THEORY AT WORK
Professor Susan Wolf’s work on COVID-related issues is spotlighted

LAW SCHOOL NEWS
First recipient of George Floyd Memorial Scholarship in Law is announced

ALUMNI Q&A
Cherée H. Johnson ’03
Senior VP and General Counsel W.R. Grace

At the Heart of Health Law
Alums have their fingers on the pulse of a rapidly evolving field

MICHELLE BERGHOLZ FRAZIER ’98
SVP, CHIEF COMPLIANCE OFFICER, ADVOCATE AURORA HEALTH
Our Leadership Is Based in Service

Commitment to Service Has Been Deeply Imbued in the Mission of Minnesota Law Since Its Founding Nearly 135 Years Ago as a Public Law School at a Land-Grant University. Generations of Law Students, Alumni, Faculty, and Staff Have Contributed to the Local Community, State, Nation, and World in Countless Ways, Making a Global Impact and Continuing Our Legacy of Service.

Our Alumni’s Commitment to Service Is Unparalleled, From Holding Key Leadership Positions, Serving on Bar Commissions and Committees, Performing Countless Hours of Pro Bono Work, Volunteering Extensively in Their Communities, and Engaging in Numerous Philanthropic Endeavors, Including Generously Supporting Their Alma Mater. And What Support Our Alumni Give! The Results of Our Driven to Lead Campaign Speak for Themselves: More than 6,000 Donors Gave Over $106 Million, Exceeding Our Goals and Advancing Our Mission to Educate Those Who Will Continue Our Legacy of Service. (See Our “Driven” Story on Page 25 and Our “Gopher Gratitude” Donor Celebration Story on the Back Cover.)

As Dean of the Law School, I Could Not Be Prouder of the Way Our Students and Faculty Contribute to the Twin Cities Community and Weave Service into Their Professional Lives. From the 26 Clinics at Minnesota Law That Have Helped Thousands of Individuals and Families to the Faculty Members Who Influence Policy Across the Country (See Professor Susan Wolf in “Theory at Work” on Page 26), Our Institutional Commitment to Service Is Evident. Our Alumni Serve as Judges and Justices, Senators, Governors—even Vice President of the United States. And Thousands of Our Alumni Sit on Nonprofit Boards in Their Communities, Mentor Students and New Attorneys, and Commit to Pro Bono Each Year. Minnesota Law Lawyers Live Our Mission of Service Every Day Through Choices and Actions.

Our Current Students’ Own Actions Provide the Greatest Evidence of the Continuing Legacy of the Law School’s Commitment to Service. Over a Single Year Minnesota Law Students Dedicated More than 58,000 Hours to Pro Bono, Supporting Individuals and Communities and Making a Significant Impact on Law and Policy. The Difference the Students Make Through This Work Is Tremendous, as Are the Skills and Professional Values Gained Through These Experiences, Cementing in Our Students a Lifelong Commitment to Serve.

Despite the Challenges of This Time, Minnesota Law Continues to Educate and Inspire Future Lawyers. This Fall, We Admitted One of Our Most Diverse and Academically Accomplished First-Year Classes in the Law School’s History (See Our “Meet the Class” Story on Page 6). As We Welcome Our New Class and Welcome Back Our Returning Students, We Take Seriously Our Responsibility to Prepare All Students to Tackle Society’s Challenges Head On—and to Serve.

With the Continued Support of Our Alumni Community, I Cannot Wait to See What Great Things We Will Accomplish Together. Onward and Upward!

Garry W. Jenkins
Dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law
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Brandon Redmon, 1L, Inaugural Recipient of the George Floyd Memorial Scholarship in Law

What I did Last Summer
Six Minnesota Law students share their perspectives on their summer career experiences

Student News
Delta Chief Legal Officer Peter Carter ’91 Headlines Inaugural Matheson Lecture

With a generous gift from Medtronic, Minnesota Law established scholarships named in honor of pathbreaking judges Pamela G. Alexander ’77 and Michael J. Davis ’72. The two scholarships will support law students who show a commitment to social justice and exhibit outstanding potential for legal work as civil rights or public interest attorneys.

“These scholarships recognize two champions of justice in the Minnesota legal community,” says Michelle Miller ’86, Medtronic vice president and senior counsel of employment law. “By meeting game-changer challenges with courage and compassion, Judge Pamela Alexander, now retired from the bench but not the work, has modeled the power of conviction as she steadfastly works to improve the legal system for all. And a fierce advocate for justice, Federal District Court Judge Michael J. Davis, who is currently on chief status, has continued to strive to make the court system fairer and more accessible to the underrepresented and poor.”

Additional gifts for the fund are still being accepted. For more information or questions about making a gift, contact Paul Ogren at pogren@umn.edu or 612-626-1888.

Law School’s Driven to Lead Campaign Raises More Than $100M

The Law School’s Driven to Lead fundraising campaign ended after a highly successful run, surpassing not only its original $80 million target, but also its $100 million stretch goal. The money raised is being used for scholarships, professorships and faculty research, student support and fellowships, clinical programs and experiential learning, leadership programming, and the annual fund.

The campaign, which had its public launch in September 2017, concluded on June 30.

“We are so grateful to the thousands of dedicated supporters who have contributed to the Law School during this campaign and positioned the Law School for continued excellence,” said Garry W. Jenkins, dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law. “Their generosity has helped ensure that Minnesota Law remains a powerful force in legal education and in the global legal community. I am enormously grateful to our alumni and friends for their partnership and confidence in our future.”

Even with the sunset of the Driven campaign, the Law School will continue to seek support to expand access to legal education, drive innovation, and meet the challenges of this time, all while continuing its mission of education, outreach, and service. More information is available at www.law.umn.edu/giving.
1 Professor Randell Ryder ’09 holds one of his classes outdoors in Stein Plaza to take advantage of a warm September day.

2 3Ls Emily Newman and Elena Modl at the Law Library Constitution Day celebration.

3 The Alumni and Student Engagement Committee hosted a tailgate at Mondale Hall in early September. From left to right: Valerie Perkins, 2L, Giselle Webber, 1L, Dean Garry W. Jenkins, Eric Locker, 2L, Caleb Nigrin, 2L, Khalid Haleem ’21, and Shelby Lauzon, 2L

4 Professor Alexandra Klass shares some words with 1L students during a series of luncheons held between faculty members and their 1L advisees in September.

5 1Ls Leigh Crews and Katie Ocampo share a moment with Assistant Dean of Students Erin Keyes ’00 at the new student ice cream social.

6 New “living walls” are installed in the subplaza as part of our building improvements in preparation for the return of students brought new life to Mondale Hall.

7 Professor William McGeveran at orientation introducing incoming students to the vagaries of legal interpretations with the help of a visual aid.
Minnesota Law Welcomes One of the Most Diverse, Academically Accomplished Classes in Its History

MINNESOTA LAW WELCOMED 231 first-year J.D. students from nearly 140 undergraduate institutions in 38 states, the District of Columbia, and six different countries. It is one of the most diverse and academically accomplished classes in the Law School’s nearly 135-year history.

The Class of 2024 boasts outstanding academic credentials, with a middle 50-percent range of 3.53–3.89 for undergraduate GPA and a middle 50-percent range of 161–167 on the LSAT. Seven percent of incoming 1Ls have already earned a graduate degree in another field.

In addition to impressive academic accomplishments, the new 1L class brings a wide array of life experiences, skills, and perspectives. Included among its members are Fulbright scholars, a congressional staffer, a former truck driver, a litigation paralegal, a rapper/musician, an actor, and a competitive Irish step dancer, just to name a few.

“We couldn’t be more thrilled to welcome such an accomplished and diverse group of students to Mondale Hall,” said Garry W. Jenkins, dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law. “This group of future lawyer-leaders is a proud addition to the Minnesota Law community and will undoubtedly make a substantial impact in Law School and the world. I cannot wait to see what they achieve and how they will continue to expand our mission of justice and service!”

Minnesota Law Grads (Again) Have Highest Bar Pass Rate in State

MINNESOTA LAW GRADS performed extraordinarily well on the July 2021 administration of the Minnesota bar exam.

Among first-time takers, the bar exam pass rate was an eye-popping 96.3 percent, higher than any other law school in the state and the second highest recorded since the Uniform Bar Examination was introduced seven years ago. The pass rate of Minnesota Law’s first-time bar takers was nearly 15% above the state’s overall bar pass rate of 81.9%.

Among all takers (regardless of attempt), Minnesota Law grads’ pass rate was 94% (also the highest in the state).

Minnesota Law grads have a history of performing extremely well on the bar exam. Last year it was reported that the first-time bar takers pass rate for Minnesota Law grads for the 2020 exam was the third best in the nation, behind only Harvard and Yale.
NEW STAFF

Brigette Gay joined Minnesota Law as education program manager in curriculum. She previously worked at the University of Minnesota Medical School, where she served for three years as the assistant registrar and clinical course manager.

Katy Hunt-Thompson joined Minnesota Law as the law clinic administrator. She previously served as the executive assistant to the dean at Indiana University Maurer School of Law.

Julie Longo joined Minnesota Law as a digital marketing and design specialist for the communications team. She previously worked at University of Minnesota Printing Services as a graphic designer and communications consultant.

Joy (Shuangqi) Wang ’16 joined Minnesota Law as a career counselor/judicial clerkship adviser in the Career Center. Wang previously worked as an associate attorney at Norton Rose Fulbright and served as a law clerk to Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Natalie Hudson before that. She also holds an M.P.H. from the University of Minnesota.

He previously served as donor and volunteer relations associate after starting as an intern in the office.

Andy Lamp was promoted to donor relations specialist in the Office of Advancement. He previously served as an advancement associate in the office for four years.

Diana Witt joined Minnesota Law as the administrator of the Law in Practice, Moot Court and Mock Trial Programs. Her previous experience includes serving as a reference attorney, public records specialist, academic account manager, and research information strategist.

Terese Lynch was promoted to alumni relations and annual giving officer in the Office of Advancement. She previously served as alumni relations associate.

Paul Ogren was promoted to senior development officer in the Office of Advancement. Ogren served as a major gift officer for four years and an associate development officer before that.

PROMOTIONS

Elliott Gore was promoted to associate development officer in the Office of Advancement.
Anna Kvinge ’21 enjoys a moment in the Mondale Hall atrium during one of the three days of in-person meet-and-greet gatherings.

Left to Right: Dr. Elias Ayana ’21, M.S. in Patent Law Program class speaker; Marielos Cabrera ’21, J.D. class speaker; Dean Garry W. Jenkins; Jessica Szuminski ’21, awards presenter; Cooper Christiancy ’21, class gift presenter
Minnesota Law held its 133rd commencement on Saturday, May 15 as a livestream event broadcasted from McNamara Alumni Center. The two-hour ceremony featured an address by former CaringBridge CEO Liwanag Ojala ’98, three class speakers, student and faculty awards, and a musical performance of the state song “Hail! Minnesota” by four of our TORT singers. Graduating students and their friends and families watched the ceremony remotely.

“We need people with strategic fortitude, power, influence, and smarts to solve our problems; we need you,” Ojala told the graduates. “And it’s up to you, working alongside generations that have come before you and will come afterward, working together diligently with resolve to solve our issues. And when you do that, I hope you will use your mind, but also use your heart to give the advancement of humanity a better chance.”

At the ceremony, the 3L class announced one of the largest class gifts in Law School history (more than $7,000), contributing the entire amount to the George Floyd Memorial Scholarship in Law fund. In addition to the livestream ceremony, the Law School hosted several in-person events at Walter F. Mondale Hall for the students and their families in the days leading up to and the afternoon immediately following the ceremony. Students had the opportunity to get their pictures taken in full regalia and to connect with Dean Garry W. Jenkins, classmates, faculty, and staff.
Walter F. Mondale ’56: A Lasting Legacy

A new Law Library exhibit traces an extraordinary career

THROUGH DECADES OF PUBLIC SERVICE, WALTER F. MONDALE ’56 (1928–2021) left an indelible legacy. His achievements in Minnesota, Congress, and the White House are a testament to his great courage and integrity. Mondale’s enduring contributions were driven by his vision for a country bound by its commitments to fairness, justice, and opportunity. His passing in 2021 marked the loss of a great leader and a loyal friend to the Law School’s wide community. Though we grieve his death, we also commemorate his outstanding life and legacy.

Mondale’s enduring contributions were driven by his vision for a country bound by its commitments to fairness, justice, and opportunity.

A new exhibit in the Law Library’s Riesenfeld Rare Books Research Center traces Mondale’s career through photographs and text. The exhibit follows the vice president from his formative years in Minnesota to his service as a U.S. senator, the vice president of the United States, and the Democratic nominee for president in 1984. It also focuses on his close relationship with the Law School whose building bears his name. As Mondale recounted at the dedication of Walter F. Mondale Hall in 2001, “What I learned at the University of Minnesota Law School opened my door to the world.”

By any measure, Mondale’s public service was extraordinary. After graduating from the Law School in 1956 and serving in the U.S. Army, he worked on local political campaigns. Friends and mentors Orville Freeman and Hubert Humphrey helped propel Mondale onto the political stage. In 1960, as the youngest attorney general in the country, Mondale led reforms for which he was quickly recognized. His star rapidly ascended with his appointment to the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Humphrey in 1964.

Mondale would later say that he found his “sweet spot” in the U.S. Senate, where he served for 12 years. His legislative efforts helped usher in a new Democratic party. He focused among other issues on civil rights, consumer rights, education, childcare, and the environment and crafted legislation that still has an impact today. In relation to civil rights, his work on the Fair Housing Act of 1968 became a signature contribution. He was also active in promoting government accountability and transparency and remained interested throughout his life in balancing national security needs with constitutional rights.

In 1976, Mondale agreed to be Jimmy Carter’s vice presidential running mate on the condition that he would become a full partner in the administration and a close adviser to Carter. As vice president, Mondale helped to shape foreign and domestic policy unlike any vice president before him. In the foreign policy arena, where he was particularly active, Mondale was significantly involved in initiating talks resulting in the 1978 Camp David Accords, improving U.S.–China relations, and opposing apartheid.

Although his 1984 bid for the presidency was unsuccessful, Mondale’s choice of Geraldine Ferraro as his running mate was historic, marking the first time that a woman ran as a major party nominee for vice president. Mondale was later appointed by President Bill Clinton as Ambassador to Japan, a role in which he served from 1993–96. In his last two decades, Mondale remained active in the Democratic party and in Washington politics. He was also a long-time partner and senior counsel at Dorsey & Whitney in Minneapolis.

For more than 60 years, Walter Mondale’s commitment to the Law School added another bright flame to his legacy. He acted as an adviser to the Law School and delivered the commencement address to several graduating classes. In 1978, he served as keynote speaker at the dedication of the new Law School building, and in 2001, the building was renamed in his honor. He also returned to lecture, notably in the Great Cases course of professor Robert Stein ’61. Mondale participated graciously in Law School events and remained affectionately connected to students, faculty, and fellow alumni. In the same spirit, the current library exhibit honors Mondale’s monumental legacy. For more information about the exhibit, or to schedule a tour, please contact Ryan Greenwood (rgreenwo@umn.edu; 612-625-7323).

By Ryan Greenwood, Law Library faculty member and curator of rare books and special collections.
1 Walter Mondale teaching in Professor Robert Stein’s Great Cases course.
2 Note from former President Jimmy Carter.
3 Mondale with students, 2006.
4 Mondale with Professor Robert Stein ’61.
5 Mondale and his wife, Joan, 1984.
6 Mondale exhibit display cases at Law Library
A Stalwart Supporter of Human Rights

TO SAY THAT BILL DRAKE ’66 has spent time abroad is an understatement. The Minnesota Law alum did military service in Italy, completed an internship in Japan with the Mitsui Bank after law school, and attended the London School of Economics, spending most of his career as an executive and legal counsel for Medtronic, a company that does business all over the world.

