

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL

# Gargoyle

Volume 45, No. 1  
Summer 2022

## Democracy in Crisis

*UW Law scholars seek to  
understand—and resist—  
authoritarianism.*



Protecting Culinary Heritage  
from Climate Change

UW Law Welcomes  
New Faculty



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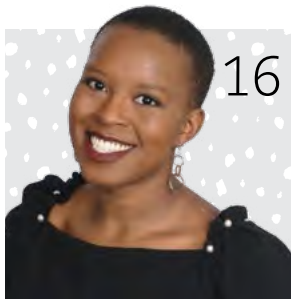
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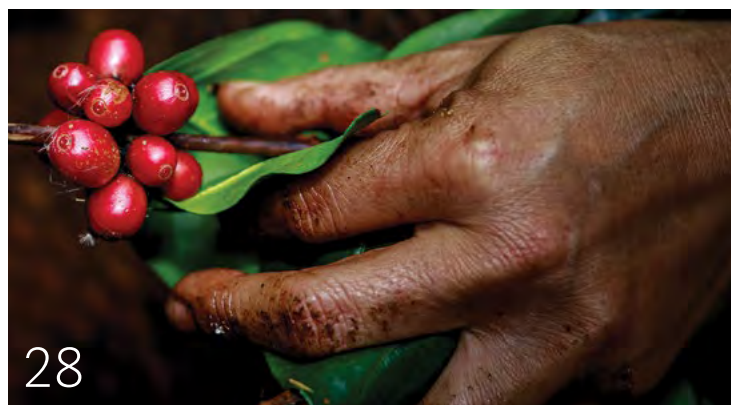
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## Why Gargoyle?

In 1963, when the existing Law School was demolished to make way for a new building, Law School Dean George Young found and rescued a sandstone gargoyle from the rubble. This figure and its twin sat on the roof of the 1893 building for almost seventy years.

That rescued gargoyle, which is now permanently installed in the Law School's atrium, gives its name to this magazine, representing the indomitable strength and spirit of our University of Wisconsin Law School and its many graduates.



The *Gargoyle* is the alumni magazine of University of Wisconsin Law School, 975 Bascom Mall, Madison, WI 53706-1399. It is funded by private donors.

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, I'll have been dean of this great Law School for just over two years. Although we've faced more than our share of challenges, the past year was an absolute joy, because we were able to return to in-person teaching and learning.

It's been wonderful to have our faculty colleagues together again and to teach our students in person. I had the privilege of being back in the classroom myself in the spring 2022 semester and enjoyed every minute with them. We have great students, who bring their intelligence, energy, and idealism to everything they do.

Our community has emerged from this difficult period stronger than ever, as you'll see in reading this edition of the *Gargoyle*. For the first time since 2019, the Law School hosted an in-person Hooding Ceremony for the Class of 2022. What a treat it was to celebrate our graduates and their accomplishments, surrounded by their friends and loved ones. Thanks go to everyone who celebrated with us in person, virtually, and through the use of #UWLawGrad on social media. You can relive all the joy of that day on page 14 or watch the ceremony on our YouTube channel.

We were also incredibly fortunate to host Grenadian Diplomat Dessima Williams, a climate change and human rights expert, who was the inaugural University of Wisconsin–Madison Distinguished Visiting Scholar in Human Rights. You can learn more about her visit to UW Law School on page 6.

Since our last issue, we've continued our commitment to growing our faculty, with a goal of adding five more tenure-track faculty members by 2026. We are thrilled to welcome Emily Cauble and Nyamagaga "Gaga" Gondwe to the Law School. With Professors Cauble and Gondwe joining Susannah Takh on our tax law faculty, our strength in this area has tripled. Their hiring reinforces our commitment to world-class scholarship, while ensuring our students will learn from leading experts in their fields.

Also joining our faculty is Bernadette Atuahene, our inaugural James E. Jones Chair in Law. The James E. Jones Chair is UW–Madison's first fully funded chair named for an African American faculty member. The endowed faculty chair honors the late Professor James E. Jones Jr. '56, a trailblazing labor lawyer, civil rights activist, prolific scholar, and committed professor. In 1969, he became the Law School's first African American faculty member and, in 1973, founded our William H. Hastie Fellowship. Professor Jones was a towering figure at the Law School, whose career was devoted to making

the promise of equal justice under law a reality. We are honored to keep his memory and legacy alive through the Jones Chair, and grateful to his former students and others whose generosity made this possible. Professor Atuahene's visionary research, teaching, and service make her the ideal person for this role.

