders of Cohen & Gresser LLP, made gifts totaling $100,000 to establish the Cohen & Gresser Scholarship Fund. Gresser is the managing partner of the firm, which has 80 lawyers in New York, London, Paris, Seoul, and Washington, D.C. Cohen is a partner and head of the firm’s litigation and arbitration and white collar defense groups. Their gifts will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Third Century Matching Initiative for Student Support.

Richard Epling, ’76, and his wife, Suzanne Braley, MUP/MBA ’77, made additional gifts totaling $150,000 to the Richard L. Epling and Suzanne Braley Endowed Scholarship Fund. He is an independent mediator for bankruptcy and other complex commercial disputes in New York. A portion of their giving will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support.

Zachary Fasman, ’72, made a $50,000 gift to the Victors for Michigan Law Scholarship Fund, in honor of his 45th Reunion. He is a partner in the New York office of Proskauer Rose LLP. His gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Third Century Matching Initiative for Student Support.
Bruce Featherstone, ’77, and his wife, Sabrina, made an additional $50,000 gift to the Bruce and Sabrina Featherstone Scholarship Fund. He is a founding partner of Featherstone DeSisto LLC in Denver, and a member of Michigan Law’s Development and Alumni Relations Committee. Their gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support.

Mark Ferguson, ’83, and Elizabeth Yntema, ’84, of Winnetka, Illinois, have made an additional $50,000 gift to the Ferguson-Yntema Family Scholarship Fund. This gift is in honor of his 35th Reunion in 2018 and her 35th Reunion in 2019. Ferguson is a founding partner of Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott LLP in Chicago. Their gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support.

Michael Hardy, ’72, and his wife, Marti, MA ’71, documented a $100,000 bequest to the Law School Fund. He recently retired as senior counsel in the Cleveland office of Thompson Hine LLP and is a former member of Michigan Law’s Development and Alumni Relations Committee. She teaches Spanish and directs community service at the Laurel School in Shaker Heights, Ohio.

John Herring established a $50,000 charitable gift annuity for the ultimate benefit of the Pediatric Advocacy Clinic. His gift is made in honor of his son, David Herring, ’85, who helped establish a child advocacy clinic when he taught at the University of Pittsburgh Law School.

Robert Johnston, ’53, of Blue Ash, Ohio, made an additional $50,000 gift to the Robert A. Johnston Family Scholarship Fund. His gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support. After law school, he entered private practice in Dallas before spending the majority of his career as an officer and director at American Financial Corp., a banking and insurance holding company in Cincinnati.

Jean-Louis Joris, LLM ’75, made an additional $100,000 gift to the Jean-Louis Joris Scholarship Fund. He is senior counsel in the Brussels office of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP. His gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support.

Bria LaSalle Mertens, ’07, and John Mertens, ’07, documented a $50,000 bequest to the Law School. They live in Salt Lake City, where she is corporate counsel for BioFire Diagnostics LLC and he is a partner at Pia Anderson Moss Hoyt. Both have served on their Michigan Law Reunion Committee.

Paul Lee, ’72, made a $50,000 gift to the Victors for Michigan Law Scholarship Fund. He is of counsel at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP in New York, former chair of the firm’s banking group, and an adjunct professor at Michigan Law. His gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Third Century Matching Initiative for Student Support.

John Lummis, ’82, made a $100,000 gift to be split between the Victors for Michigan Law Scholarship Fund and the Center on Finance, Law, and Policy. He is president of Soncy Associates LP, which invests in financial services and other businesses. His gift to the Victors for Michigan Law Scholarship Fund will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support.

Harold Newland, ’69, of Ann Arbor, made a $68,000 gift to establish the Harold M. Newland Scholarship in Honor of Joseph M. Woodworth Fund. The fund celebrates his dear friend and recognizes the kindness and dedication of Diane Nafranowicz and Holly Downey at the Lawyers Club. His gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support.
Recent Gifts

Muriel Irwin Nichols, ’71, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, made a $70,000 gift to establish the Muriel Irwin Nichols and Scott G. Nichols Scholarship Fund. Her gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Third Century Matching Initiative for Student Support.

Eric Oesterle, ’73, made an additional $100,000 gift to the Eric A. Oesterle Scholarship Fund. He is a member of Michigan Law’s Development and Alumni Relations Committee and serves as co-chair of the Class of 1973 Reunion Committee. He is a partner at Miller Shakman & Beem LLP in Chicago. His gift is made in honor of his 45th Reunion and will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support.

Regent Andrew Richner, ’86, and his wife, Susan, made a $50,000 gift to establish the Andrew C. and Susan M. Richner Endowed Scholarship Fund. He is vice chair of the University of Michigan’s Board of Regents and a partner at Clark Hill PLC. He previously served as a member of the Michigan House of Representatives. The fund will provide financial assistance for students at the Law School, with preference given to those who are members of the Michigan Law Federalist Society.

Robert Spatt, ’80, and his wife, Lisa, made a $50,000 gift to the Victors for Michigan Law Scholarship Fund. He is a retired corporate partner in, and of counsel to, the New York office of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP. Their gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support.

Adrian Steel, ’75, documented a $50,000 bequest, which will be split between the Law School Fund and child advocacy programs at the Law School. He is senior counsel in the Washington, D.C., office of Mayer Brown. His practice focuses on rail regulatory matters and antitrust and competition. He also is a member of the Fairfax County, Virginia, Police Civilian Review Panel and served as its first chair in 2017–2018.

Richard Werhnyak, ’82, and Sara Werhnyak, ’82, made a $100,000 gift to the Victors for Michigan Law Scholarship Fund. He is a partner in the New York office of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP. She serves on the board of the National Center for Law and Economic Justice. Their gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support.

Ronald Werhnyak, ’75, of Saline, Michigan, made an additional $150,000 gift to the Werhnyak Family Scholarship Funds at Michigan Law and Athletics. He established the scholarships in honor of his wife, Janet, their daughter, Larissa Werhnyak, ’05, and their daughter, Anya, who died of cancer at age 8. He hopes that these scholarships in Anya’s memory will assist students who, like Anya, faced challenging circumstances in life. His gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support.

Barry White, ’75, has committed to a $100,000 bequest to the Law School Fund. He is an attorney in the Memphis, Tennessee, office of Farris Bobango PLC, where he focuses his practice on commercial real estate transactions, business sales and acquisitions, finance, secured transitions, commercial law, and commercial contracts.

David Wood, ’94, and his wife, Elisabeth, made a $100,000 gift from the Doyle Maness Living Trust to establish the David C. and Elisabeth M. Wood Student Support Fund. Their gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Third Century Matching Initiative for Student Support.

John Zavitsanos, ’87, made a $100,000 gift to establish the Ahmad, Zavitsanos, Anaipakos, Alavi & Mensing Law Scholarship Fund in honor of his 30th Reunion. He is a founding partner of Ahmad, Zavitsanos, Anaipakos, Alavi & Mensing PC in Houston. His gift will be matched at 50 percent through the University’s Bicentennial Opportunity Matching Initiative for Student Support.
1952

The Hon. John Milligan, now retired, was recognized by the Ohio State Bar Association in 2017 for his 65-year career in the legal field as an attorney, city prosecutor, and judge of 54 years at various levels—including the Stark County Common Pleas Court and the Fifth District Court of Appeals. He spent many of those years working on behalf of youth—as a juvenile judge for almost two decades and later as a member of the National Advisory Committee for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

1957

The Hon. Livingstone Morris Johnson celebrated his 90th birthday in December 2017. He and his wife, Lee Brun, are the proud parents of five children and nine grandchildren, including his daughter, Lee Carol Johnson Cook, ’86. Johnson served in the Fifth Judicial District, County of Allegheny, in Pittsburgh, from 1973 until 2007.

1967

John Stout, shareholder of Fredrikson & Byron PA, received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 22nd annual Outstanding Directors event presented by Twin Cities Business Magazine. He was honored for his devotion to good governance principles and practices for more than 30 years. He also was named to the 2018 (Real) Power 50 list by Minnesota Business.

1954

Lawrence Bullen was named the 2017 Citizen of the Year by the Jackson Citizen Patriot for having dedicated much of his life to bettering the Jackson, Michigan, area, his family’s home for nearly two centuries.

Justin Rogers, former president and chief executive officer of Ohio Edison (First Energy) and board member of Cleveland Clinic Akron General, was selected to receive the Association of Fundraising Professionals Northeast Ohio Chapter’s Lifetime Achievement Award for 2017.