Looking back, Drake credits that international exposure for instilling in him a passion for human rights—and a strong desire to see his home country advance them.

“I think that America has been a beacon and example of human rights and civil rights,” he says. “I’m proud of that; I want us to continue that tradition. This is where my heart is.”

Drake, who now lives part time in Minnesota and part time in San Francisco, recently made a generous gift to support student internships, research, teaching, and advocacy at the Law School’s Human Rights Center (HRC). The gift, made to the Weissbrodt Human Rights Center
Fund, will help the HRC address real-world challenges and equip future lawyers with the skills to defend human rights.

The fund is named for Regents Professor Emeritus David Weissbrodt, who founded the HRC—one of the first human rights centers of its kind—more than 30 years ago. The center has since served as a model for programs at other universities. Drake says Weissbrodt is a pioneer in human rights.

“I really want to recognize Professor Weissbrodt,” he says. “David started from scratch and created this center, which has been huge in my mind. It is now recognized as one of the leading human rights centers based in a law school in the country.”

Drake has stayed connected to Minnesota Law in many ways over the years, being president of his class, organizing reunions, serving as a member of the board of advisors, and routinely giving to the Law School as a member of its Lockhart Club society.

After retiring, Drake made his first major gift specifically to support the HRC. He endowed three fellowships in 2008 to allow students to get hands-on training and experience working for high-impact organizations. Drake named these fellowships in honor of his friend Prem Dobias, whose contributions to human rights he revered. As a young lawyer in Prague in 1938, Dobias helped smuggle Jews through Slovakia and Hungary to safety. When he was discovered, he was sent to an Austrian concentration camp. He survived the experience and afterward collaborated with fellow survivor Simon Wiesenthal to bring war criminals to justice.

Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, faculty director of the Human Rights Center, Regents Professor, and Special Rapporteur to the United Nations Human Rights Council, says Drake’s choice to honor Dobias in 2008 and Weissbrodt with his recent gift comes as no surprise.

“He is a warm and selfless person,” she says. “It is a testament to him as a friend that he has given both of these very generous gifts in the name of another person who was very meaningful to him.”

Drake has long been a stalwart supporter of the HRC and its leaders, Ní Aoláin says. He is profoundly committed to the center’s work, keeping an ongoing, intellectual interest in its activities and students. The impact of his generosity, she says, stands to set the HRC up for continued leadership in human rights, both in Minnesota and internationally. The HRC, for example, created the first digital human rights library that is free to access across the world.

“This gift is going to ensure the Human Rights Center can continue its longstanding work of supporting and enabling our students and our faculty to be engaged in the burning human rights issues locally and nationally,” she says. “At the same time, it allows the center to continue to do that essential international work and bring the values and legal expertise of our faculty and our students to the world stage.”

Drake sees his gift as the foundation for further support. He hopes it will inspire other alumni to contribute to the HRC, honoring the impact Professor Weissbrodt had on the thousands of Minnesota Law graduates he taught while also advancing the center’s work as part of a burgeoning global effort to ensure human rights.

“The international laws that are available are all very embryonic,” he says. “This just helps to advance the idea of an international structure that can hold someone accountable for human rights violations. There’s so much to be done. We’re just starting to scratch the surface.”
Rachel Herder ’11
VP, Intellectual Property
Mammoth Biosciences
From gene editing to COVID response, alums practice at the intersection of law and health policy

H eading up the compliance efforts of one of the nation’s leading health care providers. Managing intellectual property strategy for a biotech startup leveraging Nobel Prize-winning gene-editing technology. Helping those experiencing homelessness get medical care on Los Angeles streets during the pandemic. Contending with private and public insurers on behalf of transgender people seeking coverage for life-changing, gender-affirming care.

In the dynamic field of health law, these are a few of the ways Minnesota Law grads are making a difference in an industry that accounts for some $3.8 trillion in spending, some 18% of the gross domestic product. Rapid change was the norm in health law and policies relating to access to care, insurance coverage, and treatment of conditions even before the pandemic further accelerated the pace over the past 18 months.
Minnesota Law alumni are helping digital health companies and health care providers meet growing demand for digital health tools and telemedicine services to engage and inform patients. They’re using data analytics to pursue better health, better care, and lower costs and to strengthen compliance programs to protect patients and mitigate risks for providers.

Here are several of their stories.

**AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF DNA**

Gene-editing technology is cutting edge—literally. Understanding this process for “reading and writing the code of life” is essential to managing patent strategy for Rachel Herder ’11, vice president of intellectual property at Bay Area startup Mammoth Biosciences.

Herder comes well prepared, having earned her Minnesota Law degree while also completing, through the U’s joint degree program, a doctorate in molecular cellular development biology and genetics working in the lab of Michael B. O’Connor, professor of genetics, cell biology, and development.

“I use the science part of my brain just as much if not more than the legal side of my brain,” Herder says. “It’s important to understand the ins and outs of the technology down to the same level as a scientist.”

That means having daily conversations with the scientists at Mammoth Biosciences, cofounded in 2017 by Jennifer Doudna. Doudna won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2020 with Emmanuelle Charpentier for discovering CRISPR-Cas9 (short for clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats). CRISPR is essentially a molecular pair of scissors, Herder says, which Mammoth Biosciences uses to make targeted edits to the genome to develop therapeutic products and as a type of molecular search engine for diagnostic products.

Herder’s work supports Mammoth Biosciences’ mission to bring CRISPR “out of the lab and into everyday life.” The company quickly adapted its DETECTR platform to publish the first peer-reviewed CRISPR-based test for COVID-19 early in the pandemic.

“I have a team I work with, and we spend our days thinking strategically about where the technology is going, what competitors might be doing, and how to best position the company to be successful,” Herder says. “IP strategy is kind of like a game of chess, because you have to be looking several moves in the future.”

Herder, previously director of Penn State Law’s Intellectual Property Clinic and assistant professor of clinical law, joined Mammoth Biosciences in May 2020, moving cross-country during the pandemic. She began her career at a Bay Area law firm—Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati—doing IP work with companies building out CRISPR and other technologies before helping to open the firm’s Boston office.

The ethics of genomic editing became a concern after Chinese scientists edited embryonic humans, dubbed CRISPR babies, Herder says. She helped lead a company-wide book club that discussed ethical and other CRISPR-related issues raised in a recent book about Doudna.

“The cofounders are committed to using the science in an ethical way, and it is a constant conversation, which I think is appropriate,” Herder says.

**ON THE PANDEMIC’S FRONT LINES**

Helping doctors navigate the regulatory maze to open pop-up COVID-19 testing sites across Los Angeles motivated Roma Patel ’15 to do more to respond to the pandemic.

That meant leaving private practice at a boutique health care firm to become health care counsel in the University of Southern California’s Office of General Counsel.

Patel, who began her new role in January 2021, provides legal support and counsel to USC’s three-hospital health system, university clinical research institutes, medical school, and clinical academic programs.

It has been “fast and furious from day one,” she says. When she arrived, the system was busy—amid a rising pandemic wave—setting up clinics to vaccinate up to 700 people a day.

“It was very humbling to be able to roll up my sleeves to help people who are really on the front lines and doing a lot of the real work, the real sacrificing,” Patel says.

Patel is legal counsel for the system’s Street Medicine program, which provides medical care to those experiencing homelessness. The program has grown from two sites to five during the pandemic. She drafts service
agreements, advises the team on structuring their activities to mirror traditional clinical standards, and makes sure providers are properly qualified.

With telemedicine use expanding during the pandemic, Patel counsels providers on the legal requirements of the states where patients live. Many states eased restrictions that, for example, require a provider to have a license in a patient’s home state to treat a resident there.

Those waivers, however, typically end when a state rescinds its public health emergency orders. Patel gets a list of states to check each day and, when restrictions are back in place, she advises on the legal risk to providers of engaging in the practice of medicine in that state.

Patel advises executive and clinical leadership on developing initiatives, such as providing discounted mammograms to patients during Breast Cancer Awareness Month and free lodging to family members who can’t afford to pay for hotels when relatives undergo treatment or procedures. Those must be structured to fall within exceptions to healthcare fraud and abuse laws. She also advises on the creation of a statutorily established peer review body to manage clinical services rendered throughout the university.

Patel’s experience as a Minnesota Law student working in Mayo Clinic’s legal department fueled her desire to return to academic medicine, which she calls “the crossroads of all the best parts of health care.”

**ADVOCATING FOR TRANSGENDER CLIENTS**

The gender-affirming care that Phil Duran ’00 helps transgender clients seek is “both figuratively and literally life-changing,” he says.

But getting access to that care leaves some feeling “anxious and desperate” when private insurers or public programs deny coverage, adds Duran, who is director of advocacy, research, and education at Rainbow Health Minnesota, a St. Paul–based nonprofit serving the LGBTQ+ community.

Duran stands largely alone in the state’s legal community in challenging those denials on behalf of transgender people.

“You’re on the frontier, and that is both exciting and a bit scary sometimes, but more exciting than scary,” Duran says.

Emerging issues for trans clients include care that minors experiencing gender dysphoria can receive, from hormone-suppressing medications for younger teens to mastectomies for older teens, Duran says. (Genital surgeries generally are not available to minors.)

Another concern, when insurance plans do cover gender-affirming care, involves disputes over what is medically necessary beyond genital surgeries and mastectomies.

“Plans still balk at things like facial work and breast augmentation, which the prevailing treatment guidelines say can be medically necessary,” Duran says.

Some 90% of Duran’s work involves advocating for access to health care for transgender clients. He’s often building on earlier cases of his that set precedent or led to policy changes.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS)—which administers the state’s public health care programs, Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare—has a policy document that essentially explains how it covers gender-affirming care, Duran says. That exists because of a lawsuit Duran helped initiate as legal director at OutFront Minnesota, the state’s leading LGBTQ civil rights group, where he was legal director 18 years before he joined Rainbow Health Minnesota about four years ago.

“The policy document itself contains problems, so we continue to engage DHS around how to resolve those,” Duran says. “Sometimes resolving those problems means taking on (Medical Assistance) appeals and fighting them out with DHS’ own judges, who will sometimes overrule the department and say, no, this has to be covered. You aggregate those decisions and say, look, your judges keep saying you’re wrong, maybe it’s time to change the policy.”

Trans-related issues have been Duran’s primary focus since Minnesota legalized same-sex marriage in 2013.

“For many years insurers and others looked at gender-affirming care as just crazy,” Duran says. “Or at best they might say that’s elective and cosmetic. There are pieces of that thinking that still exist and so we push against that.”

—Phil Duran ’00
Director of Advocacy, Research, and Education
Rainbow Health Minnesota

“You’re on the frontier, and that is both exciting and a bit scary sometimes, but more exciting than scary.”

—Phil Duran ’00
Director of Advocacy, Research, and Education
Rainbow Health Minnesota
DEALING WITH THE COMPLICATIONS OF TELEHEALTH

The specter of contracting COVID-19—of being in the hospital on a ventilator and unable to voice preferences for medical care—has driven enormous interest in advanced care planning, especially among those 65 and older.

While the pandemic has boosted the use of telehealth for remote services, the question of whether patients can use electronic signatures on advanced care directives has become a major issue nationally and in Colorado, according to Kristin Paulson ’10, chief operating officer and general counsel for the Denver-based Center for Improving Value in Health Care (CIVHC).

Colorado, like many states, requires patient and provider to be in the same room with a witness present to fill out a directive, Paulson says. That’s to ensure that nobody is pressuring the patient and that the doctor can determine the patient’s competency to make care decisions.

“We are in the middle of really intense conversations nationwide,” Paulson says. “It’s a cutting-edge issue.”

The issue came to Paulson’s attention because she oversees CIVHC’s palliative care and advanced care planning programs, along with its data operations team, research positions, and data privacy and compliance. The nonprofit works to advance better health, better care, and lower costs through support services.

Using that data, CIVHC mapped high-risk populations to identify potential coronavirus hotspots, which the state used to design its vaccine rollout plan, says Paulson.

CIVHC administers a database with close to 1 billion identifiable health care claims for approximately 65 percent of individuals in Colorado with medical coverage, reflecting over 3.4 million lives. With the organization under state mandate to release data to researchers and providers, Paulson has had to immerse herself in health information privacy law and “a very specific niche branch of antitrust law” to balance enhancing competition without creating an opening for collusion or price-fixing.

Paulson expects telehealth visits, which took off as clinics largely closed amid stay-at-home orders, to stay part of a changing care delivery model. She tracks who uses telehealth services, for what specialties, and how use changes over time in CIVHC’s telehealth dashboard.

“That bridging of policy and data is what I wanted to do from the beginning, and I’ve been able to do since my 2L year,” says Paulson, who completed a master’s of public health through the U’s joint degree program.

KEEPING UP WITH COMPLIANCE

Building a robust health care compliance program—with the goal of protecting patients and mitigating legal, regulatory, and reputational risk—is evolving from a manual task to a more robust, automated one under the leadership of Michelle Bergholz Frazier ’98, senior vice president and chief compliance officer at Advocate Aurora Health. One of the country’s largest not-for-profit health systems, Chicago- and Milwaukee-based Advocate Aurora Health has more than 75,000 employees and 24 acute-care hospitals and serves nearly 3 million patients annually.

Hospitals have had programs to comply with relevant rules and regulations since Frazier began practicing. But expectations regarding these programs have evolved, with the Affordable Care Act requiring that all providers adopt compliance programs as a condition of enrollment in Medicare and governmental expectations consistently growing over the years.

Giving compliance programs a boost in rooting out erroneous and fraudulent claims and billing errors is the advent of electronic medical records and the use of data analytics to reveal insights in those records, says Frazier, who leads a 32-member compliance team. The team works closely with but separately from the system’s legal department to detect, prevent, and mitigate risks related to regulatory compliance. Frazier also teaches a course in health care fraud and abuse at Marquette University Law School.

“Data analytics is certainly a new and important development in health care compliance,” Frazier says. “You can now run reports and flag where certain volumes are showing themselves as outliers. We never used to be able to do that. You’d have to just take random samples and manually review the records.”

In addition to fraud and abuse, other risks have
emerged during the global pandemic. While telehealth has improved access to remote care, it also has raised new cybersecurity and privacy concerns, Frazier says. Frazier is helping to ensure that appropriate controls are in place to address the increasing risk of ransomware attacks and the security of third-party vendors to whom the system provides data.

Traditional compliance work also is on the rise. With many employees working remotely, the expectation was that calls to Advocate Aurora Health’s compliance hotline would dip. But the opposite is true, Frazier says, with more staff members reporting concerns with such issues as privacy and billing practices.

“We attribute that to maybe more time and attention to things,” Frazier says. “We’re definitely seeing an uptick in people bringing issues forward.”

DEALING WITH DIGITAL HEALTH TOOLS
Growing use of digital health tools is keeping Ryan Johnson ’99 busy counseling clients who are expanding their offerings, getting into the business, or investing in or acquiring companies developing innovative new technologies for patients and providers.

Johnson, a Fredrikson & Byron shareholder, serves as outside general counsel to digital health companies and health care providers.

Health care clients are increasingly adopting digital health tools, especially over the past five to seven years, to help improve quality of care, lower costs and enable patients to do a better job of managing their own health and wellness, Johnson says.

Digital health encompasses tools ranging from telemedicine and remote monitoring to wellness and fitness trackers and diagnostic and therapeutic tools. “What’s common to all of these technologies and business platforms is their use of data, using technology and algorithms to collect, analyze, and process that data,” Johnson says, often using artificial intelligence and machine learning. “The trick is getting good data sets to well-crafted algorithms to make these technologies work.”

The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the use of digital health tools as providers introduced or expanded telemedicine and remote monitoring services while regulations regarding payment under varying public health emergency declarations changed, says Johnson, whose advice includes helping clients get reimbursed for telemedicine service.