Professors Cauble, Gondwe, and Atuahene are just a few of the great new scholars and teachers joining UW Law. You can learn more about all the wonderful new faculty joining our community on page 16. We're more than thrilled to have them as part of the family.

In this edition, you'll also see highlights of some of our other outstanding faculty, like Steph Tai, who, on page 28, discusses the effects of climate change on culturally significant foods and drinks around the world, as well as the existing legal protections for them. You'll also note Professor Tai, who is a wonderful chef, provided us with a delicious-looking, climate-conscious recipe to try. I encourage you all to make their recipe and share it with us on social media. I can't wait to try it myself.

And we didn't forget our students! Take Jacob Gardner, for example. He recently published his debut novel, *North of Highway 8*. The book explores the plight of rural America, our inherent connection with nature, and the importance of tolerance, friendship, and ethics. UW Law staff sat down with Jacob to learn more about his writing career, the influences of UW Law on his work, writing a novel during the COVID-19 pandemic, and more. Check it out on page 36.

What we do here at UW Law matters. Our faculty and students are changing minds, having the hard conversations, and preparing to make a difference in the world. None of this would be possible without your support.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Law School. Because of you, we can continue to inspire and educate the next generation of leaders. We are eternally grateful.

On, Wisconsin!



Daniel P. Tokaji  
Fred W. & Vi Miller Dean and  
Professor of Law







Bonnie Shucha

## Bonnie Shucha Recognized for Excellence in Writing

Bonnie Shucha, associate dean, Library and Information Services, and director of the Law Library, received the Paul Gatz Publication Award from the American Association of Law Libraries, Research Instruction and Patron Services Special Interest Section. This award, which recognizes excellence in writing by a law librarian, was presented to Shucha for her article “Representing Law Faculty Scholarly Impact.”

## Seifter, Wiercioch, Schnur Named UW Law School Teachers of the Year

Each spring, University of Wisconsin Law School celebrates excellence in teaching through its Teacher of the Year awards. UW Law School’s annual teaching awards demonstrate the value placed on excellent teaching. Our faculty engage and inspire our students through thoughtful pedagogy, and we are proud to honor them for this important work.

The honorees for outstanding classroom, clinical, and adjunct instruction in 2021 include:

**Miriam Seifter, Classroom Teacher of the Year.** Seifter is an associate professor of law, co-director of the State Democracy Research Initiative, and Rowe Faculty Fellow in Regulatory Law at UW Law School. Her research interests include federalism, administrative and constitutional law, and state and local government law, with a focus on challenges affecting democracy at the state level. This is Seifter’s second win of Classroom Teacher of the Year, having received the award in 2016.

**Greg Wiercioch, Clinical Teacher of the Year.** Wiercioch joined the Frank J. Remington Center in 2012. Since 2014, he has been a supervising attorney with the Legal Assistance to Incarcerated People Project. Before coming to UW Law, Wiercioch represented Texas death row inmates in state and federal post-conviction proceedings for eighteen years. He has represented several severely mentally ill death row inmates and is particularly interested in issues involving competency to stand trial, competency to waive collateral review, and competency to be executed.

**Robert Schnur, Adjunct Teacher of the Year.** Schnur is a tax partner in the Milwaukee-based law firm of Michael Best & Friedrich LLP, maintaining offices in the firm’s Milwaukee and Madison locations. He has taught tax law at UW since 1988. This is Schnur’s second win for Adjunct Teacher of the Year, making him the first adjunct faculty to receive the award twice.



Pictured, from left, Greg Wiercioch, Dean Daniel Tokaji, and Miriam Seifter.





## Sumudu Atapattu Honored for Climate Change Research

Dr. Sumudu Atapattu, director of Research Centers and senior lecturer at UW Law, received the 1.5 pin from Diplomat Dessima Williams, which represents the goal of limiting climate change by 1.5 degrees. The pin was received in honor of Atapattu's work toward climate change. Learn more about Diplomat Williams's visit on page 6.



Arlen Christenson

## Arlen Christenson '60 Inducted into WI Conservation Hall of Fame

Professor Emeritus of Law and Environmental Studies Arlen Christenson '60 was inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame in April 2022, joining the ranks of Aldo Leopold, John Muir, and Gaylord Nelson, to name a few. The Conservation Hall of Fame, based in Stevens Point, has been around since 1983 and has inducted more than 100 conservationists.