1961

Hanson Reynolds delivered the Joseph Trachtman Lecture at the 2017 annual meeting of The American College of Trust and Estate Counsel in Phoenix. Both Reynolds and his classmate, James M. Trapp, ’61, served as president of the College—Trapp from 1993 to 1994 and Reynolds from 1999 to 2000. Lawrence Waggoner, ’63, the Lewis M. Simes Professor of Law Emeritus at Michigan Law, delivered the Trachtman Lecture in 2012. Reynolds says that the achievements of these three Michigan Law School graduates in their chosen field is a testament to the distinguished trust and estates faculty in the 1950s and 1960s. The Law Quadrangle corrects the misstatement in the fall 2017 issue with respect to Reynolds’s partnership at Rackemann, Sawyer & Brewster in Boston. He became partner there in 1996 and retired in 2014.

1965

The Hon. Anthony Scirica received the 2017 American Inns of Court Lewis F. Powell Jr. Award for Professionalism and Ethics. He is a senior judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and a Senior Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

1968

Thomas Brous, a retired attorney-at-law and adjunct law professor at the University of Kansas School of Law, studied and lectured on T.S. Eliot’s Four Quartets for more than 30 years. He shares his insights in his latest title, Why Read Four Quartets? (Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2017).

Lee Hornberger, a Traverse City, Michigan, arbitrator and mediator, now is chair of the alternative dispute resolution section of the State Bar of Michigan. He served as chair-elect before stepping into his new role as chair.

1969

John McGonagle and his wife, Carolyn Vella, authored Competitive Intelligence Rescue: Getting it Right (Praeger, 2017), which provides practical tools and strategies to identify and address competitive intelligence problems. He is managing partner of the Helicon Group in Blandon, Pennsylvania.
By Lori Atherton

Benedicte Bayi-Mathijsen is “drawn to the world.” Born and raised in Brussels and college-educated in the United States, Bayi-Mathijsen, ’85, is a multinational lawyer whose career has included several moves across the Atlantic. She credits her American mother and her Dutch father with instilling a cosmopolitan outlook.

“My parents definitely inspired me to experience the world,” says Bayi-Mathijsen, who has been director of privacy counsel at PayPal in San Francisco for more than a year. She previously spent 22 years in Paris as the vice president and assistant general counsel at Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT).

 Fluent in English and French, Bayi-Mathijsen attended the prestigious European School of Brussels. When it came time to enroll in college, she says there was no question that she would move to the States. Bayi-Mathijsen attended Vassar College and Columbia University, where she received a bachelor’s degree in urban studies and a master’s degree in urban planning, respectively. She worked in Greece and Thailand before enrolling in law school to gain additional skills that would “help me become a more effective urban planner.”

Her lawyer-father, Pierre Mathijsen, was a research scholar at the Law School in 1960, which brought the family to Ann Arbor when Bayi-Mathijsen was in kindergarten. But she chose Michigan Law for other reasons: She wanted to attend law school in a smaller city in the Midwest, and she wanted to be closer to her mother’s home state of Minnesota.

“I discovered a completely different world at Michigan, and it just took me in a whole new direction,” Bayi-Mathijsen says. She found its “international dimension” to her liking and joined the International Law Society and the Michigan Journal of International Law. Among those she became lifelong friends with are the late Professor Eric Stein, a pioneer in the study of European law, and his wife, Virginia; Mathias Reimann, LLM ’83, the Hessel E. Yntema Professor of Law at Michigan Law; and Neeru Chadha, ’85, the first Indian woman to be elected a judge on the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. (Read about Chadha on page 46.)

A Parisian at heart, Bayi-Mathijsen worked as an associate at a law firm in New York after graduation before fulfilling her dream of living in France’s capital. The French business Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits was looking for an American lawyer based in Paris, and Bayi-Mathijsen got the job. “One of the first things I worked on was the merger between Wagons-Lits Travel and the Carlson Travel Network, which was very exciting,” Bayi-Mathijsen says.

She intended to stay in Paris for only a few years before returning to the New York region, but Bayi-Mathijsen enjoyed the complexity of her work, and her tenure at CWT turned into decades. “What kept me interested was that CWT felt like four or five different companies as the years went by because it changed and reinvented itself,” she says. “When I joined, it was a general travel agency, and then it rapidly became specialized in business travel, servicing corporations and their employees when they traveled around the world.”

Bayi-Mathijsen, too, traveled extensively as Carlson Wagonlit expanded to the Asia Pacific region, other parts of Europe, and Latin America. “I must have worked on joint ventures or acquisitions in 20 different countries,” she says. In the late 1990s, she also began working on the emerging area of law known as data privacy and data protection. “I felt that CWT was becoming a tech company in disguise because we were offering tools to make the travel experience more efficient, both internally and for our clients,” Bayi-Mathijsen says. “A lot of information was collected through these products, and I ran cross-functional teams on data protection and security.”

That experience helped Bayi-Mathijsen transition to her current job at PayPal, which operates a worldwide online payment system and continuously develops new products and services, she says. “I work closely with the business to help it achieve its goals, even though data protection laws are still evolving and there aren’t always clear answers. Michigan really prepared me for thinking through topics I never had to think about before, and that’s really what my job is like every day.”

Michigan also prepared Bayi-Mathijsen for her move back to the States, something she hadn’t considered until a life change—the death of her husband—prompted her to explore other career options. Making the move was easier thanks to help from her Law School connections.

“I started contacting friends and former colleagues from New York to get ideas about what to do next, which is something I hadn’t done before,” she says. “It was a wonderful experience reaching out to people, who were willing to take 20 minutes here or there to offer advice. I’m very lucky that I could make this move, especially since it brought me closer to my daughter [a student at the University of California, San Diego, who wants to study transitional justice]. And it’s all thanks to my Michigan Law degree.”
G.A. Mudge testified before the New York City Mayoral Advisory Commission on City Art, Monuments, and Markers in January about the statue in Central Park of Dr. J. Marion Sims. He advocated for moving the statue of Sims, who performed gynecological exams on slave patients without anesthesia, to be part of a new Woman Healthcare Monument.

1971

Peter Hoffman co-authored Effective Discovery (2017), which was published by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy.

Stuart Israel authored Taking and Defending Depositions—Second Edition (2017), published by the American Law Institute Continuing Legal Education. The first edition, published in 2004, had three printings and was an American Law Institute–American Bar Association Committee on Continuing Professional Education bestseller. He also is co-author, with Peter Hoffman, ’71, of Effective Discovery (2017), published by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy.

1972

Michael Cowan retired after serving as the general counsel, senior vice president, and secretary of TPa Communications in Los Angeles.

Laurence Deitch, a University of Michigan Regent Emeritus and a member of the Detroit office of Bodman PLC, received the 2018 Client Choice Award from Lexology/International Law Office, a highly regarded global publisher and media partner of the Association of Corporate Counsel.

1974

David Clark received the Distinguished Service Award from the Mississippi Bar. Each year, the Bar honors individuals who demonstrate outstanding service and provide valuable contributions to the public and profession.

Donald Duquette spoke to the Northeast Legal Collaborative at Rutgers Law School about representation of children as reported in his recent book, Children’s Justice: How to Improve Legal Representation of Children in the Child Welfare System. The Northeast Legal Collaborative is a group of agencies and law firms providing legal representation of children in a five-state region. Duquette is clinical professor emeritus of law and founding director of the Child Advocacy Law Clinic at Michigan Law.

1975

Conny Harper was elected to lead the Southern Nevada Chapter of the Society of Human Resource Management. She is principal of Harper Strategies LLC, a company that provides human resources consulting services to Las Vegas businesses. She also is vice chairman of the 20 Pearls Foundation, a Nevada nonprofit corporation.

The Hon. George Pagano was retained for a third 10-year term on the Court of Common Pleas of Delaware County. In addition, he currently is serving as president of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges.

1976

The Hon. Carol Jackson retired as U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Missouri. She was the first African American magistrate judge and chief judge, and the first African American female U.S. district judge in the Eastern District of Missouri.

1977

Thomas Friel joined the Silicon Valley office of King & Spalding LLP as partner. He specializes in patent litigation and disputes concerning licensing, trademark and copyright, unfair competition, and trade secrets.

1978

W. Robert Kohorst, of California, was appointed U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Croatia. He is the founder and president of Everest Properties II LLC, a privately held real estate investment firm with interests in multifamily, retail, and self-storage properties.

Christopher Lewis, partner and chief officer of diversity and inclusion at the Philadelphia office of Blank Rome LLP, was appointed to the Delaware River Port Authority board of commissioners for a five-year term.