“People were hunkered down and telemedicine really took off in part because some of the regulatory roadblocks that were there before, like reimbursement limitations and state licensure requirements, were waived or put on pause. Those changes led to an explosion in telemedicine that helped prove that telemedicine and remote monitoring are critically important parts of the health care ecosystem.”

Johnson also is handling a number of transactions as well as merger and acquisitions involving digital health in a strong year for investment and consolidation among those companies.

“I work with health companies, startups, and established players but also many health care providers who are incorporating digital health tools into their practices,” Johnson said. “I work with a number of providers who are also investing in digital health technology companies, not just contracting for the technology but also investing, taking an ownership stake in digital health companies because they can see the tremendous potential of some of these technologies.”

By Todd Nelson, a freelance writer based in Lake Elmo, Minnesota
Operation Trojan Shield, overseen by Andrew Young ’04, led to 800 arrests, $50M seized from a seemingly minor case that landed on his desk on his first day as an assistant U.S. attorney in San Diego. Andrew Young ’04 helped build a three-year global sting effort—Operation Trojan Shield—that made worldwide headlines last June when authorities announced the results: 800 arrests, 36 tons of illegal drugs and nearly $50 million seized, and 150 murders prevented.
“The fact that [law enforcement] stopped over 150 murders, including those of an entire family and children in Australia—I was taken aback by that. I knew we would seize drugs. I knew we would seize money. But what really struck me was the violence that existed and the violence they managed to stop.”

—Andrew Young ’04 Partner, Barnes & Thornburg
Young was the operation’s chief architect from 2018 until September 2020, when he left his U.S. Department of Justice post to return to private practice. He joined Barnes & Thornburg’s San Diego and Minneapolis offices, where he practices civil litigation and white-collar defense and conducts internal investigations.

“I was proud of the fact that it played out largely how we had planned it would,” Young says. The operation enabled authorities in Europe, Australia, and New Zealand to “dismantle entire criminal organizations in a way that they’ve never been able to do before,” he adds.

That’s because the plan Young helped forge turned the tables on transnational drug and firearms traffickers and the hardened encrypted devices that they use to hide their communications from law enforcement.

Under Trojan Shield, the FBI worked with a contact who had approached Young about a next-level encryption technology known as ANOM. More than 12,000 devices with ANOM were sold to some 300 criminal syndicates in more than 100 countries—but they didn’t quite work as advertised. The ANOM devices secretly sent copies of more than 27 million criminal messages to a third-party country, which then sent the data to the FBI to review, translate, and forward to counterparts in other countries.

Young’s contact offered technical expertise and, more importantly, credibility among underworld distributors and agents, who touted the ANOM devices as “designed by criminals for criminals.” Emboldened users openly negotiated drug deals, discussed money laundering, shared photos of drugs hidden in shipments of pineapples, bananas, and cans of tuna and—most shockingly to Young—plotted violent acts.

“The fact that [law enforcement] stopped over 150 murders, including those of an entire family and children in Australia—I was taken aback by that,” Young says. “I knew we would seize drugs. I knew we would seize money. But what really struck me was the violence that existed and the violence they managed to stop.”

Criminals were eager to snap up ANOM devices because, Young says, he and his colleagues in San Diego had helped shut down Phantom Secure, a Canadian firm that sold “uncrackable” devices that were advertised as impervious to decryption, wiretapping, or third-party records requests. Phantom Secure guaranteed it would destroy evidence on its devices if informants or authorities got hold of them.

Origin of the Operation

Young uncovered the existence of Phantom Secure while pursuing a case he received on his first day in the U.S. Attorney’s San Diego office. He joined the office in 2015 after five years as a prosecutor in the Tax Division of the DOJ in Washington, D.C., and six years in private practice at Kirkland & Ellis in Chicago.

That case involved Owen Hanson, a former football player at the University of Southern California initially suspected of running an illegal sports gambling ring. Hanson used one phone for the gambling operation, but he had another device whose purpose was unknown.

Undercover operations eventually helped determine that Hanson’s second device was from Phantom Secure and that he used it to carry out drug deals. Young’s co-counsel on that case and on Trojan Shield was assistant U.S. attorney Meghan Heesch, a Minnesota native and Harvard Law graduate who was a clinical teaching fellow at Minnesota Law’s Detainee Rights Clinic from 2013 to 2015.

“We put in an order for five kilos of cocaine and it was immediately delivered,” Young said. “Then we put in an order for five kilos of methamphetamine and he immediately delivered. To have that level of access to that quantity, that fast, suggested to us that he was a much bigger deal than we thought before.”

Undermining Criminal Confidence

After Hanson and Phantom Secure, Young’s primary role in the operation was persuading DOJ officials to let the FBI move forward with ANOM and the Trojan Shield sting while also helping to build cases against other encryption companies.

“My job was more global strategy, framing it out and then advocating within the Justice Department to make sure that we could continue to get the resources and everything we needed,” Young says.

In addition to taking down existing encrypted device operators, he says, Trojan Shield undermined criminals’ confidence in any new operators that might emerge to fill the void while also disrupting their secret communications. The sting also hit the command-and-control structure of criminal organizations rather than only low-level offenders.

Another surprise, in addition to the violence planned in intercepted messages, was the number of police who were arrested as part of the sting for tipping off criminals or, in some cases, possessing ANOM devices themselves.

“There are two areas where I’ve always felt that you have to push back whenever you can, whenever you have the opportunity, and those are public corruption and organized crime,” Young says. “They’re two sides of the same coin, in my mind. If you don’t push them back at every chance you can get, they will overtake everything.”

Todd Nelson is a freelance writer based in Lake Elmo, Minnesota
Thank you.

Minnesota Law’s *Driven to Lead* campaign has not only surpassed its original $80 million fundraising goal, but exceeded it by raising more than $100 million in total for scholarships, faculty and scholarly support, clinical programs and experiential learning opportunities, leadership programming, and the annual fund.

This historic campaign was part of the University-wide *Driven* campaign that raised more than $4 billion systemwide. The campaign, which had its public launch in September 2017, ended on June 30, 2021. Thanks to the generous support of alumni and friends, the funds contributed to Minnesota Law have been instrumental in advancing the work of the Law School and supporting the lawyer-leaders of tomorrow.

The Law School will continue to seek support to expand access to legal education, drive innovation, and meet the challenges of this time, all while continuing its mission of education, outreach, and service.

“We are so grateful to the thousands of dedicated supporters who have contributed to the Law School during this campaign and positioned the Law School for continued excellence. Your generosity has helped ensure that Minnesota Law remains a powerful force in legal education and in the global legal community. I am enormously grateful to our alumni and friends for their partnership and confidence in our future.”

—Garry W. Jenkins, Dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law

Learn more about how you can support Minnesota Law

[umn.edu/GiveMinnesotaLaw](umn.edu/GiveMinnesotaLaw)
COLLABORATING ON COVID ETHICS

Prof. Susan Wolf Takes on a Key Public Health Role Relating to Resource Allocation

BY CATHY MADISON
When the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic on March 11, 2020, major ethical and legal challenges became obvious. Cases were multiplying, hot spots were emerging with hospitals overwhelmed and personal protective equipment in short supply, and countries had begun restricting travel. As case counts climbed, concerns erupted over potential shortages of critical medical equipment, medications, space, and trained staff. The allocation questions were agonizing; if there were not enough ventilators, medications, or ICU beds, which patients should get priority?

Within two weeks, Susan Wolf and Debra DeBruin, both University of Minnesota professors and bioethics experts, had joined forces to develop and lead the Minnesota COVID Ethics Collaborative. Working with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), in partnership with the Minnesota Hospital Association, State Health Care Coordination Center, Minnesota Critical Care Working Group, and University, they convened a multidisciplinary group that grew to more than 70 people—clinicians, ethicists, lawyers, and public health experts from across the state who came together quickly and collegially, with a “sense of tremendous urgency” propelling them to fulfill a shared mission.

“You can’t do good ethics unless you have a solid grasp of what the real issues are,” Wolf says. “It’s been a crash course in ‘real time’ bioethics, in how you do public health ethics in the face of incomplete information, an evolving evidence base, and extremely high stakes. The issues we deal with are hybrid issues—scientific, biomedical, societal, ethical, and legal. They are that difficult, and that multifaceted.”

Over many months, MCEC developed multiple ethics frameworks that were vetted by the MDH Science Advisory Team, approved by MDH, and posted on its website. MCEC members created a framework for allocating supplies such as ventilators and treatments such as monoclonal antibody therapies. When the FDA authorized remdesivir for emergency use in 2020, they developed a distribution framework to guide allocation in the face of scarcity, subsequently adapting it as medical evidence and medication availability shifted. Another framework dealt with transitions between conventional, contingency, and crisis conditions in an emergency.

“This is groundbreaking work that will be helpful beyond the COVID-19 pandemic,” Wolf says.

For Wolf, this was the natural culmination of a career spent bridging law, medicine, and bioethics. After studying how law approaches medicine and the life sciences, litigation at a major firm, serving as associate for law at a top U.S. bioethics think tank, and completing an ethics fellowship at Harvard, Wolf joined the University faculty in 1993; she holds both Law School and Medical School appointments. Her national service has included work for the National Institutes of Health; National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; and National Science Advisory Board on Biosecurity. All of this honed her skills and affinity for tackling the health and ethics issues that bombarded us when a novel coronavirus upended our world.

Wolf and DeBruin did not start from scratch. DeBruin had worked on two prior projects for MDH on pandemic ethics (focused on influenza) and crisis standards of care. “These public health challenges have a very long history,” Wolf notes, citing Minnesota’s past work on ethical, clinical, population, and legal issues as well as such federal legal precedents as Jacobson v. Massachusetts, the 1905 Supreme Court case that upheld state authority to mandate vaccination in a smallpox outbreak.

Yet, Wolf says, COVID-19 “caught many people off guard: the fact that it so rapidly became a pandemic; the sheer numbers in terms of morbidity, mortality, and now long-haul symptoms; the horrifying health disparities; and the need to protect public health while scrambling to understand a novel pathogen and new disease.” While co-leading MCEC, she also partnered with Professor Michael Osterholm at the University’s Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy to offer webinars on “COVID Controversies” through the University-wide Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences, which she chairs. These events convened top national experts, reaching audiences around the world.

More work needs to be done. “What is striking about this pandemic is the range of approaches that different states have taken to issues like allocation,” Wolf says. Yet systematic comparisons are still scarce. “Research is needed to compare divergent approaches and determine which ones work best.”

Wolf continues to focus on issues at the intersection of law, biomedicine, and bioethics, conducting federally funded research on genomics, bioengineering, and emerging neuroscience technologies. Her COVID-19 work is also ongoing, paving the way for responding to the next pandemic. Co-leading MCEC “has been a profound and lasting education in public health ethics in an emergency,” she says.

Cathy Madison is a Twin Cities-based freelance writer.
Tom Cotter was appointed the Law School’s associate dean of research and planning. Cotter joined the Law School in 2006. His teaching and scholarship focus on intellectual property law, antitrust, and law and economics. He is a prolific scholar who has written many books and articles, including those published in the *California Law Review*, the *Georgetown Law Journal*, the *Iowa Law Review*, the *Minnesota Law Review*, and others.

Allan Erbsen was named the Popham, Haik, Schnobrich/Lindquist & Vennum Professor of Law. Erbsen teaches and writes in the areas of civil procedure and federal courts. The Popham, Haik, Schnobrich/Lindquist & Vennum Professorship was created in 1987 and was previously held by Professor Emeritus Fred Morrison.

Jill Hasday, Distinguished McKnight University Professor, last May testified virtually before the Minnesota Public Safety and Judiciary Conference Committee in support of legislation to prohibit employers from asking job applicants about their pay history.

Kristin Hickman’s article with Gerald Kerska ’17 “Restoring the Lost Anti-Injunction Act” (103 Va. L. Rev. 1683, 2017), was cited by Justice Elena Kagan for a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court in its May 2021 opinion in *CIC Services, LLC v. Internal Revenue Service*. The article, and a subsequent amicus brief filed by Hickman in the case, offered extensive statutory and historical analysis in favor of reading the Anti-Injunction Act narrowly to allow the taxpayer’s case to proceed.

Joan Howland, associate dean for information and technology, was named the 2021 recipient of the prestigious Robert J. Kutak Award. The annual award honors an individual who has made significant contributions to the collaboration of the academy, the bench, and the bar. In addition, Howland received the American Association of Law Libraries 2021 Joseph L. Andrews Legal Literature Award for her work co-editing *Academic Law Libraries Within the Changing Landscape of Legal Education: A Primer for Deans and Provosts*.

Howland was also elected to the board of governors of the International Association of Law Schools.

William McGeveran was named the Gray, Plant, Mooty, Mooty & Bennett Professor of Law.
McGeveran joined the Law School in 2006. He specializes in information law, including data privacy, intellectual property, communications and technology, and free speech. The Gray, Plant, Mooty, Mooty & Bennett Professorship was established in 1986 and was most recently held by Professor Emeritus

Stephen Befort ’74

Alan Rozenshtein was selected to serve a five-year term on the Council on Foreign Relations as part of a program for early-career professionals. The Stephen M. Kellen Term Member Program provides young professionals in government, media, nongovernmental organizations, law, business, finance, and academia the opportunity to participate in a sustained conversation on international affairs and U.S. foreign policy.

Francis Shen’s law review article “Sorting Guilty Minds” was cited by Justice Brett Kavanaugh in a dissenting opinion in a U.S. Supreme Court case, Borden v. United States (decided June 10, 2021). The article, co-authored with colleagues from the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Law and Neuroscience, is part of Shen’s extensive work at the intersection of psychology, neuroscience, and criminal mental states.

Michael Tonry was awarded a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship. The highly competitive annual national fellowship was awarded to 174 American and Canadian scholars, writers, and artists selected from nearly 3,000 applicants. Tonry plans to research and write on the influence of frontier values on the American justice system.

Professor Tonry plans to retire and assume emeritus status at the end of this year after more than 30 years of teaching at Minnesota Law.

Christopher Turoski was elected president of the National Association of Patent Practitioners. (NAPP), a nonprofit trade organization dedicated to supporting patent practitioners in patent prosecution matters. For more than 25 years, NAPP served as the organization of choice for patent prosecution professionals across the nation.

Professor Wolf Receives University’s Highest Faculty Recognition

Susan Wolf was named a Regents Professor by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents in June. The designation is the highest level of recognition given to faculty by the University. Wolf is also the McKnight Presidential Professor of Law, Medicine & Public Policy; Faegre Baker Daniels Professor of Law; and Professor of Medicine. She is chair of the Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences and founding director of the Joint Degree Program in Law, Science & Technology.
Internationally Renowned
Professor Fred Morrison retires after five decades at Minnesota Law, where he deepened opportunities for international learning and engagement

DURING A 52-YEAR CAREER AT MINNESOTA LAW, Fred Morrison opened students’ eyes to the world and introduced foreign students to the American legal system by establishing international programs that have become hallmarks of the school. Morrison, who announced his retirement at the end of the spring semester, provided a steady hand of guidance and leadership to the Law School, the University, the federal government, and other nations.

“With more than 50 years at the University of Minnesota Law School, Fred Morrison has offered unparalleled service, encyclopedic institutional memory, and rigorous teaching,” says Garry W. Jenkins, dean and William S. Pattee Professor of Law. “Through his leadership, dedication, and influence, Minnesota Law has become one of the nation’s leading law schools in the field of international law, with global reach and connections. Generations of students and alumni from the J.D., LL.M., and S.J.D. programs, faculty, and staff owe him an enormous debt of gratitude for his innumerable contributions, wise counsel, gentle mentorship, and world-class scholarship. His transformative impact at this institution will be felt for generations to come. He will be deeply missed.”