Yaron Nili

## Yaron Nili's Scholarship among Best Corporate Law Articles of 2021

Associate Professor Yaron Nili's article "The Giant Shadow of Corporate Gadflies" has been named one of the top ten corporate practice commentator's articles of 2021. The paper is co-authored with Kobi Kastiel, Tel Aviv University-Buchmann Faculty of Law; Harvard Law School, Program on Corporate Governance. This is Nili's second article named as one of the top ten articles in corporate and securities law, having had "Shadow Governance," which he co-authored with Cathy Hwang of the University of Virginia School of Law, named a top ten article of 2020.

To compile the list of top ten articles, professors in corporate and securities law were asked to select the best corporate and securities articles from a list of papers published in legal journals during 2021. More than 400 articles were on this year's list.

"It's an honor to have my scholarship ranked among the top ten articles by the Corporate Practice Commentator for a second year," said Nili. "It was such a joy working on this multi-year effort with my friend and co-author Kobi Kastiel, shedding light on a unique and important corporate governance phenomenon, and we are grateful for the attention the article has garnered."

## UW Law Students Learn from Human Rights Expert and Grenadian Diplomat Dessima Williams

**“Hosting Diplomat Dessima Williams was a great honor. She brings an extraordinary breadth of knowledge and unique perspective to the challenges posed by climate change. It’s been a rare privilege for our students to meet and learn from such a learned expert on a subject of unparalleled importance.”**

—Daniel Tokaji,  
Dean, UW Law School

Last spring, University of Wisconsin Law School students had the opportunity to learn from Grenadian Diplomat Dessima Williams, a climate change and human rights expert, who served as the inaugural Distinguished Visiting Scholar in Human Rights. During her UW residency, Williams participated in the Wisconsin International Law Journal Symposium on climate law, discussing climate negotiations in relation to small island states.

Williams also met with law students as part of the Directed Research on Climate Change, which is under the supervision of Dr. Sumudu Atapattu, a leading scholar on law and climate change. Williams shared her experiences with Atapattu’s International Law: Climate Change, Human Rights, and the Environment class for second- and third-year law and graduate students.

Pupils in the class were examining the legal issues surrounding what happens when individual states physically disappear or become uninhabitable due to climate change. During her residency, Williams also taught in several undergraduate classes, spoke to King-Morgridge scholars and international studies majors, and gave a lecture at Madison East High School. Williams’s residency was supported by UW Law School and the Institute for Regional and International Studies National Resource Center within UW–Madison’s International Division.

**“Hosting Diplomat Dessima Williams was a great honor,”** said UW Law School Dean Daniel Tokaji.

**“She brings an extraordinary breadth of knowledge and unique perspective to the challenges posed by climate change. It’s been a rare privilege for our students to meet and learn from such a learned expert on a subject of unparalleled importance.”**

Grenadian Diplomat Dessima Williams







Asifa Quraishi-Landes

## Asifa Quraishi-Landes Receives Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award

Professor Asifa Quraishi-Landes was the recipient of this year's Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award, an honor given out since 1953 to recognize some of the University of Wisconsin–Madison's finest educators.

"Professor Quraishi-Landes encourages her students to be mindful of all the complexities and contradictions of the law," said University of Wisconsin Law School Dean Daniel Tokaji. "Her classroom is a nonjudgmental space for students to express their views and learn from one another. It's hard to imagine a more worthy recipient of this year's Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award."

As the University's announcement of the award puts it: "Quraishi-Landes's student and peer evaluations create a consistent picture of a dynamic, rigorous, motivating teacher who encourages diverse viewpoints and affirmatively seeks to foster open discussion."

Riley Palmer, a third-year UW Law student, nominated Quraishi-Landes for the award, calling her "a dedicated, responsive, and caring educator."

"Her rigorous teaching pushed me to develop a deep understanding of constitutional jurisprudence that will be with me for years to come," said Palmer. "Rarely have I been simultaneously challenged and supported to the degree I was by Professor Quraishi-Landes."

According to Palmer, when teaching at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Quraishi-Landes "continuously adapted to changing circumstances while remaining patient with students' many unusual challenges at that time."