S. Thomas Wiener, founding partner of Wiener & Gould PC in Rochester, Michigan, became a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.
Jeffrey Johnson retired from the Denver office of Holland & Hart after nearly 38 years as a management-side labor and employment lawyer. He will continue to act as an arbitrator in AAA-administered labor and employment arbitrations, as well as serve on the board of several nonprofits. Retirement also will provide more time to pursue his many interests, such as travel, skiing, golf, running, cycling, swimming, and his children and grandchildren (as well as rooting for the Maize and Blue).

Michael McEvoy retired from Harter Secrest & Emery LLP in Rochester, New York, after 36 years of service. He was chair of the firm’s tax department and served for three years as managing partner. He is succeeded in the role of tax partner by Josh Gewolb, ’06.

Joseph Tilson was named chair-elect of the American Bar Association’s section on labor and employment law, one of the ABA’s largest and most active sections. He also was named the “2018 Chicago Lawyer of the Year in Labor and Employment Litigation” by Best Lawyers, marking the fourth time in the last seven years he has been so recognized.

Keith Wetmore, former chairman emeritus of Morrison & Foerster LLP, joined the San Francisco office of Major, Lindsey & Africa as managing director.

Jack Fortner received the Lobo Award from the University of New Mexico Alumni Association for his professional achievement and dedication to the betterment of the university.

Eric Gressman joined the Miami office of Kelley Kronenberg as a partner. His practice focuses on all aspects of liability and casualty defense.

Valerie Jarrett, former senior adviser to President Obama, has joined the University of Chicago Law School as a Distinguished Senior Fellow.

Mark Lezotte, a shareholder in the Detroit office of Butzel Long PC, received the Richard L. Beer Volunteer Award from United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Metro Detroit for his longstanding commitment to the community. He has served as president of the organization, chair of its national public policy committee, and on its national board of trustees. He received the UCP National Chairperson’s Award in 2004.

Christopher Meyer was selected to join the board of advisers for Dividing the Waters, a judge-training program of the National Judicial College.

He is a water and land use lawyer with Givens Pursley LLP in Boise, Idaho.

Clarence Armbrister was named the 14th president of Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. He previously was president of Philadelphia’s Girard College, an independent college preparatory school for students from economically disadvantaged families.

Karol Mason, former assistant U.S. attorney general, was elected president of John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York.

Robb Voyles, executive vice president, secretary, and general counsel at Halliburton, received the 2017 Magna Stella Award, Large Legal Department, from the Texas General Counsel Forum.

Kim Dayton retired in 2013 after 28 years as a law professor. She now is a full-time artist, working in a variety of media. Her paintings, mixed-media works, and photographs can be found in private and public collections throughout the United States, New Zealand, and Australia.

John Frank was elected to Chevron Corporation’s board of directors, where he serves on the audit committee. He is vice chairman of Oaktree Capital Management LP in California.

Paul Hamburger has expanded his horizons beyond the confines of the law with his 2018 independently published book on Jewish texts and philosophy, The Anochi Project: Seeking God’s Identity. He is a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Proskauer Rose LLP and is a member of the International Advisory Board for Chabad on Campus International.

Michael Lied, an attorney in the Peoria, Illinois, office of Howard & Howard PLLC, was appointed co-chair of the American Bar Association’s trial evidence committee.

Barton Peterson, former Indianapolis mayor and co-executive of Eli Lilly and Co., was appointed chair of the board of Indiana University’s Center for Global Health Development.

H. Mark Stichel joined the Baltimore office of Astrachan Gunst Thomas PC. He represents corporate clients and individuals before state and federal trial and appellate courts in a wide range of civil disputes.
Robert Shuman, owner of Shuman Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram in Walled Lake, Michigan, was elected treasurer of the National Auto Dealers Association. He also is president of the Michigan Auto Dealers Association.

John Nixon, a partner at Duane Morris LLP was honored with a Leadership Excellence Award from the Pennsylvania Diversity Council. The award is presented to individuals who exhibit leadership excellence in their organizations and communities.

Jonathan Tukel was appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder, ’82, to serve as a judge on the Michigan Court of Appeals for the Second District. He previously was an assistant U.S. attorney in Detroit. He will continue as a lecturer at the Law School, a position he has held since 2009.

Melody Barnes, former director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, joined the board of trustees for the Thomas Jefferson Foundation—the private, nonprofit organization that owns and operates Monticello—in Charlottesville, Virginia. She is co-founder and principal of MB2 Solutions LLC, a domestic strategy firm, and a Senior Fellow in presidential studies at the University of Virginia’s Miller Center.

Victor King appeared on ABC’s Child Support, his ninth TV game show. After an incorrect guess on his final $100,000 question, an 8-year-old who knew what Spaniards eat on New Year’s Eve (grapes) saved him. He is in his 16th year as the general counsel at California State University, Los Angeles and is a member of the California Law Revision Commission.

Damon Vocke, former president and general counsel of General Reinsurance Corporation, joined the insurance industry practice group of Duane Morris LLP based in New York. He most recently headed his own firm, Vocke Law Group, with locations in New York, Chicago, and Stamford, Connecticut.

Ron DeWaard was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is partner in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, office of Varnum LLP.

From left to right are Andrew Crain, ’87, David Kravitz, ’93, and Joseph Wang, ’10, during an unlikely Michigan Law reunion backstage at Symphony Hall in Boston. The three alumni are pictured during intermission at their October 2017 performance of Hector Berlioz’s The Damnation of Faust with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Tanglewood Festival Chorus. A professional baritone, Kravitz was a soloist for the concert in the role of Brander. Crain and Wang are members of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, the official chorus of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and have performed with the group for more than 25 and 20 years, respectively. Crain is a partner with Mirus Capital Advisors Inc. in Burlington, Massachusetts. Kravitz is an assistant state solicitor in the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General. Wang is an associate in the real estate department at Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky, and Popeo PC in Boston.
The Hon. Brian Fenimore was appointed to a 14-year term as a U.S. bankruptcy judge for the Western District of Missouri.

Geoffrey Genth, principal in the Baltimore office of Kramon & Graham, was recognized by The Best Lawyers in America for his extensive experience in commercial litigation, and by Chambers USA in the “Leaders in Their Field” category in 2017. He also was named a “Local Litigation Star,” general commercial and professional liability categories, in the 2018 edition of Benchmark Litigation.

C. Thomas Ludden submitted an amici curiae brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in Brott v. United States. In the brief, the National Federation of Independent Business Small Business Legal Center, the Southeastern Legal Foundation, and the Cato Institute contend that the Seventh Amendment guarantee of a jury trial applies in lawsuits against the United States seeking vindication of a citizen’s constitutional rights, and the United States cannot condition the right to seek relief for violation of constitutional rights upon the waiver of the right to a jury trial. He is head of the appellate practice group at Lipson, Neilson, Cole, Seltzer & Garin PC in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

1991

Irene Freidel retired in June 2017 from K&L Gates in Boston, where she practiced since graduation. She now is an Access to Justice Fellow, a program that connects pro bono lawyers with nonprofits to promote access to justice. She is working with the PARE Project in Boston, which represents individuals seeking political asylum and access to immigration rights. She also is working with the Massachusetts Trial Court on its access-to-justice initiatives.

Steven Ginsberg, founding partner of Ginsberg Jacobs LLC in Chicago, was featured in a guide on hotel financing published by Fit Small Business.

1992

Kelly Hall was named supervisory assistant general counsel of Consumers Energy Company, a Michigan electric and gas utility provider. She assumes responsibility for the general practice section of the company’s legal department, and previously practiced in the state regulatory practice section.

Sylvia Stein joined Modine Manufacturing Company as vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary. She previously served as the associate general counsel, marketing and regulatory, at the Kraft Heinz Company in Chicago.

1993

Paul Beattie, a partner in the Seattle office of Rimon PC, was recognized as a Pinnacle Lifetime Member in the field of law by Continental Who’s Who.

Linda Doyle, a partner in the trial practice group, was named general counsel of the Chicago office of McDermott Will & Emery LLP, where she oversees all legal and compliance matters.

The Hon. Christopher Kendall, LLM ’93, SJD ’01, was appointed a judge on the Federal Circuit Court of Australia. He also has served as a lawyer, a law professor and dean of law at Murdoch University School of Law, and deputy president of the Australian Administrative Appeals Tribunal. He also is a prolific author.

Roshunda Price, a partner in the Southfield, Michigan, office of Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss, was elected to the Presbyterian Villages of Michigan board of directors.

Jeff Sherman was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps of the U.S. Army. He serves as brigade judge advocate of the 115th Field Artillery Brigade of the Wyoming National Guard. In his civilian role, he continues to practice corporate and securities law as a partner in the Denver office of Faegre Baker Daniels LLP.
Modern Renaissance Man at the 45th Parallel

By Kristy Demas

What do a Spanish coin from the 17th century, natural gas, wind turbines, and exceptional Michigan red wines have in common? Marty Lagina and, strangely enough, the 45th parallel.