Morrison, the Popham, Haik, Schnobrich/Lindquist & Vennum Professor of Law, joined the faculty in 1969 to teach international law. He arrived with a global perspective. Morrison started his legal education as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, wrote his political science Ph.D. dissertation at Princeton University on the Supreme Court of Switzerland, and completed his American law studies at the University of Chicago.

In the early 1990s, Morrison established Minnesota Law’s Master of Laws (LL.M.) program for international students—one of the first in the country. He also developed the Doctor of Judicial Science (S.J.D.) program and other study abroad opportunities, working in close partnership on these international law efforts with then-dean Robert Stein ‘61. For these reasons and more, Kara Galvin calls Morrison the school’s grandfather of international programs.

“For reasons and more, Kara Galvin calls Morrison the school’s grandfather of international programs.

“Fred really championed international partnerships and relationships with the Law School and was the face of that for many, many years,” says Galvin, director of international and graduate programs. “It has cast a more global light on the education we are providing at the Law School and the experiences of our law students. That’s valuable to everyone involved in the legal profession.”

In teaching roughly 4,500 law students during his career, Morrison found it rewarding to educate them about the Constitution and the rule of law. He also enjoyed bringing global perspectives to the classroom, whether they derived from international students attending Minnesota Law or students who participated in its study abroad programs.

Morrison continued amassing international experience as a professor and consultant. He was a Fulbright Professor in Germany and worked as a visiting professor in China and Germany. Morrison also advised countries with troubled political systems, such as Kosovo, Ukraine, and South Sudan, where he helped leaders develop its constitution.

“I have been most excited about having the opportunity to work on real-life applications of what I’ve been teaching,” Morrison says. “Working in foreign legal systems helps to better understand the way they approach problems, which is not necessarily the way we approach problems.”

Always Prepared to Serve
Service was an equally important aspect of Morrison’s career. When the University or the State Department came calling, he stepped up to solve often controversial and complex problems. Morrison served as the counselor of international law, equivalent to the deputy assistant secretary of state, representing the United States during an international controversy in Nicaragua and later before the International Court of Justice.

During a contentious time between the University faculty and the Board of Regents, Morrison brokered substantive changes to tenure policies as chair of the Faculty Consultative Committee. He also played a major role in establishing a health insurance plan for University faculty and staff. For this work and more, Morrison received the University President’s Award for Outstanding Service in 1997.

Meredith McQuaid ‘91, associate vice president and dean of international programs at the University, witnessed Morrison’s impact on Minnesota Law and the University during more than 25 years as his colleague. While at the Law School,
she absorbed many lessons that shaped her own approach to leadership: Morrison’s in-depth preparation for meetings, his curiosity about the world, and his welcoming of international students. Morrison’s sense of humor and willingness to listen to other views made working for him and with him a rewarding experience.

“He has truly been the advocate for international education, in the form of international law courses and the LL.M. program for foreign lawyers,” McQuaid says. “When Law School faculty discussed issues that seemed to be about purely domestic concerns, Fred reminded them of their job to prepare students to work in the world, and the need for students to understand different cultures and traditions. That’s a legacy for which we are all better off—and one we must work to continue.”

‘A Mixture of Patience and Purpose’

Khary Hornsby ’05 got to know Morrison as a tough-but-kind professor of constitutional law who liked to wear ties reflecting the class’s topic of the day. Hornsby later came to admire the avuncular professor during the seven-plus years he worked with him (2009–17) as director of international and graduate programs at the Law School. Now assistant dean and chief global and executive programs officer at University of California, Irvine School of Law, Hornsby witnessed how people turned to Morrison for his guidance, given diplomatically and backed by deep expertise and experience.

To Hornsby, Morrison embodies the ethos of Minnesota Law: to leave a positive impact on the world, society, and each other in an understated and compassionate way. “I think of the Law School as a consistent and quiet force in the U.S. and world legal culture,” he says. “Fred is a mixture of patience and purpose, and that’s how he was able to get things done.”

By Suzy Frisch, a Twin Cities-based freelance writer
Judicial Selection in the States: Politics and the Struggle for Reform

Professor Herbert Kritzer authored this comprehensive and insightful work that provides an unprecedented examination of the process and politics of how states select and retain judges. The book, targeting policymakers and scholars, was published by Cambridge University Press in April 2020.

What inspired you to write a book on this topic?

When working on my 2015 book on state supreme court elections since 1946 (Justices on the Ballot, Cambridge University Press), I found that many states that used popular elections to choose state supreme court judges changed their selection systems. New York, for example, ended elections for the state’s highest court (the Court of Appeals), many states adopted a system that used a nominating commission to create a list from which the governor must choose (with appointees subject to referendums for retention), some states switched from partisan to nonpartisan elections, and a few adopted other systems.

I was curious about the politics underlying the debates over whether to change the selection system. I hypothesized that some debates would be dominated by political concerns about partisan advantage and/or policy goals while others would be dominated by concerns about the professionalism of the judges.

What are some key takeaways you would like readers to get from the book?

First, determining how to select state judges is a work in progress. Changes are frequently suggested, debated, and made. Second, specific efforts to make changes differ based on the importance of concerns about politics/policy versus legal professionalism. Finally, over the 40 years covered in the book, there has been a shift from reform efforts dominated by concerns about legal professionalism to efforts dominated by partisan politics and policy concerns.

Two examples of the latter have been the reintroduction of explicit partisanship in state supreme court elections in North Carolina (in 2018) and in Ohio (just this year), and the effort in several states successful—at least partially in two states—to free the governing from the constraints of having to choose from a list of nominees prepared by a nominating commission.

What view, if any, do you take in the book on the threshold question of whether judges should be selected by appointment or through election at the state level?

I take no position on that question in this book. I did take a position in Justices on the Ballot. I suggested a system of appointment using a professional screening organization combined with judicial performance evaluations and limited use of referendums regarding whether a justice should continue in office (“retention elections”); I suggest that such elections should be limited to when a judge’s performance has been assessed as subpar or when a petition is brought by voters.

What were you hoping to accomplish in publishing this book?

I hope the book provides an understanding of the current politics underlying efforts to modify systems of judicial selection, and particularly how those politics are reflective of the current level of partisan polarization.

What distinguishes this book from other works about judicial selection?

Although there have been several excellent studies of the history of judicial selection and the politics involved in some of the major changes that occurred in the 19th century, there has been minimal consideration by scholars of the contemporary politics involved in changing judicial selection beyond
I hope the book provides an understanding of the current politics underlying efforts to modify systems of judicial selection, and particularly how those politics are reflective of the current level of partisan polarization.”
—Professor Herbert Kritzer

individual state case studies. My book provides a broad overview that helps readers understand what drives the “reform” process.

What is your best “elevator pitch” for someone to purchase and read this book?

The history described in Judicial Selection in the States shows that debates regarding changing judicial selection since 2000 have been dominated by partisan political concerns, and particularly by efforts of Republican and conservative interests to fashion selection systems that they believe will favor those interests. That is highlighted by the recent change in Ohio to have fully partisan appellate court elections, a move driven by Republicans in the wake of Democrats winning several state supreme court elections. Republicans clearly believe that in the current climate, identifying the political party of supreme court candidates on the ballot will favor Republican candidates.

Anything else you would like to share?

While researching this book, I was struck by the frequency of litigation related to state judicial selection. My current project is focused on that. My research assistants have now identified litigation in each of the 50 states and have found over 800 cases. Most of that litigation is related to judicial elections, although a few cases deal with major issues in the selection process.
LEADING QUESTIONS

Katherine Chen, 3L
As student law council president, she is working to strengthen community and promote inclusiveness

WHY DID YOU GO TO LAW SCHOOL?
My background was in genetics. I loved it, but I realized that if I wanted to continue down that path, I’d have to get a master’s or doctorate degree, so it felt like I was being funneled into academia. Law was kind of a way out. I loved how it felt like a broadening process—I could explore new developments in science and technology without feeling like I was going down some academic rabbit hole.

WHY MINNESOTA LAW?
I did my undergrad at the University of Minnesota, so U of M was a familiar place. I also talked to students at other schools, and it really felt like those schools were missing the collegiality and community I was looking for. (I’m trying to get this degree, not die in the process!)

WHAT TYPE OF LAW WOULD YOU LIKE TO PRACTICE?
I’m currently most interested in intellectual property law, specifically IP litigation.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE EXPERIENCE AT MINNESOTA LAW SO FAR?
It’s hard to pick, but I’ve enjoyed every seminar class I’ve taken.

WHAT ARE A FEW OF YOUR GOALS AS STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT?
COVID really did a number on students, both individually and as a community, so my biggest goal is to find ways to rebuild and re-create the community that many of us came to this school for. We’re also committed to working with our student organization leaders and the administration to support diverse students and initiatives.

WHAT DOES BEING A LAWYER-LEADER MEAN TO YOU?
I think a key part of being a leader is to use whatever tools you have to advocate for your community’s needs—and if that means using your legal education to come up with creative solutions, all the better.

HOW DID YOU SPEND YOUR 2L SUMMER?
I clerked at Carlson Caspers, an IP boutique firm in downtown Minneapolis. I also ate an ungodly amount of Chipotle, went road tripping, and harassed my roommate’s cat.

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE BACK AT MONDALE HALL AFTER A REMOTE YEAR?
Very surreal. This is the first time I’ve seen more than three people in the building at a time. A part of me is convinced I don’t know how to interact with real humans anymore.
Brandon Redmon, 1L, is the Inaugural Recipient of the George Floyd Memorial Scholarship in Law
A Mid-Career Call to Practice Leads to Law School

IT WAS WHILE WORKING AS A TRUCK DRIVER—transporting everything from beer and seafood to gas and hazardous materials—that Brandon Redmon experienced an incident of discrimination that led him to take legal action against his employer.

“Going through that process was definitely challenging,” he says. “But I came out of it thinking, ‘Wow this was interesting. I could possibly do this.’ And then I had a great attorney who motivated me and said, ‘Hey Brandon, you’d probably be good at this.’”

When he later encountered a similar incident at a different company, Redmon—then in his mid 30s and a father of four—resolved to go back to school and pursue a law degree. This fall, he began his first year at Minnesota Law, supported by the George Floyd Memorial Scholarship in Law.

The endowed scholarship in George Floyd’s name, created in June 2020 following Floyd’s death at the hands of police, is designed to provide critical financial support for underrepresented students, with a preference for Black or African American students in particular, in pursuing careers in the law and achieving their dreams.

‘A Wonderful Honor’
The scholarship began through a gift from Catlan M. McCurdy ’11 and Sanjiv P. Laud ’12, with matching funds from Minnesota Law. McCurdy and Laud called on others in the Minnesota Law community and beyond to contribute. Nearly 350 donors rose to the occasion—from faculty, staff, and students to donors who have no formal ties to the Law School. The Class of 2021 even chose the scholarship as their class gift, making it one of the largest such gifts in recent years.

For Redmon, receiving the scholarship has evoked complex and bittersweet emotions. On one hand, he is excited by the opportunities it will help make possible. On the other, George Floyd’s name carries a lot of weight and hurt for him as a Black man. Redmon says he couldn’t bring himself to watch the widely viewed video of Floyd’s killing by Minneapolis Police. As someone who has had brushes with the law in the past, he could see parallels between Floyd and himself.

“It’s wonderful to honor him by being a recipient of the scholarship, but at the same time it reminds me of the work that needs to be done,” he says. “It reminds me of injustices that happen in our country, in our state. It also reminds me that there are good folks out there, and how the community rallied up and tried to change the trajectories.”

Returning to School
Redmon is originally from North Carolina but lived in California for the last dozen years. His return to school began at Los Medanos College, a community college in Pittsburg, California. After graduation, he went on to the
University of California, Berkeley, where he majored in American studies, a field that explored subjects such as the sociology of culture and what defines race and ethnicity. Since moving to Minneapolis earlier this summer, Redmon has been getting prepared to kick off his first semester in law school. While he is interested in fields like labor law and civil rights law, he plans to stay open to other areas of study, as long as his future career gives him the opportunity to help people.

Redmon says he comes from a lower socioeconomic background and was a foster youth earlier in his life. Having overcome obstacles and reached this point as a nontraditional student, he emphasized that it’s never too late to go back to school. “It doesn’t matter what background you’re from, it doesn’t matter how long you’ve been out of academia,” he says. “You can always jump back into it.”

It’s wonderful to honor [Floyd] by being a recipient of the scholarship, but at the same time it reminds me of the work that needs to be done. It reminds me of injustices that happen in our country, in our state. It also reminds me that there are good folks out there, and how the community rallied up and tried to change the trajectories.”

—Brandon Redmon, 1L

By Kevin Coss, a Twin Cities-based freelance writer

Make a gift to the George Floyd Memorial Scholarship in Law:
z.umn.edu/GeorgeFloydScholarshipinLaw
WHAT I DID
Last Summer

Minnesota Law students fanned out across the country or worked remotely for a wide variety of experiences in numerous fields this summer as they contemplated their career paths. These six students shared their perspectives and takeaways on their summer employment.

Elizabeth Bovell, 2L
Legal Intern, STARZ
Santa Monica, California
“My work was to help STARZ distribute its content internationally. To be able to tell stories from different perspectives all over the world surely feels like a way for me to bring my passion to help underserved communities and the stories that they have to tell to life. This is especially true because STARZ is a network that is inclusive of content produced by minorities.”

Samia Osman, 2L
Summer Associate, Ballard Spahr
Minneapolis
“Working for a big firm wasn’t what I expected in regard to the [office] environment. They were welcoming and encouraged my many questions.”
Zoe Psiakis, 3L  
Rural Summer Legal Corps Fellow,  
Pine Tree Legal Assistance  
Aroostook County, Maine  
"While rural populations may seem to be similarly situated, communities are very diverse in the problems that they face. Getting involved and immersed in the area is critical to becoming the best advocate for clients."

Justice Shannon, 2L  
Legal Intern, FCC Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Policy and Licensing Division  
Washington, D.C.  
"I would like to begin my legal career in telecommunications at a federal agency, so this was the greatest start that I could have imagined. It was a dream internship."

Ben Siroky, 2L  
Legal Intern, SEC, Office of Commissioner Caroline Crenshaw ’09  
Washington, D.C.  
"Each day I had access to an incredibly talented team, who were amazing to learn from. I wasn’t sure how much exposure I would have to the different areas within the organization, but the staff were great about providing substantive and diverse work that has allowed me to gain a true sense of life at the SEC."

Brandon Vaca, 3L  
Peggy Browning Fellow,  
American Federation of Teachers  
Washington, D.C.  
"It was a joy to work with such experienced and supportive mentors who cared about my development as much as my final work product. It was a privilege to put the legal skills I have learned to use by helping workers, even in a small way, to improve people’s lives through creating just workplaces."
Student News

**Three Minnesota Law Students Named Stevens Fellows**
Three Minnesota Law students were among the 81 recipients of 2021 fellowships nationwide from the John Paul Stevens Fellowship Foundation. The prestigious Stevens fellowships were awarded to rising 3Ls Wendy Jacqueline Escobar, Haille Laws, and Emily Newman. Escobar’s fellowship was with the New York Legal Assistance Group in New York City. Laws’ fellowship was with the Federal Communications Commission (Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau) in Washington, D.C. Newman’s fellowship was with the U.S. Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division (Wildlife and Marine Resources Section) in Washington, D.C.

**MSBA Recognizes 3L Ashley Meeder for Outstanding Access to Justice Work**
Ashley Meeder, 3L, received the Minnesota State Bar Association Access to Justice Committee’s 2021 Bernard P. Becker award for outstanding legal work by a law student. Meeder began volunteering with Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid (MMLA) in June 2020 as a summer law clerk.
She has continued to volunteer for MMLA through the pandemic while concentrating on her studies in law school. At MMLA, she has played a crucial role in advocating for low-income tenants in eviction proceedings and representing clients in housing cases involving severe repair problems. During the summer of 2020, she performed 400 hours of full-time service with MMLA. Since then, she has volunteered another 192 hours.