"Her commitment to ensuring students have the tools we need to succeed is one of many traits that makes her a superior educator," said Palmer.

**"Professor Quraishi-Landes changed the trajectory of my law school education and likely of my legal career."**

"Professor Quraishi-Landes changed the trajectory of my law school education and likely of my legal career. I am extraordinarily grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from her. It is appropriate and well-deserved that the University selected her for the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award."

Quraishi-Landes specializes in comparative Islamic and U.S. constitutional law, with a current focus on modern Islamic constitutional theory. She is a 2009 Carnegie Scholar and 2012 Guggenheim Fellow. She joined eleven other UW faculty members honored with Distinguished Teaching Awards in 2022.

"I love hearing from a student that they expected to be bored by the class but something in my teaching style made it come alive for them," said Quraishi-Landes. "I'm so lucky to be in a place that gives me the space to be creative in my teaching style so I can help facilitate those moments for our students."

By **Kassandra Tuten**

## A Tribute to the Time

Book explores UW Law's Law-in-Action roots.

When Voss-Bascom Professor of Law Emeritus William H. Clune first started gathering research for a 2019 University of Wisconsin Law School event honoring Professor Emeritus Herman Goldstein, he had no idea that he'd stumbled on his next book project.

It began as a paper about four influential Law School courses developed between 1950 and 1970, including Goldstein's, that cemented UW Law's position as a leader in the Law-in-Action tradition. As Clune conducted interviews with other legendary professors about that heady time at the Law School, he realized that his material deserved a more lasting venue. The resulting book, *Legal Realism to Law in Action: Innovative Law Courses at UW–Madison*, was edited by Clune and released by Quid Pro Books in December 2021.

"It's a vital part in the history of the Law School and how it be-

came one of the main places in the whole country for teaching Law in Action, the practical consequences approach to law," said Clune.

"There was a burst of innovation that resulted in new and creative courses that all took a turn toward looking, in a very realistic way, at the effects of law on ordinary citizens, and on business, and on the practice of law, in a way that is not very well captured by the kind of appellate courses that were typically taught in law schools. Many people appreciated the increased relevance these courses had in so many ways."

The four courses highlighted will be familiar to many UW alumni: Legal History, first developed by Willard Hurst; Criminal Justice Administration, taught by Frank Remington and Goldstein; Contracts, taught by Stewart Macaulay and Bill Whitford; and Legal Process, led by Hurst, Lloyd Garrison, Carl Auerbach, and colleagues.

The book features an all-star cast of current and former UW Law professors. Clune, Malcolm Feeley, Lawrence Friedman, Dirk Hartog, and Michael Scott contributed papers, and the book also includes Clune's interviews with Walter Dickey, Keith Findley, Goldstein, Hartog, Cecelia Klingele, Macaulay, and Whitford.

In the book's introduction, Friedman writes: "Wisconsin is still an important law school, and it can still be described as 'innovative.' But much of its strength, much of its ethos, can be traced to that golden age of the 1950s and 1960s; the era of Willard Hurst and Frank Remington, very notably, and the other members of a

strong faculty, who served during that period."

But the book isn't simply a starry-eyed tribute to the time. The contributors also take a hard look at both Wisconsin's strengths and missed opportunities, and, at times, disagree with each other's perspectives on the past.

"The book is like a mini public square where these people's voices and work come together briefly," said Clune.

Clune arrived at UW in 1971, just after the period the book highlights. But the world outside the Law School was changing dramatically in the wake of the Civil Rights and Second-Wave Feminism Movements, and those inside the Law School were eager to incorporate that perspective into their teaching and scholarship.

"Dirk Hartog and many other legal historians became interested in women and the law. Faculty were hired to teach various civil rights courses. Equal pay and hiring in the workplace were buttressed by sophisticated data analysis," said Clune. "I became involved in critical legal studies, which was a bridge between legal realism and a way to look at the effect on oppressed peoples. So many of these things require knowledge and data about what's happening out there in the real world."

That Law-in-Action approach is still relevant today, even if the courses have evolved to fill gaps or address new and emerging areas, Clune said.

"It's all still green wood," he said. "I think it's all still relevant but in different ways."