Lagina, ’82, never has practiced law. He has, however, enjoyed success in numerous other fields—success he attributes in large measure to his law degree. Best known as one half of the Lagina brothers on the TV show The Curse of Oak Island, his eclectic career began decades ago while a law student.

“From childhood, I intended to go to law school. People always said I should be a lawyer because I loved to talk with people,” Lagina laughs. The Upper Peninsula native started out, though, at Michigan Technological University earning his mechanical engineering degree. After working as a petroleum engineer, he was ready for law school—choosing Michigan for its reputation and in-state tuition.

He feels fortunate he had professors like Beverly Pooley, Marcus Plant, Olin Browder, and Yale Kamisar. “They were leaders in their fields. I loved their lectures—and law school in general. Because I’d been in the workforce already, I never felt the same pressure as my peers.” In fact, Lagina worked as an independent petroleum engineer during law school.

Which brings us to the 45th parallel, the halfway point between the North Pole and the Equator. It runs through Northern Michigan—northeast of Traverse City—where Lagina found shale that contained natural gas. So as a law student, he took leases and drilled wells. By 1984, he founded Terra Energy, an oil and natural gas production company. “My law degree gave me the confidence to start Terra, and every subsequent venture. You can’t make a move in business without legal knowledge. I didn’t have the money to hire a lawyer initially, so I acted as my own.”

By 2004, after selling his company, Lagina craved new challenges. “When you’re in oil and gas, you’re branded by many as a villain. I’d been interested in renewables and knew wind power technology was evolving, so I got into wind energy.” His company, Heritage Sustainable Energy, has built four utility-scale wind farms in Michigan, including one in the Upper Peninsula, and recently started installing solar facilities.

Heritage could take all his time, but Lagina has other interests. He says hiring good people frees him up for things like The Curse of Oak Island. The show brings to life a family obsession dating back to 1965 when his older brother, Rick, read about the Nova Scotia island’s rumored treasure—like that Spanish coin—in Reader’s Digest.

When portions of the island (which happen to lie near the 45th parallel) came up for sale, the Laginas and their business partners snapped them up. In 2014, History began filming the show, in which Rick, Marty, and his son, Alex, try to solve the 220-year-old mystery of the buried treasure. Now in its fifth season, it’s a fan favorite.

Lagina does hire attorneys now, but still relies on his degree when interpreting laws like Canada’s Treasure Trove Act. Applicable only to Oak Island, it states the Crown owns all property found unless one has a special license. With the license—which the Laginas have—treasure hunters can keep what they find except for 10 percent and whatever the government deems as artifacts. Lagina is not as certain as Rick that they will find the treasure, but “the only certainty is if we do find something, there will be plenty of claimants.”

When he’s not on Oak Island, Lagina can be found at another of his ventures, Mari Vineyards, near Traverse City. “Wine is in my blood—nel sangue, as my Italian grandmother would say.” Traveling due east along the nearby 45th parallel from Mari Vineyards, which is named for his grandmother, you’d eventually emerge in the regions of France and Italy where the very best red wine grapes grow. “These regions produce the finest wine in the world,” Lagina says. “I figured since Mari Vineyards was at the same latitude, we could grow the same grapes here.” To overcome the variances in growing seasons, he installed hoop houses over the grapes. The result is “the best red wine in the state,” says Lagina.

Lagina isn’t sure what’s next, or how the 45th parallel will be involved. “I’ve had the good fortune to do lots of fun and interesting things. I don’t think any of it would have been possible without my law degree giving me the knowledge and confidence to pursue my interests. Getting up in the morning eager to go to work—that’s success.”
Donica Thomas Varner was appointed interim vice president, general counsel, and secretary at Oberlin College and Conservatory in Oberlin, Ohio. She previously served as associate general counsel and practice group leader for the faculty, staff, and student legal practice group in the Office of the Vice President and General Counsel at the University of Michigan.

1994

Aaron Ahola was appointed senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary of Akamai Technologies in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He formerly served as deputy general counsel.

Ann-Marie Anderson was presented with her second Outstanding Leadership Award from the State Bar of Arizona for her service as chairman of the securities regulatory board of directors. She received the award at the State Bar’s annual convention in Tucson, where she also served as chairperson and speaker at two seminars: one celebrating the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, and another offering a securities law and regulatory update. She is a partner at Wright Welker & Paoule PLC in Phoenix, where she practices in the areas of aviation and airport representation, federal securities law, education, and government representation. Also, this is her seventh year as president of the U-M Club of Greater Phoenix.

Steven Fink launched the Law Office of Steven J. Fink PLLC, based in New York City and White Plains, New York, after 15 years as a litigation partner at an AmLaw 100 firm. His practice is focused on commercial and business disputes.

Amy Spilman was selected as a Fellow of the Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a national organization founded “to provide leadership that promotes the highest degree of professionalism and excellence in the practice of family law.” She is a partner in the Birmingham, Michigan, office of Eisenberg & Spilman PLLC.

Bentina Chisolm Terry was named senior vice president of the northwest region for Georgia Power Company in Atlanta. She is responsible for the operations, sales, customer service, philanthropy, economic and community development, and external affairs activities for 1.4 million customers across metro Atlanta and the northwest corner of Georgia.

1996

Thomas Cochrane was named general counsel of the International Union of Electrical Salaried, Machine, and Communications Workers of America in Dayton, Ohio, after serving for 12 years as associate general counsel of the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Local 11.

John Dunfee, who has worked for the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission for 17 years, now is special counsel to Commissioner Rostin Behnam. He previously served as assistant general counsel for the Office of General Counsel.

Moushumi Khan, and her work as county director of the Foundation for Charitable Activities in Bangladesh, was featured in a three-part article in The Huffington Post.

John P. Paraschos was elected a member of the Syracuse, New York, office of Bousquet Holstein PLLC. He is an attorney in the firm’s business law practice group.

1997

Lawrence Garcia was nominated by Mayor Mike Duggan, ’83, to serve as the City of Detroit’s corporation counsel. In 2011, he started the Detroit-based Garcia Law Group PLLC and has represented the City of Detroit, the Detroit Public Schools, Wayne County, and the Detroit Police Department. He is a two-time president of the Hispanic Bar Association of Michigan and a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Lucy Clark Dougherty was named general counsel and senior vice president of Polaris Industries Inc. in Roseau, Minnesota, where she also serves as president of the Polaris Foundation.
Chase Cantrell, ’08, could have gone many places with a degree from Michigan Law. Instead, he chose to be a force for positive change in his native Detroit.

Cantrell is a double Wolverine: He earned a bachelor’s degree in political science, with a French and francophone studies minor, in 2005, before going straight through to the Law School. Today, he is executive director of Building Community Value (BCV), a Detroit-based real estate nonprofit working in some of the city’s underserved neighborhoods, which he founded in 2016. He also is fund manager of Cooperative Capital’s inaugural private equity fund, Detroit Community Capital.

His work on community development projects relies on his background in real estate and corporate law, hot topics in a city like Detroit, with new stadiums and housing. Whether the changes benefit people like himself, those of color who have remained a part of their native city, is a question often on Cantrell’s mind.

Since graduation, Cantrell has seen a shift in the University’s relationship with Detroit. During school, he says, “When I would talk about Detroit, people would be curious. But the curiosity wouldn’t extend to, ‘let’s learn more.’ I didn’t get a chance to celebrate Detroit, whereas people are able to do that more now.” Today, Detroit has considerable buzz on campus and beyond. The result is a real estate bubble primarily downtown and in select residential neighborhoods, particularly the Cass Corridor, also known as midtown, which surrounds the Detroit Institute of Arts and Wayne State University. Having worked downtown in the Renaissance Center, Cantrell’s goal is to use his organization to shift attention to other neighborhoods in Detroit. Through BCV and Cooperative Capital, and in collaboration with academic and community partners, Cantrell seeks to be a catalyst for sustainable social and economic development that engages distressed communities in creating impactful, resident-led change but, more specifically, improves livability for all Detroiters.

BCV offers a six-session course called Better Buildings, Better Blocks, which teaches Detroit residents the basics of real estate development, so they can be catalysts in areas that traditional developers have so far left untouched. It is based on a curriculum developed by Professor Peter Allen at U-M’s Ross School of Business and previously piloted by the U-M School of Social Work’s Technical Assistance Center. Classes are supplemented with online lectures, weekly reading assignments, and regular office hours.