**Two Minnesota Law Students Receive President’s Student Leadership & Service Awards**

Shantal Pai ’21, and Heather Chang, 3L, were 2021 recipients of the President’s Student Leadership & Service Awards. The awards honor outstanding students for their invaluable leadership and service to the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities and the community.

Pai founded the Race-Informed Study Experience program (RISE), an initiative designed to provide students of color an opportunity to discuss their experiences pursuing law.

Chang, editor-in-chief of the journal *Law and Inequality*, co-president of the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, and a board member of the Latinx Law Student Association, worked to create a more inclusive and equitable environment for students within the Law School.

**Minnesota Law Team Takes Second Place in Patent Drafting Competition**


The team consisted of two Master of Science in patent law students, Jordan Marsh and Timothy Brennhofer, and two J.D. students, Carlton Hemphill, 3L, and Jack Graves, 3L.

The competition began with 51 teams from 5 regions. Each team researched the invention, identified classes and relevant references, determined patentable subject matter, constructed claims, created drawings, and described the invention, all according to USPTO regulations.

During the regional rounds, each team member described his or her strategy and contribution to a patent application. During the national finals on April 9, the team defended its strategy to a live panel of distinguished judges drawn from the greater patent community. Professor Christopher Turoski ’98 coached the team, with assistance from Randall Ryder ’09, Jason Harp ’98 of Schiff Hardin, Bernard Cryan ’21, Eva Tang of Faegre Drinker, and David Rutz of Shumaker & Sieffert.
ALUMNI Interrogatory
Cherée Johnson ’03
Senior Vice President, General Counsel, Corporate Secretary, and Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, W.R. Grace
What inspired you to take on the challenge of this leadership position at W.R. Grace?

The inspiration for my move was the significant opportunity of being the general counsel of a large, publicly traded company. It got me back to the manufacturing roots that I had at 3M—that type of company.

You came to W.R. Grace at an interesting time with a buyout offer on the table and a global pandemic underway. What was it like starting at such a time?

The company had its M&A activity in addition to its normal litigation work, so we had a lot going on. Things picked up significantly around the time I joined—which had nothing to do with me—and were starting to snowball. My first day, I probably had 9 to 10 minutes of orientation—it was scheduled for three and a half hours—but I got in, sat down, and very soon after got a call from the CEO’s assistant saying, “Hey we have an issue that you need to deal with.” I haven’t completed orientation since. It has been go, go, go, go, go.

You began your career as an engineer for 3M and then went to Minnesota Law. What motivated the switch from engineering to law?

Growing up I wanted to be on the Supreme Court—and it’s not too late!

I have always been fascinated with tinkering with things. I got a full undergraduate scholarship to study chemical engineering, and what better company to do that with than 3M, one of the best in the world. When I was there, I talked to some people in the legal department and learned about intellectual property. Combining my love of engineering with law seemed like the perfect fit. So I applied to Minnesota Law and received a full scholarship, which made the decision much easier.

Why do you feel diverse perspectives are important in the boardroom?

Sometimes regulations and issues are seen one way, but when you have another person that can add a perspective, it shines a light on things that might have otherwise been missed. Having different perspectives in the room in the form of diversity can only add to the richness of the conversation and the richness of the conclusion. You may get to the very same point, but those conversations and the journey that takes you there are invaluable.

What lessons would you offer to someone newer to the legal profession looking to get established or chart out a career course?

1. Make the call that you are afraid to make. 2. Give more than you get in return right away. 3. Lead when no one else is following you yet. 4. Invest in yourself, even though no one else may be. 5. Meet deadlines that are unreasonable and deliver results that are unparalleled. 6. Search for your own explanations, even when you are told to accept the facts. 7. Be comfortable with being uncomfortable and insecure when playing it safe seems smarter. 8. Run faster even though you are out of breath. 9. Be accountable for your actions, even when things go wrong. 10. Try and fail, and try again.

How do you like to spend your free time?

I love traveling. I have visited 47 different countries. I love meeting new people and experiencing new cultures, ways of life, foods. My husband is trying to get me into golf. For right now, I am an amazing golf cart driver. I also enjoy having some time to myself to think and decompress.

What interesting decoration or item might we find in your office or on your desk?

When I travel, I try to bring home a small memento of the trip. My entire family went a couple of years ago on a safari in South Africa, and one of the activities my husband and I engaged in was great white shark underwater diving. A shark banged his head on the cage that protected us, and a little bit of his tooth chipped off. I have that sitting on my desk.
IN HIS 40S, BOB KIRCHER ’70 was a lawyer who began to race cars. Around dirt tracks. With his insatiable curiosity, he also learned how to drive trucks, earning a commercial driver’s license.

One day, the Minneapolis man told his wife, also an attorney, about a new idea. This one might even make money.

“I’m going to start a garbage company,” he said.

She looked at him, perplexed.

“A garbage business?” she responded.

As an entrepreneur with a wide range of interests, he’d taken on a variety of personal and business pursuits in finance, real estate, and politics. But this one truly surprised her.

It was 1990. Kircher and a business partner had noticed how waste management companies in the Twin Cities operated and decided there was an opportunity to compete. So they created a new company—Aspen Waste—and planned to challenge the competition on sales and service.

The pair bought a used truck and hired one of Kircher’s trucker buddies to drive routes while they worked on finding new customers. Thirty-one years later, Aspen Waste earns about $90 million in annual revenue with 225 trucks operating out of six garages in four cities: Minneapolis, St. Louis, Des Moines, and Ames, Iowa.

Building a business takes a lot of talents,” says Kircher. “All of my professional experiences, and particularly my background in law, made Aspen possible. I think of my company as my client. The talents that I honed practicing law, including negotiating, spotting issues, and defining and solving complex problems, have served me well.”

A Meaty Start

Before he planted the Aspen seed, Kircher’s future seemed to be in meat. His father owned Sanitary Meats, a big downtown Minneapolis butcher shop. Beginning at age 14, Kircher washed dishes there. By 16, he was behind the counter in a smock, taking orders. After graduating from Edison High School, he worked as a journeyman butcher while taking classes at the University of Minnesota. But college proved tough for him.

“It was kind of a shock,” he said. “In high school, I never had any homework.”

Which is one reason he failed one of his first college courses: algebra. That disappointment prompted him to take a break from the University. He got a job cutting meat at a local butcher shop not owned by his family. “It was the first time I was on my own,” he says.

When he returned to the University of Minnesota, he tackled algebra again. This time he earned the highest grade in the class, prompting him to major in economics. An admirer of President John F. Kennedy, Kircher followed the president’s lead and joined the U.S. Navy in 1963. During his three years as an officer, he served on the U.S.S. Higbee, a destroyer.

Law & Politics

After his military stint, Kircher enrolled at Minnesota Law. In the months before graduation, he organized fundraisers for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Wendell Anderson. In November 1970, Anderson won. Kircher rented a tiny law office and leveraged his new connections to find clients. In 1973, he supported and managed the campaign for another upstart: Al Hofstede, a candidate for Minneapolis mayor. Hofstede also won.

“My law office got bigger quickly,” Kircher says.

Soon, Kircher teamed up with two other attorneys to create a more formidable firm. His goal: to assist local governments in the issuance of municipal bonds. It was a tough nut to crack. Law firms doing the work were listed in a book, but his firm wasn’t. With dogged persistence and Kircher’s knack for problem-solving, his firm wormed its way into the municipal bonds business.

But once his firm began to thrive, Kircher’s curiosity continued to lead him in new directions.

On a New Track

During his racing days, Kircher purchased a windowless car designed to roar around dirt tracks and began hanging out with mechanics and race car drivers. When he showed up at the track, other drivers called to him, “Hey, lawyer.”

Turns out it wasn’t only the racetrack where he stood out. His success in the waste industry stands out as well. According to a 2020 list compiled by Waste Today magazine, Aspen Waste ranked #27 among the nation’s trash haulers. He bought out his business partner in 2003; today he is the sole owner.

In waste management, Kircher has found a business for the long haul.
Building a business takes a lot of talents. All of my professional experiences, and particularly my background in law, made Aspen possible.”

—Bob Kircher ’70, CEO of Aspen Waste
TWENTY YEARS AGO, SUZANNE SPELLACY ’92 had a difficult choice to make: stay in Minneapolis with the commercial law firm she had worked at for eight years, or take a job as an in-house lawyer for a company in her hometown of Mankato, Minnesota, population 42,000.

While Spellacy liked her job at Winthrop & Weinstine, she believed the slower pace of a small city might be best for her young children. “I felt I might be giving up a chance at an exciting legal career for the good of my family,” she recalls.

Ultimately, Spellacy accepted the Mankato job at Taylor Corp., a printing company owned by billionaire Glen Taylor, who also owned the Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx basketball teams. In life, as in basketball, timing is everything, and Spellacy’s could not have been better; Taylor was about to go on a tear.

After Spellacy joined in 2000, Taylor began buying up dozens of smaller printing and graphic design firms around the world. In 2014, Taylor bought the Star Tribune. As Taylor acquired or started companies in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Britain, India, and the Philippines, Spellacy was deeply enmeshed in the details, working on dozens of deals and a wide range of legal issues: compliance, risk management, litigation, employment law, and, of course, contracts.

Reflecting Back to Minnesota Law

When negotiating contracts, Spellacy often thought about lessons learned as a Minnesota Law student. During a mock dialogue, Professor John Matheson told the story of business partners who began as friends, built a company, but failed to consider what might happen when conflicts arose. The story had a sad ending: the friends became bitter enemies.

Throughout the course, Spellacy realized this kind of strategic, forward thinking appealed to her. “Maybe this is for me,” she thought. “How does one anticipate the consequences of legal decisions made today? I could see myself spending the rest of my career thinking about issues like this, and it turns out I was right.”

Asked about other influential professors, Spellacy quickly recalls the names of several teachers who influenced her legal thinking, including Stephen Befort ’74, a national authority on labor and employment law. At Minnesota Law, she graduated magna cum laude and was a staff member at the Journal of Law and Inequality.

Making the Leadership Team

After joining Taylor, Spellacy rose through the ranks, becoming vice president of human resources, assistant general counsel, then general counsel. As general counsel, she supervised a staff of 15, overseeing the legal work of more than 50 consolidated subsidiaries. In 2019, Spellacy switched companies, becoming general counsel at Jack Link’s Protein Snacks in Minneapolis. This summer, she accepted the role of general counsel of the Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx. Spellacy now spends her time working on the team responses to the COVID-19 crisis, negotiating sponsorship agreements, and grappling with employment law and intellectual property law issues. She also serves as a member of the executive team and on the Women in Sports Careers steering committee.

“The leadership team here is exceptional,” she says. “I’m really enjoying it.”

By Todd Melby, a Minneapolis-based freelance writer and podcast producer
In October, program participants gathered at the McNamara Alumni Center for the 2021 WILLIAM B. LOCKHART CLUB CELEBRATION. The event was livestreamed to audience members across the world. Jeanette Bazis ’92, the 2021-22 Board of Advisors chair, welcomed Minnesota Law alumni, donors, and friends, and Dean Garry W. Jenkins and others celebrated Minnesota Law’s recent accomplishments and its important role as a leader in legal education. The evening included a special video highlighting talented scholarship recipients.
The Lockhart Club is the University of Minnesota Law School’s leadership annual giving society. The Lockhart Club brings together generations of alumni and friends who generously express their support of Minnesota Law through an annual gift of $2,000 or more.

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

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

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

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

Lockhart GOLD
Graduates of the Last Decade
Lockhart GOLD engages a new generation of leadership donors through a stepped donation program for alumni 10 years out or less. Recent graduates contributing at these special giving levels are members and enjoy all the benefits of the Lockhart Club.

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For questions or for information about joining the Lockhart Club, please contact Elissa Ecklund Chaffee, director of alumni relations and annual giving, at 612-626-8671 or echaffee@umn.edu.
ANTHONY BÉGON ’12
Head of Litigation and Compliance, McAfee Enterprise (Dallas–Fort Worth)

How I describe my job: Risk management. I have a unique opportunity to interact with many aspects of the business and advise leadership on how to manage and mitigate risk across the globe, from commercial, employment and IP disputes, global data privacy concerns, and ethics and compliance.

What a typical day entails: Every day has its own set of unique and interesting problems to solve. Each day I advise clients on how to accomplish a particular goal while minimizing legal exposure. To do that, however, I try to structure my day to continue learning about the rapid developments and threats in cybersecurity and how they impact our legal and compliance obligations across the globe.

An interesting job experience I’ve had: Over this past year, I was able to work through certain legal and regulatory challenges of becoming a public company and shortly after divesting the enterprise business to private equity. Taking a global company public—then a portion of that company back to private in a matter of months—was an amazing (and busy) experience.

What I like about living/working in Texas: After growing up in Massachusetts and living in Minnesota for six years, I really enjoy the mild winters in Dallas. Texas barbecue is also a big draw.

Advice to someone entering my field: There are so many opportunities in the legal profession. Although it’s great to specialize, continue learning new areas of the law, and don’t be afraid to take on new opportunities.

My favorite inspirational quote: I have two: “Debate. Decide. Do.” and “Bloom where you are planted.”

How I spend my free time: If I’m not spending time with my wife and two children, I love to cycle outdoors, which I can practically do year-round in Dallas.

SYED K. FAREED ’08
Partner, IP Trial Lawyer, Baker Botts (Austin)

How I describe my job: I help companies develop strategies to protect their intellectual property assets, as well as defend against IP threats. Oftentimes it involves litigation, which can be challenging and fun in its own ways.

What a typical day entails: There is no typical day in this field, which makes things interesting. But my days revolve around preparing for depositions, conducting strategy sessions, court hearings, etc.

An interesting job experience I’ve had: A few years ago, I had the opportunity to work in-house at a professional sports league and manage their IP issues. That was a very rewarding experience as I got to apply my skills in an area that is quite different from the typical technical fields we see in IP litigation.

Something I wish I knew in law school: A lot of my time these days is spent teaching and mentoring junior attorneys as they learn the ropes in IP law. It is a quite rewarding task, and certainly something that I didn’t appreciate before I started in this profession.

What I like about living/working in Texas: Austin has been a great place to live for many reasons. It’s got a lively culture, and the tech industry here has expanded quite significantly, which has been a boon for the practice of IP law in Texas.

Advice to someone entering my field: Don’t be afraid to try new areas of law, whether they are within the IP umbrella or outside of it. Trying new areas will make you a more well-rounded attorney.

My favorite inspirational quote: “Today’s mighty oak is just yesterday’s nut that held its ground.” —David Icke

How I spend my free time: Most of my time outside of work is spent with my family, taking my kids to the park and enjoying the vibrant culture in Austin.
Profiles in Practice highlights some of the many ways alumni put their Minnesota Law degrees to use in a practice area or geographical region. In this edition, we highlight alumni living and working in the state of Texas.

**ZENOBIA LAI ’91**  
Executive Director,  
Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative

*How I describe my job:*  
As the head of a nonprofit organization whose mission is to bring together immigrant-serving legal and social service providers to develop holistic immigration legal services in Greater Houston, my job involves convening the partners in our network and raising funds to incubate programs to address unmet needs that are better tackled through collaboration of many than by any single organization. What I do is to distill the issues and ideas, develop project ideas, shop them around with funders, secure funding, regrant to partners, and shepherd the start-up or launch of the project. I also try to stay up to date on immigration law and policies, keep an eye out on developments on the southern border, anticipate the policy impacts on Greater Houston, and galvanize resources to respond.