**By Nicole Sweeney Etter**



William Clune



# LEGAL REALISM TO LAW IN ACTION

Innovative Law Courses at UW-Madison

## EDITED BY

William Clune

## FOREWORD

Lawrence Friedman

## PAPERS

William Clune  
Malcolm Feeley  
Dirk Hartog  
Michael Scott

## LAW SCHOOL COURSES

Willard Hurst  
Stewart Macaulay  
William Whitford  
Frank Remington  
Herman Goldstein

## INTERVIEWS

Walter Dickey  
Keith Findley  
Herman Goldstein  
Dirk Hartog  
Cecelia Klingele  
Stewart Macaulay  
Bill Whitford



## Marin Smith 2L Receives Stearns-Shaw Scholarship



Marin Smith



One of the reasons Marin Smith chose UW Law School was the Restorative Justice Project, a clinic run by Jonathan Scharrer, pictured.



**M**arin Smith is the latest University of Wisconsin Law School student to be named a Stearns-Shaw Scholar. The scholarship was endowed by 1992 UW Law graduate Denis Stearns and his husband, Thomas Shaw, to encourage champions of the LGBTQ+ community to choose UW as the best place to study law and make a difference.

Smith earned their bachelor's degree in Community and Nonprofit Leadership as well as Spanish from the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 2020. There, they were awarded the Don Gray Student Social Justice Award for their dedication to intersectional restorative justice and community organizing.

Continuing their education as a Badger, Smith is pursuing a law degree to better understand the legal system so they can implement more restorative justice processes within the world of criminal law.

Though Smith knew they didn't plan to use their law degree in a conventional manner, they realized law school would be the best option for achieving the goals they had set for themselves and the community. Having attended UW for their undergraduate studies, applying to UW Law School was "a no-brainer."

"I had already put down deep roots in the community, particularly within restorative justice and LGBTQ+ spheres," said Smith. "I felt dedicated to the organizations I worked with."

The icing on the cake, Smith said, was that UW Law hosts the Restorative Justice Project, a clinic run by Jonathan Scharrer.

"He's one of the best-known restorative justice practitioners in the country," said Smith. "I knew it would be a great fit because of Wisconsin's Law-in-Action approach as well as the opportunity to continue being a part of restorative justice processes."

## Working to Make a Difference for the LGBTQ+ Community

Currently, Smith is the president of QLaw, the Queer Law Students Association. It's a group dedicated to supporting all LGBTQ+ law students as well as individuals in other affinity organizations.

As president, Smith hopes to create a larger network for queer law students and their allies to create a greater sense of intersectional community beyond the Law School.

"We are doing this by hosting cross-organizational events with organizations in the Law School and community at large to shed more light on how queerness intersects and impacts other personal identifiers," said Smith.

One such project included shaping the Queering Disability event, which Smith co-organized with the Law Students with Disabilities Coalition. The goal

of the event was "to shed light on the experiences of students with disabilities, queer students, and queer students with disabilities and how we can better support these students," Smith said.

Other QLaw programs Smith was engaged in included the group's mentorship program, which matches QLaw members with queer lawyers in similar fields to create a better network of queer lawyers.

"We want to facilitate mentorship, connection, and community with this program and give our students people to look up to and learn from," said Smith.

Unsurprisingly, said Smith, the obstacles facing LGBTQ+ lawyers are "numerous and emotionally draining," which sometimes makes it hard to find enough mentors to participate in the program.

"But given the number of students interested, it looks as though the next generation of lawyers may have more openly queer practitioners," said Smith.

That's one reason QLaw is always working to promote queer visibility on campus and celebrate the queer community.

"By increasing visibility within the classroom, we are slowly able to change the norms for our peers and colleagues," said Smith. "We hope that as we all move forward into our legal careers, we can take these more supportive norms with us to change the profession as a whole."

## A Look Toward the Future

Moving forward, Smith wants to use their law degree as a tool to promote restorative justice practices in the community and legal settings.

"Being a part of restorative justice has shown me the depth, breadth, and complexity of humanity and how a punitive system can't take all of that into account for either the offender or victim/survivor," they said. "I want to be the person who shows policymakers and legislators the power of restorative justice and that not only does it have a place in our legal system, but it is also a necessary component for holistic justice."

For Smith, receiving the Stearns-Shaw scholarship transcends simply lightening their financial burden, "it also validates everything I've done to get here."

"I felt a sense of relief and took it as a sign that I am right where I belong. My work in the Law School and the community matters, and to know that the School and its gracious donors are paying attention means the world to me," they said. "I can only hope to be in the position to donate a similar scholarship some day and give another queer student the affirmation and burden-lightening I have received."