“I knew it was developing in the core but not in the neighborhoods, so I wondered what I could do to affect change in the system,” says Cantrell of Detroit and his interest in launching his project. “I love real estate, and I can help people with this.” The Better Buildings, Better Blocks class has garnered national media attention and in June 2017 won a John S. and James L. Knight Foundation Knight Cities Challenge grant. “The neighborhoods still need amenities, they need businesses,” Cantrell told the Detroit Free Press after winning the award. “They have dreams and plans for what those places should look like. If we give them the tools, they can be the first ones in, frankly.”

During law school, Cantrell received Dykema Gossett’s first diversity scholarship, and interned for the firm. He could have continued there or moved elsewhere to pursue other options. Instead, Cantrell says, “Detroit kept pulling me back.” It offers the chance to “have real impact, where what you’re doing can actually make a difference. Not only that, but you can be innovative.”

Staying in Detroit also has kept Cantrell connected with his alma mater, and he continues to find ways to aid current students and graduates. He particularly enjoys connecting African American students with those who can help them in their careers. “The network is one of privilege, and that opens doors,” Cantrell says. “Everyone can’t get that introduction. But when I can, I try to help build connections.”
Near the end of a long week in Laredo, Texas, George Barchini pulled an all-nighter—but not for the reasons typical of young associates at Big Law firms. Instead, he was trying to stop the deportation of a Central American woman.

“I was a junior associate at Jones Day with no real background in immigration law, but I couldn’t stand by knowing this person would face certain persecution and possibly death if she were forced to leave the United States.”

Barchini, ‘15, was due back in New York when the local asylum office denied his latest request for reconsideration for his client. Her removal from the United States imminent, Barchini frantically made calls from the airport in a last-ditch effort to overturn the decision. He finally reached a fellow MLaw classmate who suggested how to delay or halt deportation. Ultimately, Barchini’s client was able to remain in the United States.

Public service has long been part of Barchini’s life. Inspired by his family’s volunteerism and his own sense of civic duty, his undergraduate days at Northeastern University were filled with public service activities. Before law school, he worked for the U.S. Department of Defense, the governor of Massachusetts, and the CEO of City Year, part of the AmeriCorps network. During his 1L summer, Barchini worked for the U.S. Department of Justice.

At Michigan, Barchini threw himself into service activities. “The many opportunities to get involved are a large part of Michigan’s appeal—and its reputation. I wanted to attend a law school that would give me the tools to succeed as a lawyer while also allowing me to give back. I was struck by the overall commitment to social justice issues at Michigan.”

Barchini was president of the Law School Student Senate, the race and curriculum editor of the Michigan Journal of Race & Law, a lead facilitator of the Michigan Access Program, and a member of numerous executive boards and advisory committees, including the Organization of Public Interest Students. He remembers the charge that Professor Eve Primus, ’01, gave his graduating class at Senior Day about the importance of social justice work after graduation.

“She encouraged us to handle at least one pro bono case per year—no matter where we landed. Finding a firm where I could balance traditional legal work with pro bono work was key for me.”

Today, Barchini is a third-year associate at Jones Day in New York, where his mentors have helped him build a flexible commercial litigation and investigations practice. The firm’s strong philanthropic mission has empowered him in his social justice work—somewhat of an outlier in the context of Big Law.

Barchini’s pro bono work at Jones Day has ranged from representing clients in unaccompanied minor and domestic violence cases to participating in the Justice Department’s Clemency Initiative. He also chairs the Young Professional Board of buildOn, an international nonprofit organization.

But it is his immigration work that has been life-changing. Each week since early 2017, Jones Day attorneys travel to a pop-up office near the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility in Laredo, where they offer “know your rights” presentations and represent detainees—mostly women with fear-based claims who are facing deportation—in immigration proceedings. Those whom Jones Day attorneys represent receive legal assistance for the duration of their cases, making the firm’s initiative the only comprehensive program of its kind. Accordingly, Jones Day recently was honored by the State Bar of Texas for providing “truly exceptional legal services to the poor.”

For Barchini, it has given him the opportunity to strike the right balance in his practice.

“There’s a perceived divide between the public and private sectors—but it doesn’t have to be that way. If you’re a lawyer working in the private sector, you can chase the career you want while also serving others through pro bono or public service work. It’s a balance that I have been fortunate enough to achieve, and I am grateful.”
Steve Miller was named managing partner at the Chicago office of Fisher & Phillips LLP. His practice involves representing management in all areas of labor and employment law.

Julie Porter, founding partner of Salvatore Prescott & Porter PLLC, was named the Illinois legislative inspector general, a post that had been vacant for nearly three years.

Sarah Geraghty was featured in the January New York Times article, “Bail Was $500, Money He Didn’t Have. Atlanta Faces Calls for Change,” concerning her work at the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta. She is the managing attorney of the center’s impact litigation unit.

Jeff Gifford was appointed to lead the corporate finance practice group, a team focused on counseling clients in all aspects of corporate finance matters, in the San Antonio, Texas, office of Dykema Gossett PLLC.

Elliot Regenstein joined Foresight Law + Policy as a partner in its Chicago office. He previously served as senior vice president for advocacy and policy with the Ounce of Prevention Fund, a national early learning nonprofit.

The Hon. Allie Maldonado, chief judge of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Tribal Court, authored a chapter in Tough Cases, which describes how trial judges struggle to find the elusive justice within the confines of the law when the path is either unmarked or clearly marked but pointing in the wrong direction.

Tiffany Murphy, associate professor of law and director of the Criminal Practice Clinic at the University of Arkansas School of Law, received the university’s Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award for Service.

Asim Rehman was named deputy inspector general in the Department of Investigation’s Office of the Inspector General for the New York Police Department. He previously served as general counsel, which provides external oversight of the NYPD.

Matthew Schneider was named interim U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. A former federal prosecutor, he was the top deputy to Michigan Attorney General Bill Schuette, leading the office’s active caseload and a 500-member staff. Before that, he was lead counsel for Gov. Rick Snyder, ’82, during Detroit’s bankruptcy.

Monica Beck was featured in an article in The Atlantic, “The Younger Victims of Sexual Violence in School,” for her work representing survivors of school violence.

Jonathan Fountain joined the Las Vegas office of Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC. He concentrates his practice in intellectual property litigation, entertainment law, and commercial litigation.

Karl Paulson-Egbert joined the New York office of Baker McKenzie as a partner in its North America corporate and securities practice, where he advises asset managers on a variety of regulatory, corporate, and business matters related to private and registered funds.

Zachary Davis, a shareholder in the Philadelphia office of Stevens & Lee, was named co-chair of the firm’s labor and employment department.

Sanne Knudsen was inducted into the American College of Environmental Lawyers. She is associate dean for faculty research and development and the Stimson Bullitt Professor of Environmental Law at the University of Washington School of Law.

Jordan Lipp joined Childs McCune LLC in Denver as a partner. His practice focuses on product liability defense, outdoor industry defense, and commercial litigation.

Matthew Meyer was elected county executive of New Castle County, which is Delaware’s largest county. He defeated a three-term incumbent in the Democratic primary, which local analysts called the biggest political upset in Delaware in years.
Benjamin Mizer was elected a partner of the Washington, D.C., office of Jones Day. He previously served as acting assistant attorney general for the U.S. Department of Justice civil division during the Obama administration.

Justice Goran Selanec, LLM ’02, SJD ’12, was elected to the Constitutional Court of Croatia.

Ellisen Turner was elected managing partner of Irell & Manella LLP—the firm’s first African American managing partner. He is a partner in the Los Angeles office and also serves as the hiring chair and an executive committee member.

2003

Andrew Lycans was elected to a three-year term on the Ohio State Bar Association’s board of governors. He is a partner at Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston Ltd. in Wooster, Ohio.

Ivana Radačić, LLM ’03, was appointed a member of the UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women in Law and Practice by the UN Human Rights Council.

2004

Justin Bustos was elected a member of the Reno, Nevada, office of Dickinson Wright PLLC. He also is president of the board of directors for the Washoe County Bar Association.

Sarah Doerr, an attorney at Moss & Barnett, was selected to serve as the attorney state chair of the Minnesota chapter of ACA International, the Association of Credit and Collection Professionals. State chairs are attorneys who have volunteered to be available as a legal resource and referral attorney for ACA International.

2005

Brenda Abdelall contributed to The Immigrant Cookbook: Recipes that Make America Great (2017). She is the author of the award-winning Middle Eastern food blog, midEATS, and teaches Middle Eastern cooking classes in Northern Virginia.