*What a typical day entails:*  
There is no typical day. I tend to spend many hours in any given day in meetings: to brainstorm with my staff, build relationships with our partners, connect with funders, meet with different project teams to move the program along, strategize with colleagues, etc. I also spend time on administrative work that comes with running an organization and attend training to keep up my knowledge in immigration practice.

*What I like about living/working in Texas:*  
The geographical proximity of Texas and Houston to the southern border makes the crisis of our immigration policies very real and urgent. That gives me a powerful reason to do what I do, which is to walk alongside immigrants, migrants, and refugees to protect, defend, and advocate for them.

*My favorite inspirational quote:*  
“Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time.” —Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

*How I spend my free time:*  
Travel, especially overseas, is my favorite pastime. It allows me to step away, have new experiences, and gain perspective.

**MEGHAN J. RYAN ’05**  
Professor, Associate Dean for Research, Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law (Dallas)

*How I describe my job:*  
I am a law professor at SMU Law in Dallas, where I teach and write at the intersection of criminal law and procedure, torts, and law and science.

*What a typical day entails:*  
A typical day for me really varies depending on whether I am teaching. About 40% of my job is teaching, about 40% is devoted to research and writing, and the rest is spent on service to the university and to the profession more broadly. When I teach, most of my day involves preparation for class, class itself, and answering student questions. On days that I don’t teach, I spend most of my time working on articles that I plan to publish.

*An interesting job experience I’ve had:*  
It’s tough to narrow it down to just one. But a few years back, I spent a week at Camp Justice—the site of the military commissions proceedings for the alleged terrorists and war criminals who have been held on the base since the “war on terror” began after 9/11. As an ABA representative, I was tasked with observing the proceedings to see if they complied with human rights principles and relevant rules of law. I ended up writing a short essay about the experience.

*What I like about living/working in Texas:*  
When I first moved to Dallas, I loved the warm weather. As the summers have gotten hotter, the weather is starting to wear on me a bit. Perhaps my favorite thing about Dallas is that I met my husband here. Also, the food is great!

*My favorite inspirational quote:*  
“Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.” —Mahatma Gandhi

*How I spend my free time:*  
I spend most of my free time—if you could really call it “free” time—playing with my 3-year-old: pretending to be a dinosaur, reading books about monkeys or rocks, and hunting for an obvious hiding spot.
Alumni News

Rachel Clark Hughey ’03
Appointed to Hennepin County Bench

Rachel Clark Hughey ’03 was appointed to a seat on the bench of Minnesota’s Fourth Judicial District. Hughey previously was a partner and shareholder at Merchant & Gould, where she served as a member and past chair of the firm’s Pro Bono Committee and co-chair of its Appellate Group, among other things. Hughey’s community involvement includes serving as a member of the ACLU-MN Board and a member and past chair of the Volunteer Lawyers Network Board. She also has been an active volunteer with the Advocates for Human Rights, Children’s Law Center, Volunteer Lawyers Network, and the State Public Defender’s Office.

Andrew Gordon ’08
Appointed to Ramsey County Bench

Andrew Gordon ’08 was appointed to serve on the bench of Minnesota’s Second Judicial District. Gordon previously served as the deputy director of community legal services at the Legal Rights Center (LRC), where his responsibilities included the direct representation of indigent clients in criminal and delinquency courts, the supervision of the LRC’s community-centered legal work, and advocacy for the empowerment of people of color, immigrants, and other marginalized communities. He also works on several committees—alongside criminal justice partners and other system stakeholders—on issues of racial justice, equity, and access to justice.

Born and raised in Jamaica, Gordon is a board member of Green Card Voices, a local nonprofit dedicated to empowering and uplifting the voices of immigrants.

John Docherty ’86
Appointed U.S. Magistrate Judge

John F. Docherty ’86, an assistant U.S. attorney serving in the District of Minnesota, was appointed to serve as a U.S. magistrate judge in St. Paul. Docherty has served in the U.S. Attorney’s Office since 2002. In this capacity, he prosecuted a wide range of cases, focusing on international and domestic terrorism, civil rights cases, and cases involving the illegal export of sensitive U.S. technology. Docherty also served as the office’s Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council coordinator. From 2006 to 2008, Docherty left the U.S. Attorney’s Office temporarily to work as a prosecutor at the United Nations’
International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in the Hague, the Netherlands.

Docherty has also served on the adjunct faculty at Minnesota Law.

**U.S. Senate Confirms Bob Anderson '83 as Solicitor for Department of Interior**

The U.S. Senate confirmed the nomination of Robert (Bob) Anderson '83 to serve as solicitor of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Anderson, nominated by President Biden last April, had served as Interior’s principal deputy solicitor since last January.

Anderson was a law professor at the University of Washington for 20 years, directing its Native American Law Center. He has been the Oneida Indian Nation Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School for the past 12 years. He is a co-author and editor of the leading federal Indian Law treatise, *Cohen’s Handbook of Federal Indian Law*, and is a co-author of a leading textbook on American Indian Law. He has extensive expertise and has published many articles in the fields of natural resources law, water law, and American Indian law.

Anderson grew up in Ely, Minnesota and is an enrolled member of the Bois Forte Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.

**Hakeem Onafowokan '15 Joins Oklahoma City Thunder**

Hakeem Onafowokan ’15 joined the Oklahoma City Thunder as the team’s vice president of corporate legal.

Onafowokan previously served as corporate counsel at NASCAR. Prior to his time at NASCAR, he worked with the League of Minnesota Cities and the NFL Players Association.

In his new role with the Thunder, Onafowokan will focus on areas such as intellectual property, sponsorship and lease agreements, and legal research and analysis.

**Roshini Rajkumar ’97 Wraps Up Nine-Year Run on Twin Cities Radio**

Roshini Rajkumar ’97 aired her final broadcast in *Real Talk with Roshini* on Sept. 5 after nine years on WCCO Radio.

Rajkumar ended the show to concentrate on her media consulting and coaching business, Roshini Multi-Media, Inc. She will, however, continue to do her digital show, *Discover Minnesota with Roshini*, on the Good Neighbor’s Facebook platform.

Rajkumar, whose show was a staple of Sunday morning Twin Cities radio programing, says her departure from WCCO is bittersweet, but she is really looking forward to getting her Sundays back.
Asked & Answered

Ivania Galeano, LL.M. ’21, who came to Minnesota Law as a Fulbright scholar in 2020, works at the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in her native Honduras. She recently spoke with us about her experience in the Twin Cities and in our LL.M. program.

PLEASE BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR WORK WITH THE U.N.
My work in Honduras has centered on promoting the respect of human rights for vulnerable groups—particularly women’s and indigenous peoples’ rights—along with supporting human rights defenders and promoting accountability for human rights violations. I’ve been fortunate to work with civil society organizations, governmental institutions, and international organizations.

WHAT MAKES YOU SO PASSIONATE ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS?
I think because human rights protection has been, and still is, a major issue of concern in my country, and this influenced what I wanted my law career to be about. In 2009, after I had finished law school, a coup d’état took place in Honduras, which enabled serious human rights violations that have continued to unfold to present day.

WHY DID YOU PICK MINNESOTA LAW AS THE PLACE TO GET YOUR LL.M.?
Because of its solid academic program, its faculty, the diversity of concentrations, and the Twin Cities. Also, the fact that it had practical experiences for international students to engage with.

MINNESOTA LAW SEEKS TO INSTILL THE VALUE OF LAWYER-LEADERSHIP. WHAT DOES LAWYER-LEADERSHIP MEAN TO YOU?
Lawyer-leadership means putting the skills that the legal profession offers into the service and well-being of your community. My time at Minnesota Law enabled me to see the role of lawyer-leaders in special difficult times, like the one the city has faced around race issues this last year. I expect to be able to continue to support the collective efforts of civil society organizations in my country, with new tools the LL.M. and the Fulbright experience provided me, working to improve the human rights situation.

HOW DID YOU ENJOY YOUR TIME IN THE TWIN CITIES?
I was struck by the natural beauty of the Twin Cities. I was lucky to be able to enjoy winter activities like cross-country skiing (a first for me), along with the spring and fall activities like park and lake visits and getting together safely outside. I will have to come back for summer!

ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?
Thank you so much for the opportunity to share my experience and thanks to my fellow LL.M. classmates, the International Program Team, and professors for making this a very enriching and unforgettable experience.
“When we look back on the educations we received at Minnesota Law, we are grateful for the professors who pushed us to think critically, for the law journal work that required us to learn the discipline of articulating cogent arguments in a new style of writing, and for the classmates that became close friends and who we have stayed in touch with long after graduation. These experiences taught us to “think like a lawyer,” but just as importantly, they also taught us to be creative and resilient in the face of challenges. Now is the time for all of us to make sure that the next generation of lawyers is getting that same training.”

Noreen Johnson Sedgeman ’09
& Joel Sedgeman ’10
2021–2022 University of Minnesota Law School Annual Fund Co-Chairs

Behind every lawyer-leader is a donor like you.

Your support of the Annual Fund today ensures Minnesota Law is able to offer a transformative and innovative legal education to the lawyer-leaders of tomorrow.

To make a gift, visit give.umn.edu/law or contact Jackie Hasselquist, Annual Giving Officer, at 612-625-8435 or oreil061@umn.edu.
Class Notes

NEWS ABOUT YOUR CLASSMATES AND COLLEAGUES

70 John J. Michalik has published The Harriman Alaska Expedition of 1899: Scientists, Naturalists, Artists and Others Document America’s Last Frontier. The book explores the lives and adventures of the group of experts who participated in an expedition of the Alaskan territory.

79 Paul Legler received multiple recognitions for his book Half the Terrible Things. The novel was selected as a finalist for the Midwest Book Awards, Foreword Indies Book of the Year Awards, and the Eric Hoffer Book Award.

Tom McDonald, as a member of the Board of Lawyers Committee, played a role in moving Kristen Clarke’s nomination to head the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division to confirmation. Clarke was confirmed by the Senate in May 2021. Ambassador McDonald is an attorney with Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease in Washington, D.C.

81 Jon Hoganson was named a “Leader in Their Field” in the Chambers USA Awards 2021. He is a shareholder practicing in the areas of banking, real estate, and general corporate law at Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis.

82 Timothy Barnett was named a “Leader in Their Field” in the Chambers USA Awards 2021. He is a shareholder at Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis, with a practice focused on commercial lending.

Todd Urness was named a “Leader in Their Field” in the Chambers USA Awards 2021. He practices law at Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis, where he focuses on tax credit financing and syndication, as well as real estate development and transactions.

Kathryn Graves was named a 2020 North Star Lawyer by the Minnesota State Bar Association. Graves is a family law attorney at Henson Efron in Minneapolis.

Ronald Woessner joined Jackson Spencer Law, a Dallas-based employment law firm, as senior counsel. His practice focuses on advocacy for employee rights.

85 Tom Thomas joined Vincenx Pharma, Inc. in Palo Alto, California, as general counsel and chief legal officer. His practice focuses on corporate finance and securities, mergers and acquisitions, venture capital transactions, technology transactions, and executive compensation.

86 John F. Docherty was appointed to serve as magistrate judge for the District of Minnesota. Previously, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Minnesota.

Michael C. Glover joined DeWitt in its Minneapolis office. Glover practices in the areas of transportation and logistics, business, labor and employment, and litigation.

Toni Halleen published The Surrogate. The novel explores questions regarding family, love, and relationships. Halleen was inspired to write the book after taking a family law class with Professor Judith Younger during her time at Minnesota Law.

Jim Chosy received the 2021 Exemplar Award from the National Legal Aid and Defender Association. Chosy is the senior executive vice president of U.S. Bancorp, the parent company of U.S. Bank.

Nancy Staudt has accepted a position as the Frank and Marcia Carlucci Dean of the Pardee RAND Graduate School and vice president of innovation at RAND, a California-based research and public policy organization. Staudt was formerly dean of the Washington University in St. Louis School of Law.

91 Neil Ayotte was appointed to serve as senior vice president, general counsel, and chief compliance officer at Nuwellis in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Chad Baruch, of Johnston Tobey Baruch in Dallas, was named to Best Lawyers in America for the third consecutive year. His practice includes civil, criminal, and family law appeals.

Toni Michelle Jackson joined Crowell & Moring’s Washington, D.C. office as a partner in its litigation and labor and employment groups, as well as the firm’s state attorneys general practice. Previously, Jackson served as deputy attorney general of the public interest division at the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia.

Christine A. Long was elected to serve a two-year term as assistant chief judge in the Third Judicial District of Minnesota. She has served on the bench since 2010.

92 Suzanne Spellacy joined the Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx as general counsel. Spellacy oversees areas involving risk management, employment law, contract negotiations, dispute resolution, and league rules and regulations.

Daniel Tschida was selected one of four finalists for the 28th
Annual Great American Think-Off. The question at the center of the contest was “Which is more important: to win or to play by the rules?” Tschida is a teacher at Columbia Heights High School in Minnesota.

Scott Neilson was named a 2020 North Star Lawyer by the Minnesota State Bar Association. Neilson is the national coordinating counsel at Henson Efron in Minneapolis.

Brian Nomi retired after 28 years of service in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps of the U.S. Army. After serving three overseas deployments, Nomi is now focusing on his private practice in Camarillo, California.

Benjamin Mulcahy was named to the Hollywood Reporter’s 2021 Power Lawyers list, which highlights the top 100 lawyers in Hollywood. He is employed by DLA Piper in Los Angeles, where he is a partner in the intellectual property and technology practice. He is also cochair of the firm’s national advertising team.

Matthew McBride was named a “Leader in Their Field” in the Chambers USA Awards 2021. He practices at Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis, where he focuses on business and commercial litigation and financial services litigation.

Steven Wang is a new partner at Davis Polk in its Hong Kong office. He focuses on corporate clients, providing services relating to capital markets, securities law, and mergers and acquisitions.

Abigail Nesbitt was named an In-House Counsel 2021 honoree by Minnesota Lawyer for her work with public corporations. She is the vice president of the legal division at Huntington Technology Finance, Inc. in Minneapolis.

Kristen Ludgate was appointed chief people officer at HP, Inc. In this role, Ludgate leads HP’s global human resources organization, which includes employee experience, workforce planning, talent acquisition, people development, compensation and benefits, as well as diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Marya Robben was named lead of the Lathrop GPM trusts, estates and legacy planning practice group. She works out of the firm’s Minneapolis office and primarily practices in the areas of estate planning, estate and gift taxation, fiduciary representation, probate administration, trust formation and administration, and guardianship and conservatorship law.

Cameron R. Seybolt of Fredrikson & Byron in Minneapolis was appointed Minnesota State Chair of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). ACTEC is a nonprofit association of more than 2,500 highly credentialed trust and estate lawyers.

James R. Cho was appointed to serve as a U.S. magistrate judge in Brooklyn federal court in New York. Cho is the first Korean American to serve on the Eastern District of New York bench.

Ryan Hoch was named an In-House Counsel 2021 honoree by Minnesota Lawyer for his work with public corporations. He is the assistant general counsel for CHS Inc., headquartered in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

Bryan Phillips was appointed to the Blue...
Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota board of trustees. Phillips currently serves as senior vice president, general counsel and secretary, and chief compliance officer for Inspire Medical Systems, Inc. in Golden Valley, Minnesota.

Asmah Tareen was elected shareholder of Fredrickson & Byron and has joined the firm’s Minneapolis office. Tareen is a member of the technology and data, intellectual property, and life sciences groups at the firm.

Rachel C. Hughey was appointed to the bench of Minnesota’s Fourth Judicial District in Minneapolis. Previously, Hughey was a partner and shareholder at Merchant & Gould, where she specialized in intellectual property litigation.

Nicole Narotzky joined the Minneapolis office of Greenberg Traurig, where she is a litigator for the firm’s products liability, pharmaceutical and medical devices, and health care practice. Narotzky has 15 years of experience in product liability litigation for medical device companies.