**By Kassandra Tuten**

## Lessons in Life and Law

Inspired by her UW Law experience, Laureen Seeger '86 gives back—and calls on others to join her.

Laureen Seeger '86, chief legal officer for American Express and a member of the board of directors for the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association, has a competitive side that has served her well over the years. A highly driven teenager and a decorated student-athlete in college, Seeger's willingness to learn and push herself easily translated to a legal career—one that has spanned nearly forty years and includes an impressive record as a lawyer and a leader.

As a young girl, Seeger knew she was interested in studying law and, even as a teen, she did not hesitate to dive in. She took steps to graduate high school at age 16 and spent a year working full time for Quarles & Brady, a law firm in her hometown of Milwaukee. By 17, Seeger enrolled as a freshman at the University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire and spent every break she had throughout her undergraduate schooling back at Quarles & Brady.

After earning her business degree, Seeger applied to a single school: University of Wisconsin Law School. The School's reputation, in-state tuition, and proximity to home made it an easy choice for her.

While the decision to apply only to UW Law School was simple, Seeger's first semester was anything but. Two weeks before classes began, she suffered a serious bicycle accident that left her with a shattered elbow, concussed, and out of cash to pay for tuition. With the help of the Law School and UW–Madison administrators, Seeger was able to apply for student loans and pay her tuition late while still attending classes.

"I will always be so appreciative of that moment in time when I felt that the University of Wisconsin Law School had my back," she said.

In 1986, Seeger graduated and moved to Atlanta, Georgia, to join the prestigious

law firm Jones Day. Early on in her career, she realized how well UW's Law-in-Action approach to teaching had prepared her for practicing in the real world. She discovered her coursework had been "more practical and more focused on shaping the law and having it meet the moment" than that of some of her non-UW Law peers. Seeger credits the faculty at UW Law School for setting her education apart from that of her colleagues.

"I don't think that there was any single factor in Law School that contributed to my journey—my love of the law—more than the professors I had who taught me at Wisconsin," she said.

As Seeger explains, a competitive drive and reading the proper legal textbooks can only take a student so far. Excellent lawyers first need excellent professors to teach them how to examine, understand, and move the law.

"I didn't learn what I learned and get that well-prepared just by reading a

***"As I think about the University's future—its impact on current students and future students—I think one of the best investments that can be made is in the faculty. Retaining and recruiting the highest-quality teachers is really number one for me."***





Laureen Seeger

If you would like to take advantage of this matching opportunity or like to make a gift to the Law School, please visit [law.wisc.edu/alumni/gifts](http://law.wisc.edu/alumni/gifts).

book,” she said. “The faculty made a huge difference.”

Professors at UW Law also taught Seeger how to achieve a balance in her life between her career and personal demands. Professor Emeritus Thomas Palay, Seeger’s former Torts professor and research adviser, was responsible for a particularly moving moment for Seeger.

“I remember him coming into the classroom one day and being speechless because he had become a new father,” she said. “And he just had to take a moment to share that with the class and talk about how life-altering and mind-bending it was. He was a human being.”

As the youngest of ten children and a mother to five children of her own, Seeger has been able to work toward her career goals while keeping her personal priorities, like family, in mind. Palay gave her a real-life example of what that looked like just as she was setting out on her own journey.

All the lessons Seeger learned in life and law at UW have inspired her to give back. While considering where to focus her support, she faced another easy choice.

“As I think about the University’s future—its impact on current students and future students—I think one of the best investments that can be made is in the faculty,” she said. “Retaining and recruiting the highest-quality teachers is really number one for me.”

The Faculty Recruitment and Retention Fund gave Seeger the perfect opportunity to express her appreciation in a meaningful way while buttressing the Law School with long-lasting support.

Created by UW Law in 2021, the Faculty Recruitment and Retention Fund aims to attract and retain highly qualified faculty members—the foundation of any prestigious law school.

“Recruiting and retaining top-tier legal scholars is central to our mission,” said Dean Daniel Tokaji. “We want UW Law students to learn from the very best. This fund expands our capacity to bring in rising and established stars, develop world-changing ideas, and educate the next generation of lawyers and leaders.”

Seeger is stepping up to forward these goals, and she’s challenging others to do the same with a matching gift of \$500,000 toward the Faculty Recruitment and Retention Fund. She has pledged to match commitments of \$50,000 or higher.