Nathan Hamstra was elected partner of the Chicago office of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP. His practice focuses on intellectual property litigation, with a particular focus on patent and trade secret disputes.

Jürgen Kurtz, LLM ’05, SJD ’11, was appointed professor of international economic law at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. He came to the position from the University of Melbourne Law School in Australia, where he taught as a professor of law.

Jason Moff was promoted to special counsel at Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP in New York. He has served as counsel, including as co-lead counsel, in significant securities and shareholder matters; represented major corporations in regulatory and criminal investigations; served on a number of trial teams; and advised clients on a range of regulatory and litigation issues.
Trisha Rich was named one of “40 Illinois Attorneys Under 40 to Watch” for 2017 by Law Bulletin Media, publisher of the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin and Chicago Lawyer. She is a partner in the Chicago office of Holland & Knight LLP.

2006

Rachael Brant joined Torildson, Katz, Moore, Hetherington & Harris in Honolulu as a senior associate. She is a member of the firm’s corporate and health care practice groups. She returned to private practice after eight years of service at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of General Counsel.


Maria Gritsenko, counsel at the London office of Bryan Cave, was elected to the young and international division of the global advisory board of the International Centre for Dispute Resolution.

Weston Hall was promoted to partner at Chamblee Ryan PC, a Dallas-based trial law firm. He practices in a diverse group of litigation matters, including commercial, general liability/personal injury, medical malpractice, and premises liability.

Robert Koch joined the Portland, Oregon, office of Tonkon Torp LLP as an of counsel attorney in the litigation department. He previously worked in the U.S. Department of Justice’s civil rights division in Washington, D.C.

Braden McCarrach was elected a partner at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP in New York. His practice focuses on mergers and acquisitions, as well as general corporate governance and securities.

William Tran joined Viacom’s business and legal affairs department as vice president of production risk. He is based in Los Angeles. He previously served as senior counsel of legal affairs for NBCUniversal Inc.

2007

Paul DePasquale was elected partner in the tax practice of Baker McKenzie in New York.

Cathy Tran Moses joined the Orange County, California, office of Cox, Castle & Nicholson as senior counsel on the litigation team. She specializes in complex business litigation.

Lauryn Parks was named a partner in the commercial litigation group at Momkus McCluskey Roberts LLC, based in Lisle, Illinois.

Kamao Shaw became a partner in the Irvine, California, office of Bryan Cave LLP. He concentrates his practice in the areas of real estate and financial services.

Andrew Vouziers was named an equity partner at Sidley Austin LLP in Chicago. His practice focuses on cross-border and domestic debt finance in a variety of transactional arenas. He represents investment banks, commercial banks, private equity sponsors, investment funds, insurance companies, and private and public companies.

Brandon Conrad was named a shareholder of Saxton & Stump LLC in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. His practice focuses on health care litigation; he has represented doctors, hospitals, and other health care professionals in more than 150 medical professional liability lawsuits and pre-suit investigations.

Vincent Indelicato has been elected partner in the corporate department in the New York office of Proskauer Rose LLP. He frequently counsels leading distressed hedge funds, investors, and creditors on complex domestic and international insolvency and restructuring issues. He also has extensive experience representing boards of directors and private equity sponsors of financially troubled companies in connection with high-profile workout and bankruptcy planning matters across a variety of industries, including Puerto Rico, Westinghouse Electric, and Caesars Entertainment.

Sarah Jacobson was promoted to counsel in the New York office of Haynes and Boone LLP. She is a member of the litigation practice group.

Meghan McCall Hansen was promoted to counsel in the Chicago office of Latham & Watkins. She is a member of the litigation and trial department and primarily counsels clients in government and internal investigations.
Jeffrey Murphy was promoted to partner in the Bethesda, Maryland, office of Linowes and Blocher LLP. He practices in the firm’s real estate transactions group.

Yang Wang, former counsel, was named partner in the Beijing office of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP. He represents private equity funds and corporate clients on various mergers and acquisitions, private equity transactions, corporate finance transactions, and other general corporate matters.

2009

Naomi Berry was elected shareholder in the Miami office of Carlton Fields Jorden Burt LLP. She is a member of the firm’s national trial practice business litigation section.

Alicia Handy joined the Pittsburgh office of Cohen & Grisby PC as an associate in the business services group. She previously was an associate at an international law firm in Houston.

Elizabeth Johnson joined the Royal Oak, Michigan, office of Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC. She concentrates her practice on patent and trade secret matters.

Heather Karell was promoted to counsel in the Seattle office of Perkins Coie LLP, where she is a member of the corporate practice and focuses on technology transactions and privacy and security.

Tim Knapp, a partner in the Chicago office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, spent nine years representing a client incarcerated for a double homicide. Cook County prosecutors agreed to a new trial after Knapp gained a key court victory allowing for a new evidentiary hearing. In February 2017, the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office dropped all charges as a result of new fingerprint evidence.

Raven Burke Mackey, an associate at Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP, was selected as a 2018 Fellow in the Chicago Urban League’s IMPACT Leadership Development Program. Prior to joining the firm, she was a law clerk for The Hon. Sharon Johnson Coleman of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Kate Dennis Nye was promoted to partner in the Chicago office of Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP. Her practice focuses on assisting clients with their branding and marketing needs.

Shannon Shin joined the Chicago office of Fox Rothschild LLP as an associate in the firm’s litigation department. Her practice focuses on complex commercial litigation and appellate advocacy, including e-discovery issues.

Ducarmel St. Louis joined the Fort Lauderdale, Florida, office of Kelley Kronenberg, where he assists in handling matters related to third-party insurance defense and general liability. Previously, he owned and operated his own law firm, where he handled all aspects of general liability matters.

Lilia Vazova was named partner in the New York office of Latham & Watkins. She is a member of the litigation and trial department and focuses her practice on white collar defense and investigations.

2010

Brian Cathey joined the Houston-based law firm of Wright & Close LLP as a senior associate. He previously served as a law clerk for The Hon. Carolyn Dineen King of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and Justice John P. Devine of the Supreme Court of Texas. He also was an associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP in New York and a Houston litigation boutique.

Joshua Hopstone was named partner at Ferguson Case Orr Paterson LLP in Ventura, California. He focuses his practice on complex business and real estate, land use, and construction-related matters.

Katherine Pullen was named partner in the Southfield, Michigan, office of Warner Norcross & Judd LLP. She also was selected to participate in Leadership Oakland, a nine-month leadership development program for professionals in Oakland County, Michigan.

Corinne Sprague was named partner in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, office of Warner Norcross & Judd LLP. She chairs the community engagement committee of the Grand Rapids Symphony and serves on the board of the Grand Rapids Early Discovery Center.
Sarah Cylkowski
is now a member in the Detroit office of Bodman PLC. She litigates complex matters with a particular focus on commercial health care disputes, class actions, e-discovery, and antitrust cases.

Michael Huston,
formerly of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, joined the Office of the Solicitor General at the U.S. Department of Justice. In April, he argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in Lagos v. United States.

Chad Ray
joined Munck Wilson Mandala in Dallas as a senior associate. He uses his background bridging chemistry and law to represent clients in a variety of complex commercial litigation matters.

2012

Brian Connolly,
newly elected shareholder and director at Otten Johnson Robinson Neff & Ragonetti PC in Denver, edited the recently published book, Local Government, Land Use, and the First Amendment: Protecting Free Speech and Expression, and manages Rocky Mountain Sign Law, a national blog.

Amy Murphy
joined the Grand Rapids, Michigan, office of Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cummiskey PLC as an associate. She previously worked with complex civil appellate cases at Williams & Connolly LLP in Washington, D.C.

Christopher Unseld
joined the Berlin office of Hausfeld Rechtsanwälte LLP as an associate. His practice focuses on competition litigation and consumer protection.

2013

Wencong Fa,
an attorney with the Pacific Legal Foundation, was counsel of record in the successful certiorari petition for Minnesota Voters Alliance v. Mansky. He was second chair for the case, which was argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in February.

Kevin Hill
joined the Portland, Oregon, office of K&L Gates LLP as an associate. His practice focuses on corporate/mergers and acquisitions, primarily securities regulation, corporate governance, and capital markets.

2014

Daniel Yeomans
joined the Pittsburgh office of Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampi LLC as an associate in the bankruptcy and creditors’ rights practice group.

2015

Christopher Burtley
joined the Detroit office of Foley & Lardner LLP as an associate in the business litigation and dispute resolution group. He previously practiced in the Detroit office of Dykema Gossett PLLC.

2016

Taylor Bruun
joined Andersen Schwartzman Woodard Brailsford PLLC in Boise, Idaho.