Jaimala Pai was named an In-House Counsel 2021 honoree by Minnesota Lawyer for her work with public corporations. Pai is the vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary of ACIST Medical Systems in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Jaime Driggs was named a 2020 North Star Lawyer by the Minnesota State Bar Association. Driggs is a family law attorney at Henson Efron in Minneapolis.

Jenny Lindstrom joined Mitesco, Inc. in Minneapolis as chief legal officer and secretary to the corporation. Previously, Lindstrom served as the executive vice president and general counsel at Radisson Hotel Group.

Peter Carlson was named an In-House Counsel 2021 honoree by Minnesota Lawyer for his work with private corporations. Carlson is general counsel and corporate secretary at the Minneapolis office of the Nerdery, a digital business consultancy.

Anthony Novak was elected to serve as president of the Minnesota Defense Lawyers Association for 2021-22.

Sarah Peterson received the 2021 Susan D. Quares American Immigration Lawyers Association Service Excellence Award, as well as a presidential commendation from the organization. Peterson is founder of SPS Immigration in Minneapolis.

Katharine Woomer-Deters graduated from Leadership North Carolina, a leadership-development program that selects professionals from a variety of sectors across the state. Woomer-Deters is staff attorney at the North Carolina Justice Center, a statewide anti-poverty nonprofit in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Jessica Hutson Polakowski was elected to serve on Reinhart’s board of directors for a three-year term. She works in the firm’s Madison, Wisconsin office, where she is a shareholder in the intellectual property litigation and litigation practice groups.

Joshua Colburn was named one of 40 Under 40 by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal. Colburn is a partner at Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath in Minneapolis and an adjunct professor at Minnesota Law.

Rebecca Ruan-O’Shaughnessy was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to serve on the California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council. In addition to this, Ruan-O’Shaughnessy has been a 2021 Susan D. Quares American Immigration Lawyers Association Ethics and Professionalism Committee.

Sarah Odegaard has been named a 2021 Rising Star by Southern California Super Lawyers. Odegaard is an associate with Snell & Wilmer in its Orange County, California office. She focuses on product liability litigation and consumer warranty and consumer fraud-based litigation.

Sean Foss joined First International Bank & Trust in Fargo, North Dakota as its corporate legal counsel. Foss currently serves as president of the Cass County Bar Association and is a member of the North Dakota Supreme Court joint procedure committee and State Bar Association of North Dakota ethics committee.

Kyle Hawkins, former solicitor general of Texas, has returned to Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher as a partner in the firm’s litigation department. Hawkins also is a member of Gibson Dunn’s appellate and constitutional law practice group.

Timothy W. Schmidt was elected to the board of directors of the Association of Corporate Counsel, Wisconsin. Schmidt is senior counsel at Komatsu Mining Corp., based in Milwaukee.

Stacy Deery Stennes was elected president of the Minnesota Association for Justice. She is a partner at Conlin Law Firm in Minneapolis.

Andrew E. Brehm joined Burwell Enterprises, Inc. as deputy general counsel in its Minneapolis office. Previously, he served as deputy general counsel for Minnesota Coaches, Inc. and affiliated companies.

Betsy Flanagan has been named the managing principal of Fish & Richardson’s Twin Cities office. Her practice focuses on complex patent litigation with an emphasis on life sciences, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical litigation.

Sarah Odegaard has been named a 2021 Rising Star by Southern California Super Lawyers. Odegaard is an associate with Snell & Wilmer in its Orange County, California office. She focuses on product liability litigation and consumer warranty and consumer fraud–based litigation.

Peter Carlson was named an In-House Counsel 2021 honoree by Minnesota Lawyer for his work...
corporate governance, operating agreements, website policies, trademarks, and employment law.

**Lindsey Nieuwsma** was appointed to a judgeship in the South Central Judicial District by Governor Doug Burgum of North Dakota. Previously, Nieuwsma acted as a judicial referee and magistrate in the South Central Judicial District.

**Benjamin Winger** joined DLA Piper’s restructuring practice in its Chicago office. Winger focuses on corporate restructuring, bankruptcy, and insolvency proceedings.

**Catlan McCurdy** founded McCurdy, LLC in Minneapolis in April 2021 to provide nimble, personalized service in intellectual property and technology transactions.

**Lariss Maldonado** was selected as a Diversity & Inclusion Honoree by Minnesota Lawyer. Maldonado is senior counsel and vice president at Wells Fargo. She is also the vice chair of the board of directors at the ACLU of Minnesota and chair of the Twin Cities Diversity in Practice Professional Development Committee.

**Eric Friske** was reappointed by Governor Tim Walz to the Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience, and Interior Design. Friske is an attorney at Henson Efron in Minneapolis, where he represents individuals and corporations in trust, estate, and business disputes.

**Casey D. Marshall** was elected a shareholder of Bassford Remele, a Minneapolis firm. Marshall is a litigator who represents corporations and individuals in commercial disputes and helps families, businesses, and individuals navigate trust and estate conflicts.

**Michael Burke** joined Fox Rothschild in Minneapolis as an associate in the litigation practice. Burke represents clients through all stages of business and commercial disputes.

**Hakeem Onafowokan** joined the Oklahoma City Thunder NBA team as vice president of corporate legal. In this role, Onafowokan focuses on intellectual property, sponsorship and lease agreements, and legal research and analysis.

**Olivia M. Cooper** joined Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis as an associate in the firm’s business and commercial litigation practice. Cooper is also an adjunct professor at Minnesota Law.

**Jennell K. Shannon** joined Jackson Lewis as an associate in Minneapolis. Shannon represents employers in labor and employment disputes and litigation, including class and collective actions and wage and hour, discrimination, retaliation, and whistleblower actions.

**Mitchell Sullivan** joined DeWitt in its Minneapolis office. Sullivan specializes in corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, and real estate law.

**Joy Wang** joined Minnesota Law as a career counselor/judicial clerkship adviser in its Career Center.

**Zachary W. Berger** joined Fox Rothschild in Warrington, Pennsylvania as an associate in its real estate department. Formerly, he served as an associate attorney at Rosenn Jenkins & Greenwald.

**Emily Collins** joined Croke Fairchild Morgan & Beres as an associate. She is based in Milwaukee, where her practice centers on

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**BETSY FLANAGAN ’08 NAMED MANAGING PRINCIPAL OF FISH & RICHARDSON TWIN CITIES OFFICE**

Flanagan’s practice focuses on complex patent litigation with an emphasis on life sciences, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical litigation. In addition to her strong office leadership, Flanagan has been widely recognized in Minnesota and nationally for her exceptional patent litigation work. Most recently, she was named the Litigation Practitioner of the Year for Minnesota by Managing Intellectual Property.

**LARISS MALDONADO ’12 NAMED DIVERSITY & INCLUSION HONOREE BY MINNESOTA LAWYER**

Maldonado is senior counsel and vice president at Wells Fargo. Maldonado has previously been recognized as a Top Hispanic Lawyer Under 40 by the Hispanic National Bar Association. She is engaged in a number of community organizations, currently serving as vice-chair of the board of the ACLU of Minnesota and chair of Twin Cities Diversity In Practice’s professional development committee.
Transactional law with an emphasis on mergers and acquisitions, funds, securities, corporate governance and disclosure matters, and general corporate work.  

Paul Gaus was honored by Super Lawyers as a 2021 Northern California Rising Star in business litigation. Gaus is an associate at Downey Brand in Sacramento, where he focuses his practice in bankruptcy and insolvency, business litigation, intellectual property litigation, and real property and land use litigation.  

Alexander King joined Katten Muchin Rosenman in Chicago as an attorney in the firm’s financial markets litigation and regulatory enforcement group. Previously, King worked at FINRA investigating insider trading in the options markets.  

Benjamin Streckert was named an “Up and Coming Lawyer” by Wisconsin Law Journal. He counsels family-owned and closely held businesses as an attorney with Ruder Ware in Wausau, Wisconsin.  

Roxanne N. Thorelli was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award by Volunteer Lawyers Network, Ltd. Thorelli is an associate in Fredrikson & Byron’s Minneapolis office.  

Anna Barton was elected to serve as secretary of the Minnesota State Bar Association’s New Lawyer Section. Barton practices in the litigation and labor and employment groups at Maslon in Minneapolis.  

Jackie Fielding co-authored a report for the Brennan Center for Justice exploring how mass incarceration perpetuates cycles of poverty. Fielding’s report was also featured in Crime Report, a prominent criminal justice digital publication.  

Gillian L. Gilbert joined Bassford Remele in Minneapolis. Gilbert practices in the areas of commercial litigation, employment law, and trusts and estates litigation.  

Khuram M. Siddiqui joined Bassford Remele in Minneapolis. Siddiqui practices in the areas of general liability, construction, and professional liability.

Keep Your Classmates Posted! To be included in class notes, send us your news at lawalum@umn.edu or at Office of Advancement, Suite 321, University of Minnesota Law School, 229 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55455.

MAKE THE MATCH!  
DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT WHEN YOU GIVE TO THE WEISSBRODT HUMAN RIGHTS FUND

Thanks to an incredible matching donation of $50,000 recently made to the Human Rights Center, every gift to the Weissbrodt Human Rights Fund will be matched dollar for dollar by an anonymous donor. In choosing to make a gift or increase your support, you can double your impact and help maintain the legacy that Professor David Weissbrodt started in 1988. By leveraging a generous match to this newly endowed fund, the Human Rights Center and its important work will be supported in perpetuity.

Help us reach the match by making your gift today! z.umn.edu/weissbrodt
Recent Gifts

GIFTS OF $100,000+

Karin Birkeland ’87 and Lee Mitau ’72 made a gift to support the Karin Birkeland and Lee Mitau Scholarship at Minnesota Law. Their additional campaign gift makes legal education more affordable for students pursuing J.D. degrees.

Michael ’71 and Ann Ciresi made a commitment in support of the Law School’s Annual Fund in honor of Mike’s 50th Law School Class Reunion. Their gift supports student scholarships, faculty excellence, and experiential learning opportunities through the Law School’s Annual Fund.

The Dorsey & Whitney Foundation made a gift to the Walter F. Mondale Scholarship Fund in memory of former Vice-President Walter F. Mondale ’56. Dorsey & Whitney is proud to call Mr. Mondale a former member of their practice and previously contributed to this scholarship in his honor in 2015. Mondale passed away on April 19, 2021, at the age of 92.

William E. Drake ’66 and Barbara Weichmann made a lead gift in support of the Weissbrodt Human Rights Fund, named for Human Rights Center (HRC) founder and Minnesota Law Professor Emeritus David Weissbrodt. This fund strengthens the mission of the HRC to advance human rights through innovative research, teaching, and engagement.

Martha ’78 and David ’78 Kadue directed a gift from their charitable fund in support of the Section B Scholarship Fund, which they established in 2018. Martha and David first met in the same section as 1L students, and their fund supports Law School students assigned to Section B of their class.

Catherine Ludden ’79 and Eric Rothenberg made an outright gift to the Class of 1979 Scholarship Fund. Cathy, retired partner of Morgan, Lewis & Brockius in New York, believes in paying forward the opportunity she had to begin her career without the burden of debt following graduation from Law School.

Medtronic Inc. established the Judge Pamela G. Alexander ’77 and Judge Michael J. Davis ’72 Scholarships to honor two trailblazing Minnesota judges. These scholarships support law students who have shown a commitment to social justice and exhibit outstanding potential as civil rights or public interest attorneys.

The Minneapolis Foundation made a commitment to establish the Harry A. Blackmun Scholarship Fund, named for the former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun, a native of St. Paul, Minnesota. This fund supports law students pursuing careers in public interest law.

Paul R. Mooty ’85 and Mary Mooty Kileen, as trustees of the Melvin R. Mooty & Sally R. Mooty Family Foundation, made an additional gift to the Melvin R. Mooty Scholarship Fund. They are proud to continue their support of this scholarship in their dad’s name.

The Next Edison, a private nonprofit organization fostering good ideas, established the Next Edison Public Interest Scholarship in Law Fund. This supports six students per year who are passionate about pursuing careers in public service.

Vance Opperman ’69 made an additional gift in support of the Law School’s Driven to Lead campaign. His gift will support Law School initiatives to be determined at the Dean’s discretion. Opperman is the founder of Key Investment in Minneapolis.

Betty M. Shaw ’81 made a commitment to Minnesota Law to establish the Shaw-Robinson Scholarship in honor of her daughter, Lisa Shaw-Robinson ’97. The scholarship will support women law students who earn degrees from the Law School.

Joseph P. ’67 and Carol Z. Sullivan made an additional campaign commitment to establish the Joseph P. and Carol Z. Sullivan Health Law Moot Court Team Fund at Minnesota Law. The Sullivans are passionate about preparing law students for successful careers in health law.

The Class of 1976 launched the new Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg Scholarship in Law in honor of the class of 1976’s 45th reunion. Named in recognition of this class’s historic commencement speaker, this fund will support female law students.

GIFTS OF $25,000–$99,999

Bassford Remele
Robert L. ’78 and Jane DeMay
Steven D. DeRuyter ’71
Hon. David S. Doty ’61
Jean E. Hanson ’76
Thomas R. ’73
and Maren R. Hood
Ronald E. ’78 and Renee Hunter
Gregory G. ’76
and Jacqueline J. Johnson
Lathrop GPM Foundation
David N. ’78 and
Jeanne H. Mooty ’79
Pati Jo Pofahl ’86
and Charles Nauen ’80
James W. Poradek ’98
and Katharine Gotham
Cynthia S. Rosenblatt Ross ’76
Jean E. ’81 and Mark T. Schroepfer
Mark E. ’83 and Shaila Southerst
M. Charles ’69 and Colleen Swope
William & Flora Hewlett Foundation

PLANNED GIFTS

Hon. Paul H. Anderson ’68
Marc W. Freimuth ’71
Steven M. Phillips ’86
Charles E. Rhodes ’88
Renae L. Welder ’96
By partnering with Minnesota Law, along with your family and trusted advisers, you can create a plan that reflects your charitable goals, maximizes potential tax benefits, provides financial security for you and your loved ones, and creates a lasting legacy for you that will help the Law School remain a leader worldwide.

Ways You Can Support Minnesota Law Through a Planned Gift:
• Continue your support of the Law School with a legacy gift.
• Name the Law School as a beneficiary.
• Make a gift and receive income.
• Give appreciated assets.

All gifts to the Law School can be designated to the area or program that is most meaningful to you. You may consider establishing a new named fund in honor of a loved one or give to one of our existing funds for the Law School.

To learn more about planned giving and ways you can achieve your philanthropic goals, contact David L. Jensen, director of advancement, at djjensen@umn.edu or 612-625-2060.

“Giving somebody the opportunity to get an education without going so in debt is really important.”
—Renae Welder ’96
Tributes

MANUEL CERVANTES ’80, MINNESOTA WORKERS’ COMPENSATION COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE

Manuel Cervantes ’80, who twice served as a Minnesota Workers’ Compensation Court of Appeals judge, died on March 31 at the age of 70 after a long battle with cancer.

After graduating from Minnesota Law, Cervantes worked as an attorney at the AFL-CIO. In 1986, he was appointed to be a judge on the Minnesota Workers’ Compensation Court of Appeals. From 1992 to 2002, he served as a referee in Ramsey County District Court, presiding over family, juvenile, and domestic abuse cases. He was later named St. Paul city attorney and served as a state administrative law judge.

In 2018, the Minnesota State Bar Association presented Cervantes with the Rosalie E. Wahl Judicial Award of Excellence for his outstanding work as a judge and for improving the state’s quality of justice.

KAO LY ILEAN HER ’94, U OF M REGENT

Kao Ly Ilean Her ’94, the first Hmong person elected by the Minnesota legislature to serve on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents, died on May 13 at the age of 52.