James Geiser III
joined the Washington, D.C., office of Dentons as a law clerk. He previously served as an associate at Kramon & Graham PA in Baltimore.

2017

Varun Aery,
received the 2017 Jon Henry Kouba Prize for his paper on the European Union. He currently is spending a year in Cambodia as a Luce Scholar.

Stevin George
joined the Milwaukee office of Godfrey & Kahn as an associate in the environmental practice group.

Jacob Harris
joined the Minneapolis office of Fredrikson & Byron as an associate. He is a member of the litigation and white collar and regulatory defense groups.

2018 REUNION
OCT. 12–14
## IN MEMORIAM

### 1930s
- Robert B. Knight, ’39 11/07/2017

### 1940s
- Albert M. Colman, ’48 10/08/2017
- Lester E. Page, ’48 09/07/2017
- William H. Braun, ’49 01/28/2017
- Jack L. Rasmussen, ’49 02/01/2018

### 1950s
- James R. Daoust, ’50 09/08/2017
- John W. Delanty, ’50 01/11/2018
- James B. Falaha, ’50 03/25/2018
- Alan P. Goldstein, ’50 06/10/2017
- Genro Kashiba, ’50 06/29/2017
- Frederic M. Lewis, ’50 02/28/2018
- Robert W. Sharp, ’50 11/06/2017
- Edward E. Ulkuin, ’51 08/21/2017
- Richard M. Kaplan, ’51 10/15/2017
- Irwin Lapping, ’51 07/26/2017
- James E. Mccony, ’51 04/26/2017
- Robert B. Seely, ’51 12/20/2015
- Melvyn J. Stauffer, ’51 03/17/2018
- Robert M. Stewart, ’51 12/06/2017
- Dale M. Strain, ’51 02/10/2018
- Frank W. Allen, ’52 02/20/2018
- Richard W. Billings, ’52 01/16/2018
- Robert G. Edison, ’52 09/15/2017
- Charles E. Gibson, ’52 10/10/2017
- Burton Perlman, ’52 06/17/2017
- Howard L. Radner, ’52 11/09/2017
- Norman M. Spindelman, ’52 12/22/2016
- Wendell B. Will, ’52 12/09/2017
- James R. Christiansen, ’53 09/20/2017
- Michael C. Clemente, ’53 02/20/2018
- James E. Sauter, ’53 01/20/2018
- Richard T. Seeger, ’53 01/26/2018
- Norton L. Armour, ’54 09/05/2017
- Elwood Cluck, ’54 04/23/2017
- Donald C. Droste, ’54 11/12/2017
- R. Perry Innes, ’54 03/02/2018
- Richard R. Lovinger, ’54 06/12/2017
- John F. Shanetz, ’54 08/21/2017
- Gordon H. Cunningham, ’55 01/06/2018
- Harry G. Iwasko, ’55 09/07/2017
- Roger P. Noorthoeck, ’55 05/14/2016
- Richard S. Ratcliff, ’55 03/06/2018
- John R. Worthington, ’55 01/10/2018

### 1960s
- Paul R. Haerle, ’56 03/06/2018
- Ian C. Kirkwood, ’56 04/22/2017
- Morton A. Polster, ’56 12/18/2017
- Charles B. Renfrew, ’56 12/14/2017
- Whitmore Gray, ’57 03/04/2018
- Howard Kahnlenbeck, ’57 12/23/2017
- Monte K. Marshall, ’57 08/23/2017
- Robert A. Martin, ’57 11/22/2017
- James M. Porter, ’57 11/11/2017
- Robert B. Weaver, ’57 09/14/2017
- Richard C. Burrows, ’58 12/19/2017
- Robert J. Henderson, ’58 12/11/2017
- Elmer C. Rudy, ’59 09/13/2017
- Charles E. Angevine, ’59 04/06/2018
- Roger S. Babb, ’59 01/23/2018
- Frederic F. Brace, ’59 09/25/2017
- Gerald R. Leippl, ’59 01/04/2018
- Gerald J. Pressott, ’59 03/21/2018
- Leonard B. Schwartz, ’59 08/29/2017
- Paul S. Gerding, ’60 09/26/2017
- Thomas W. Hauser, ’60 11/04/2017
- Fred S. Steingold, ’60 08/08/2017
- James N. Adler, ’61 02/08/2018
- James A. Holcomb, ’61 08/03/2017
- Richard A. Tyler, ’61 08/28/2017
- Elton A. Burky, ’62 12/06/2017
- Walter T. Dartland, ’62 10/05/2015
- Larry M. Elison, ’62 11/11/2017
- B. Todd Jones, ’62 12/17/2017
- John P. Sart, ’62 12/10/2017
- Donald P. Collett, ’63 11/05/2017
- Michael S. Knuth, ’63 12/13/2017
- John L. McNamara, ’63 09/21/2017
- Rolfe A. Worden, ’63 02/28/2017
- Ronald K. Dalby, ’64 12/08/2017
- Edgar N. Harland, ’64 01/28/2018
- Ronald C. Allen, ’65 11/26/2017
- J. Walter Brock, ’65 01/09/2017
- Paul F. Dauer, ’65 01/18/2018
- Paul A. Rothman, ’65 10/24/2017
- Thomas L. Jones, ’66 08/27/2017
- James Laughlin, ’67 02/16/2018
- James P. Neeck, ’67 11/27/2017
- Donald D. Zerial, ’67 11/23/2017

### 1970s
- Bettye S. Elkins, ’70 03/20/2018
- James M. Graham, ’71 06/11/2017
- Warren L. Swaney, ’71 06/07/2017
- Mark R. Light, ’72 11/03/2016
- Walter E. Vashak, ’72 12/16/2017
- Geoffrey Caine, ’73 02/24/2018
- John W. Solomon, ’73 08/28/2017
- Patrick B. Walsh, ’73 02/2018
- Dennis M. Fallon, ’74 10/30/2017
- John H. Otto, ’77 08/27/2017
- David M. Ugarteechea, ’77 03/11/2018
- David O. Fredrickson, ’78 11/13/2017

### 1980s
- Walter Banbury, ’80 09/25/2017
- Bobby C. Underwood, ’80 02/19/2018
- Christo Lassiter, ’83 10/25/2017
- Derrick P. Mayes, ’84 08/14/2017
- Brian C. Zobel, ’84 10/02/2017
- Jeffrey R. Coleman, ’85 08/01/2017
- Neal C. Villhauer, ’85 01/13/2018
- Graham E. Taylor, ’87 03/23/2018
- Benjamin H. Watts, ’88 09/19/2017

### 1990s
- Timothy G. Ehresman, ’90 03/08/2018
- Eric W. Richardson, ’91 02/01/2018
- Paul E. Sigmund, ’92 01/11/2018
- Karen M. Lieberman, ’94 02/12/2018
- Stephanie A. Sanwal, ’99 12/08/2017

### 2000s
- Blake F. Dunlap, ’01 01/28/2018
- Daniel A. Loeffler, ’04 04/02/2018
- Joan H. Tisch, ’09 11/02/2017

### 2010s
- Alan E. Colley, ’13 09/07/2017
IN MEMORIAM

The Hon. Charles B. Renfrew, ’56

Charles B. Renfrew, a former federal judge and deputy U.S. attorney general in the Carter administration, died December 14 in San Francisco. He was 89.

Born in Detroit, Judge Renfrew served three years in the U.S. Navy after high school. Stationed around the world in locations such as Australia, Hong Kong, and Tokyo and Yokohama, Japan, his time in the Navy sparked his love of international travel.

Judge Renfrew attended Princeton University on the GI Bill and graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1952—just as the Korean War was beginning. He immediately enlisted in the U.S. Army. When he returned from Korea, he attended Michigan Law, where he was a member of the Michigan Law Review and the Order of the Coif.

His distinguished career began in 1956 when he joined Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro in San Francisco, and he went on to become a partner there. In 1972, President Nixon appointed him U.S. district judge for the Northern District of California, where he presided over numerous high-profile and dramatic cases. He had a reputation for fairness, commitment to justice, and a love of presiding over naturalization ceremonies. Judge Renfrew cared deeply about the well-being of those he sentenced, asking inmates to write him letters so that he could reevaluate their sentences under Rule 35(b). He also visited prisons to assess conditions and often was discouraged by what he saw.

Judge Renfrew was known for asking defendants, for the greater good, to tell their cautionary tales to others. “He required certain offenders, especially white-collar ones, as a condition of their release, to give talks before groups explaining how they’d gotten into trouble and why it was very much in the interest of the folks he was speaking with to avoid doing the things that got the individual in trouble,” Judge Vaughn Walker, AB ’66, told news outlets when Renfrew died. “It would have a considerable impact.” Judge Walker went on to use the same tactic, after seeing its effectiveness.

In 1980, President Carter appointed Judge Renfrew U.S. deputy attorney general under Benjamin Civiletti, during which time he defended the Department of Justice against allegations that it was unfairly creating an easier path to immigration for Cubans than for Haitians.

Returning to private practice in 1983, Judge Renfrew became vice president and general counsel of Chevron Corp. and spent a decade overseeing the company’s acquisition of and merger with Gulf Oil.

Five years later, he started a new law practice specializing in arbitration, mediation, and internal corporate investigations. One of his first assignments was serving on an oversight panel of the David Hale investigation, a central witness in the Whitewater controversy. During this time, Judge Renfrew was the court-appointed representative in four asbestos settlement trusts totaling $2.3 billion and a public director of the California Power Exchange.

Judge Renfrew taught law at the University of California, Berkeley. He also was president of the American College of Trial Lawyers; vice chairman of the antitrust section of the American Bar Association; a member of the American Law Institute, the American Judicature Society, the Association of General Counsel, and the legal advisory committee of the New York Stock Exchange; and a board member of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.

He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Barbara Jones Renfrew; eight children; 21 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.
Professor Whitmore Gray, ’57

Professor Whitmore Gray, ’57, was a scholar of the world. He loved his family, teaching, traveling, music, the arts, making connections around the globe, and living every minute of life to its fullest. A friend to many, he died on March 4 in Ann Arbor. He was 85.

Gray joined the Michigan Law faculty as an assistant professor in 1960. He remained at Michigan until his retirement in 1993, following a distinguished 33-year career of teaching and research. “Whit was one of the brightest, most remarkable individuals to graduate from the Law School,” says Professor Emeritus Theodore St. Antoine, ’54. “He had a special gift for languages—nearly everything in Western Europe plus Russian, Chinese, and Japanese. Whit had a genuine, irresistible joie de vivre that I shall greatly miss.”

In 1993, he was awarded emeritus status from Michigan Law and continued teaching for 20 years while also teaching at Fordham Law School in New York City, where he was named the George Bacon-Kilkenny Distinguished Visiting Professor. He served as a guest lecturer and visiting professor around the world, including at the Universities of Muenster and Tubingen in Germany; the Universities of Tokyo and Kyoto in Japan; and universities in Mexico, China, France, Hong Kong, and the United States, including Stanford and Princeton. Gray was a founding faculty member of Peking University’s School of Transnational Law in Shenzhen, China, from 2008 to 2014.

Gray made numerous trips to Russia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, and Japan for lectures, research, and teaching. During his robust career, he compiled extensive sets of teaching materials on contract law, alternative dispute resolution, and comparative law. His work has helped to shape this country’s understanding of law in Russia, Japan, China, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

Born in Monroe, Michigan, on November 6, 1932, he received his AB from Principia College in 1954 and served as editor-in-chief of the Michigan Law Review. He studied at the University of Paris and practiced law in New York City at Casey, Lane & Mittendorf (1958–1960); Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton (1974–1980); and LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae (1994–2001). He received an LLD degree from Adrian College in 1982.

Gray married Svea (Blomquist) Gray in 1958. He was father to Sara, Maja, Lisa Tucker-Gray (Kim), Mark, and Mikio, and grandfather to Taylor Tucker-Gray and Michael Gray.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS
ESTABLISH PROFESSOR EMERITUS WHITMORE GRAY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Gray’s influence reached beyond his scholarship to shape lawyers around the world. “He was a monumental figure in the modernization of Chinese legal systems. I hope to follow in his footsteps,” says Shaolin Luo, partner in the Beijing office of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP. “I am deeply indebted to Whit. I wouldn’t have gone so far in my legal career and life without his influence.”

“Professor Gray was the kind of person I’ve rarely met, whose selfless spirit surprised and touched me,” says Yao Xu, LLM ’08, executive director of Youzu Interactive Co. Ltd. in Shanghai. “I’m doing my best to help others like he helped me. This is just the start to [showing] my gratitude.”

Prior to Gray’s death, Luo and Xu co-established the Professor Emeritus Whitmore Gray Scholarship Fund to support students from greater China who wouldn’t otherwise have the opportunity to study at Michigan Law. “To say my father loved watching others fall in love with the law and the intricacies of the legal system isn’t an exaggeration,” says Lisa-Tucker Gray. “It’s a gift to find that kind of passion in one’s vocation, and he pursued it for a lifetime. With this scholarship, his legacy will continue.”

The effort so far has inspired gifts totaling more than $1 million, including founding contributions from the following individuals: Anonymous, Eric Bergsten, ’56; Hobart Birmingham, ’71; Lefan Gong, LLM ’99, SJD ’06; Ji Hu, LLM ’00; Xiaoyu Greg Liu, ’97; Shaolin Luo; Ambassador Clark Randt, ’75; Weidong Paul Wang; Xinghua Owen Wang, ’09; Yang Wang, ’08; Ron Xu, LLM ’04; Yao Xu, LLM ’08; Cheng Wang, LLM ’04; Xiangyu Sam Zhang, LLM ’85; and Yi Zhang, ’93.

If you are interested in making a gift in support of the Whit Gray Scholarship Fund, please contact Liz Seger, ’05, in the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 734.615.4511 or lizseger@umich.edu.
IN MEMORIAM

John W. Reed, the Thomas M. Cooley Professor of Law Emeritus, died March 6 at age 99.

Born in Independence, Missouri, Reed’s studies began at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri. He went on to earn an LLB at Cornell Law School and an LLM at Columbia Law School. He launched his professional career as a practicing attorney in Kansas City, Missouri, before acknowledging that teaching was his passion. He first taught at the University of Oklahoma Law School before moving to Ann Arbor to join the Michigan Law faculty in 1949.

For a half-century, Reed taught civil procedure, evidence, trial advocacy, and other courses at Michigan Law. He influenced thousands of young lawyers as they learned their craft, and students repeatedly honored him for teaching excellence. “John never lived in the past,” says Richard Lempert, the Eric Stein Distinguished University Professor of Law and Sociology Emeritus. “He was always up to date, receptive to new ideas, and fresh in his thinking.”

In 2011, when the State Bar of Michigan wanted to establish an award to honor the best of legal educators, they needed to look no further than Reed to figure out its namesake. The John W. Reed Michigan Lawyer Legacy Award is named after a professor “who over the course of his decades-long career at the University of Michigan Law School earned a reputation as a preeminent scholar, teacher, and gentleman,” the State Bar notes. “The award is presented periodically to an educator from a Michigan law school whose influence on lawyers has elevated the quality of legal practice in the state of Michigan.”

Reed’s tenure at Michigan was interspersed with visiting professorships at Yale University, Harvard University, Princeton University, the University of Chicago, New York University, and the University of San Diego. He also served as dean of the University of Colorado and Wayne State University law schools and as the director of the Institute for Continuing Legal Education, housed at U-M.

In 1981, Reed became the administrative secretary of the International Society of Barristers. This group became the perfect forum for a man who was an eloquent and ardent advocate for justice and service through the legal profession. His speeches at the yearly meetings were renowned for serving as an ethical and moral compass for practicing lawyers worldwide. Beyond the barristers, those in Reed’s audiences who were not schooled in the law were equally enthralled, and moved to greater social action and to a deeper conscience.

Reed believed that education must go beyond the classroom. With enthusiasm and quiet generosity, he devoted time, energy, and personal resources promoting, supporting, and guiding many organizations such as U-M’s University Musical Society, the Ministers and Missionaries Fund of the American Baptist Churches, and the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. He loved great music and was a member and director of the First Baptist Church choirs, both in Boulder, Colorado, and Ann Arbor.

While Reed’s career was a focal point of his life, he also was a generous family man. He was married for 51 years to Dorothy (Dot) Floyd Jodoin before her death in 2012, and he is survived by five children, eight grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

He lived his faith daily by example and service. “John was a remarkable man,” says Professor Len Niehoff, ’84. “He was a good shepherd with a very big flock.”
Facelift

The iconic Law Quadrangle recently underwent infrastructure improvements as part of a $6.2 million renovation project. Along with upgrades to underground utilities, the project included refurbishing light fixtures on all buildings with entrances to the Quad; installing Collegiate Gothic-style light poles around the Quad’s perimeter; and replacing the deteriorated slate walkways with ashlar bluestone pavers. Bluestone mimics the look, pattern, and cut of slate, and is highly durable. The renovation began in May 2017 and was completed in early 2018.

ONLINE EXTRA View a time-lapse video of the changes at quadrangle.umich.edu.