Her was elected by the legislature to a six-year term in 2019. She was also the first Hmong woman admitted to the Minnesota Bar Association and was a committed activist for Asian Americans and a beloved member of the state’s Hmong community.

Her cofounded a number of nonprofits, including Allies for Mentoring Asian Youth, Hnub Tshiab: Hmong Women Achieving Together, the Heritage Center for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and Dragon Festival on Lake Phalen. She also served as a committee member for Maiv PAC as well as the Heritage Center for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and as a trustee of the Minneapolis Foundation, the Asian Pacific Endowment of the St. Paul Foundation, and the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota.

RICHARD KYLE ’62, FORMER U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Former U.S. District Court Judge Richard Kyle ’62 died on June 22 at the age of 84.

A lifelong resident of White Bear Lake, Minnesota, Kyle earned both his B.A. and LL.B. from the University of Minnesota. During law school, Kyle served as president of the Minnesota Law Review and was a member of the Order of the Coif.

After law school, Kyle served as law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge Edward J. Devitt. He then joined the law firm Briggs and Morgan where, with the exception of a two-year stint as Minnesota solicitor general, he practiced until 1992, when President George H.W. Bush nominated him to serve on the U.S. District Court.

In 2005, Kyle assumed senior status and continued to carry a full caseload until he retired from active service in 2017. He served as a member of the committee on model jury instructions for the Eighth Circuit and as a member of the judicial conference advisory committee on rules of civil procedure. He also oversaw the remodeling of the Warren E. Burger Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in St. Paul.
Charles Rubenstein ’55, a longtime friend and supporter of the Law School, passed away on July 9 at the age of 99. At the time of his death, he was one of the Law School’s oldest living alumni.

Born into a poor family of Russian Jewish immigrants, Rubenstein served in the U.S. Army during World War II. His route to law school was through hard work and dedication. After graduating from Minnesota Law, Rubenstein worked as a sole practitioner in many different areas of the law.

Through his estate, Rubenstein created a lecture series to highlight the impact of Jewish contributions to the U.S. legal system. His estate also makes provisions for supporting the Judge Harry H. MacLaughlin Memorial Scholarship Fund and the C. Blaine Harstad Scholarship Fund. Rubenstein became friends with both individuals during his time at the Law School and remained in close contact afterward.

Kenneth Schoen, former director of the Law School’s Institute for Criminal Justice, passed away on September 1 at the age of 89.

Kenneth Schoen had a long career devoted to criminal justice reform, helping to develop alternatives to incarceration and improve prison conditions nationwide. He also served as Minnesota commissioner of corrections and as director of criminal justice grantmaking for the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation in New York.

Schoen earned his bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of Minnesota and his master’s from the University of Colorado in Denver. He served in the Army during the Korean War.

Professor Michael Tonry, director of the Law School’s Institute on Crime and Public Policy, said Schoen was “a linchpin figure in efforts to change the U.S. justice system.”

Lawrence Zelle ’59, who founded the Minneapolis law firm now known as Zelle LLP, passed away on May 8 at the age of 86.

Born in 1934, Zelle grew up in the Jewish community on the north side of Minneapolis. He earned both his undergraduate and J.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota before launching his law career. His firm honored that career with this statement: “The attorneys and staff of Zelle LLP mourn the loss of our dear friend, mentor, founder, and namesake Larry Zelle. Without Larry, there would be no Zelle LLP. He was a pioneer and legend in the property insurance industry.”

Away from his law practice, Zelle was an avid sports fan, film aficionado, and supporter of the theater community, particularly the Minnesota Jewish Theatre Company. In addition to his personal gifts to the Law School, Zelle spearheaded generous donations from his firm as well, most notably to the Center for Legal Studies Fund and the Mondale Hall Capital Building Fund.
In Memoriam

CLASS OF 1948
Sheldon J. Gensler
April 22, 2021
Sarasota, Florida

Irwin Ketroser
August 30, 2021
Minneapolis

CLASS OF 1949
Kingsley D. Holman
February 20, 2021
Bloomington, Minnesota

Charles C. Luetke
February 23, 2021
South Pomfret, Vermont

CLASS OF 1952
Edward B. McMenomy
August 5, 2021
Rosemount, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1953
Alfred Sedgwick Jr.
April 27, 2021
Minnetonka, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1954
Ronald W. Howard
February 13, 2021
Montgomery, Minnesota

John H. Westerman
March 18, 2021
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

CLASS OF 1955
C. Paul Faraci
May 13, 2021
Green Valley, Arizona

Charles Rubenstein
July 9, 2021
Minneapolis

CLASS OF 1956
Lee Bearmon
March 14, 2021
Minneapolis

Felix M. Phillips
April 7, 2021
Minneapolis

CLASS OF 1957
Larry A. Katz
May 31, 2021
St. Paul, Minnesota

Gordon L. Davis
June 11, 2021
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1958
Alfred L. Hoedeman
July 4, 2021
Minneapolis

Charles M. Skinner
June 17, 2021
Wausau, Wisconsin

CLASS OF 1959
Richard J. Sundberg
May 28, 2021
Minneapolis

Charles M. Zelle
May 8, 2021
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1960
Richard E. Lundborg
September 9, 2021
Hopkins, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1961
Richard C. Hiniker
July 10, 2021
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1962
Richard H. Kyle
June 22, 2021
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1963
John L. Devney
June 17, 2021
Excelsior, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1964
Walter W. Ostrom
March 11, 2021
Minneapolis

Wayne J. Salita
May 2, 2021
Minneapolis

CLASS OF 1965
Lane C. Fridell
August 20, 2021
San Diego

Louis M. Reidenberg
May 1, 2021
Burnsville, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1966
James H. Winzenburg
February 15, 2021
Denver, Colorado

CLASS OF 1967
Richard D. Donohoo
June 27, 2021
Stillwater, Minnesota

Richard T. Ince
August 15, 2021
Minneapolis

CLASS OF 1968
James H. Peterson
September 1, 2021
Hamel, Minnesota

Edward J. Wallin
May 31, 2021
Redlands, California

CLASS OF 1969
William J. Jones
April 9, 2021
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Jeffrey L. Orren
February 23, 2021
Roseville, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1970
Manuel J. Cervantes
March 31, 2021
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1971
Richard G. Cervantes
May 28, 2021
San Jose, California

CLASS OF 1972
Arne M. Rovick
September 8, 2021
Minneapolis

CLASS OF 1973
Robert C. Parta
March 6, 2021
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1974
Phillip J. Nicolai
June 5, 2021
Vashon, Washington

CLASS OF 1975
Stephen R. Erickson
March 20, 2021
Albert Lea, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1976
Jay M. Heffern
May 21, 2021
Minneapolis

CLASS OF 1977
Daniel P. McGowan
May 18, 2021
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1978
Ted A. Martinez
April 9, 2021
Albuquerque, New Mexico

CLASS OF 1979
Darwin A. Johnson
September 1, 2021
Alexandria, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1980
Jessica J. Clay
July 9, 2021
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1981
Charleen J. Turner
September 1, 2021
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1982
Leonard W. Glewwe
February 23, 2021
Roseville, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1983
Daniel A. Klint
July 6, 2021
Minneapolis

CLASS OF 1984
Jeffrey L. Orren
February 23, 2021
Roseville, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1985
Virginia A. Dwyer
May 5, 2021
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1986
Sherrill R. Oman
February 10, 2021
Minnetonka

CLASS OF 1987
John H. Westerman
March 18, 2021
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

CLASS OF 1988
Darwin A. Johnson
September 1, 2021
Alexandria, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1989
Daniel A. Klint
July 6, 2021
Minneapolis

CLASS OF 1990
Robert J. Tansey Jr.
April 4, 2021
Edina, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1991
Manuel J. Cervantes
March 31, 2021
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1992
Virginia A. Dwyer
May 5, 2021
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1993
Lori L. Gibson
August 15, 2021
Grand Rapids, Michigan

CLASS OF 1994
Darwin A. Johnson
September 1, 2021
Alexandria, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1995
David P. Swenson
June 28, 2021
Minneapolis

CLASS OF 1996
Jessica J. Clay
July 9, 2021
St. Paul, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1997
Lori L. Gibson
August 15, 2021
Grand Rapids, Michigan

CLASS OF 1998
Virginia A. Dwyer
May 5, 2021
St. Paul, Minnesota
REUNION CLASS GIVING

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE 2020 AND 2021 REUNION CUP CHALLENGE WINNERS

GENEROSITY CUP
Awarded to the class that raises the most funds for the Law School in celebration of their reunion

1980
$510,000
1996
$2.65M

PARTICIPATION CUP
Awarded to the class that has the highest percentage of classmates contributing to their Class Gift

1970
37.4% PARTICIPATION
1961
23.8% PARTICIPATION

z.umn.edu/Reunions

2021 GRADUATING CLASS GIFT

Anonymous (10)
Hazel N. Bowen
Maci R. Burke
Cooper C. Christianity**
Catherine E. Conroy
Noah L. Cozad*
Bernard C. Cryan*
Leah Degrazia
Pollyanna L. Dolfi
Joshua Dostal
Casey N. Epstein*+
Karina I. Estrada*
James W. Ettinger*
Ryan T. Fitzgerald
Thomas S. Grab*
Cameron D. Hansen
Abigail E. Hanson*
Jenna L. Hensel**
Bailey E. Hovland
Miller A. Jozwiak
Andrew M. Juneau*
Narianna B. Kretschmer
Allison R. Kruse

Brennan P. Lee
Olivia T. Levinson
Wenshang Laurence Lyu
Harpreet S. Malal*
Frances I. Mahoney-Mosedale*
Katherine J. Marshall
Allison M. Maybee*
Brent A. Murcia*
Katherine A. Nixon*
Jennifer S. Novo
Madeline A. O’Meara
Jennifer M. Oprosko*
Shantal M. Pai*
Hannah M. Park**
Anwen J. Parrott*
Antonia S. Parsons
Jonas H. Persson
Andrew J. Peterson
Ryan A. Plasencia
Catherine N. Posch
Ryan D. Rainey
Navin Ramalingam*
Abigail Rauls
Hillary Richard
Ian J. Sannes
Jennifer L. Satterfield
Eric H. Schilling*
Nicolas J. Schmidt*
Madeline M. Sheehy
Alena Simon**
Jessica A. Szuminski*
Amanda L. Tesarek
Marisa V. Tillman**
Kristin T. Trapp
Nicholas B. Williams
Nicholas M. Wolfson
Stephen J. Wood
Alina M. Yasis

35% class participation rate

$7,511 given to Minnesota Law by the Class of 2021, the largest graduating class gift amount in Minnesota Law history

$14,150 in matching funds from the Alumni & Student Engagement Committee, Development Committee, and Dean Garry W. Jenkins

GIFTS SUPPORTED
the George Floyd Memorial Scholarship in Law, providing important financial aid and helping to diversify Minnesota Law’s student body and the legal profession.

Mark your calendars for our 2022 Spring Alumni Week, April 25–May 1.

Join us in celebration of our Minnesota Law alumni community with virtual events throughout the week and in-person events on the weekend. Milestone classes and classes ending in ‘2 and ‘7 will host individual class reunion receptions over the weekend.
THANK YOU, PARTNERS AT WORK

Thank you to the 232 alumni at 34 different firms who participated in the 2021 Partners at Work giving challenge and donated a total of $247,264 to the Law School. Overall participation in giving from Minnesota Law alumni working at a PAW firm was 35 percent. The firms that finished at the top in participation and dollars are highlighted below. Thank you to everyone who donated to keep Minnesota Law strong and vibrant for the next generation of lawyer-leaders.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUP 1 (less than 15 alumni)</th>
<th>Top Firms by %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Anthony Ostlund Baer &amp; Louwagie</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Lind Jensen Sullivan &amp; Peterson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. O’Melveny &amp; Myers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Zimmerman Reed</td>
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</tbody>
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A four-way tie for first place with 100%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUP 2 (15–25 alumni)</th>
<th>Top Firms by $</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Nilan Johnson Lewis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Bassford Remele</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Ballard Spahr</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Gibson Dunn & Crutcher
2. Kaplan Strangis and Kaplan
3. Deloitte Tax

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUP 3 (more than 25 alumni)</th>
<th>Top Firms by $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Faegre Drinker Biddle &amp; Reath</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Taft Stettinius &amp; Hollister</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Maslon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Maslon
2. Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath
3. Lathrop GPM

To learn more about Partners at Work, contact Terese Lynch, Alumni Relations and Annual Giving Officer, at tclynch@umn.edu or 612-626-8670.
WHY I GIVE  Ron Hunter ’78

Since graduating from the University of Minnesota Law School, Ron Hunter ’78 has built a distinguished career in the service of others. He worked as a Minnesota assistant state public defender, special assistant Minnesota attorney general, and held several positions in the legal department of Cargill before retiring from that company as the assistant vice president and chief trademark counsel. While a civilian attorney, he also continued his U.S. Navy service in the reserves, retiring as a captain after 26 years.

Hunter, who is developing a new scholarship fund at Minnesota Law, also serves on the University of Minnesota Law School Board of Advisors, Plymouth Christian Youth Center’s Capri Real Estate Holding Co. board of directors, and his North High School class reunion committee. In the past, he served as a regent for St. Olaf College, was a co-founder of Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers, the Twin Cities Big Brother of the Year in 2006, and served on numerous charitable boards, professional organizations, and committees.

Hunter is motivated to support the Law School because he sees good lawyers as being a critical part of an ordered society. “Minnesota Law has provided an excellent education to lawyers and other professionals who have made a difference,” says Hunter. “I want the Law School to continue that important work—and that takes money. I believe in the value of education and what it can do for the common good. We must continue to strive for our aspirational goals of truth and justice. Ultimately, we all benefit.”

He believes that young lawyers can influence change in the legal profession and society by leveraging the knowledge, problem-solving skills, and discipline they gain from their legal education. Lawyer-leaders can promote positive growth and development in the law while seeking to work for truth, justice, fairness, and prosperity. They should have strong “commitment to and concern for the common good with the mission of improving society for everyone,” Hunter adds, “We all do better when we all do better.”

While in law school, Hunter enjoyed intramural sports and played on a title-winning Law School basketball team called “Ask Yo Mama.” There was a plaque in the Law School that included the years and the winning team’s names, he says. “It disappeared from the lounge wall many years ago. I’ve always wondered if the crazy names of the teams had anything to do with the plaque’s demise.”

HOMETOWN: Born in McMinnville, Tennessee, and raised in Minneapolis.

GIVING LEVEL: Binger Circle, William B. Lockhart Club

WHAT WON’T WE FIND ON YOUR RESUME? I enjoy dancing, woodworking, my extended family, and golf.

WHAT IS ONE PIECE OF ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE TO FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS? Use all the resources available to you and get multiple perspectives when tackling an issue.
WAYS TO GIVE
There are many ways to give back to the University of Minnesota Law School. For more information, visit www.law.umn.edu/giving. Or send your gift directly to the University of Minnesota Foundation, P.O. Box 860266, Minneapolis, MN 55486-0266, noting “Law School” in the memo line.

ANNUAL FUND
Student scholarships, clinics, and faculty support are just a few areas that benefit from annual gifts made to the Law School. Please contact Elissa Ecklund Chaffee, director of alumni relations and annual giving, at echaffee@umn.edu or call 612-626-8671 to learn more about how you can support the Annual Fund.
On October 5, 2021, nearly 250 Minnesota Law students came together to show their appreciation for the philanthropic support that comes from our alumni and friends of the Law School. Everyday, students, faculty, and staff are positively impacted by gifts from our community. By supporting Minnesota Law students through scholarships, experiential learning opportunities, or innovative programming, our donors are building a strong foundation for the next generation of lawyer-leaders.

Thank you.