By supporting this fund, Seeger is setting current and future students up to have the same opportunities she enjoyed at UW Law.

“I just think Madison—the community, the school—is a phenomenal place to study law,” she said. “I can’t imagine a better experience.”

**By Esther Seidlitz**





## IN FOCUS *UW Law Celebrates Spring 2022 Graduates*

University of Wisconsin Law School honored the spring 2022 graduates during an in-person Hooding Ceremony on May 13, at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center Exhibition Hall in Madison. During the ceremony—a special recognition for students receiving law degrees—faculty members place the hood over the head of graduates to signify their success in completing their law degree. Approximately 250 graduates were hooded during the event, and more than 2,000 family members, friends, and faculty attended in person. The event was also livestreamed to a virtual audience. Professor Heinz Klug and students Elise Ashley, Etiosa Ojomo, and Von Dickens Abero Ulsa were the speakers for the ceremony. They were joined by keynote speaker Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Frank Dallet in addressing Law School graduates, family, and friends during the event.

PHOTOS BY UW LAW STAFF AND EMPIRE PHOTOGRAPHY







# Outstanding Scholars

By **Kassandra Tuten**

New faculty bring a wealth of knowledge and skill to UW Law School.



BETH SKOGEN



# New Faculty Bring Expertise to Tax Law Area

**U**niversity of Wisconsin Law School is pleased to announce two new tax law hires, strengthening its long tradition of excellence in research and teaching. Emily Cauble and Nyamagaga “Gaga” Gondwe joined the UW Law faculty this summer and will begin teaching in the fall.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Emily and Gaga to the University of Wisconsin Law School community,” said Law School Dean Daniel Tokaji. “With Professors Cauble and Gondwe joining Susannah Tahk on our tax law faculty, our strength in this area has tripled. Their hiring reinforces our commitment to world-class scholarship, while ensuring our students will learn from leading experts in their fields.”



## Nyamagaga “Gaga” Gondwe

Gondwe joins the UW Law faculty as assistant professor of law. She comes to UW Law from New York University (NYU) School of Law, where she was a visiting assistant professor of tax law. Her research interests include tax and African American history and culture. Gondwe received a JD from Yale Law School and a bachelor’s degree from Harvard College, where she majored in African American studies and linguistics. Prior to joining NYU, she clerked for the Honorable Jeffrey A. Meyer at the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut. Following her clerkship, she worked as a tax associate in Washington, DC, at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom. Gondwe is a member of the District of Columbia Bar.

“I am so excited to join the community of faculty, staff, and students at UW Law this fall,” said Gondwe. “I look forward to beginning my academic career alongside an amazing cohort of junior faculty and tenured colleagues. I am ready to work with Professors Tahk and Cauble to grow the UW tax program by showing that understanding tax law and policy is essential to the projects of racial and economic justice.”

## Emily Cauble

Cauble joins the UW Law faculty as professor of law. She comes to UW Law from DePaul University College of Law, where she joined the faculty in 2012 after teaching at Michigan State University College of Law. Prior to teaching at Michigan State, Cauble was a visiting assistant professor at the University of Illinois College of Law. Her research focuses on tax policy, business taxation, and tax planning. Cauble received her BBA, summa cum laude, from the University of Notre Dame and her JD, summa cum laude, from the University of Michigan Law School. After graduating from law school, she practiced in the tax transactions group at Mayer Brown in Chicago for three years.

“I am delighted to have an opportunity to teach tax law and related courses to the students at UW Law School, and I am looking forward to working with the rest of the faculty and other members of the Law School community,” said Cauble. “I am thrilled to join UW Law and I greatly admire and look forward to being a part of its Law-in-Action mission by discussing and exploring with students how tax law and related areas connect to real-world issues.”

# Bernadette Atuahene Announced as Inaugural James E. Jones Chair



PAUL HITZELBERGER

University of Wisconsin Law School has named Bernadette Atuahene as the inaugural James E. Jones Chair. The endowed faculty chair honors the late Professor James E. Jones Jr. '56, who was a trailblazing labor lawyer, civil rights activist, prolific scholar, and committed professor. In 1969, he became the Law School's first

African American faculty member and, in 1973, founded UW Law's William H. Hastie Fellowship, an LLM degree program that prepares lawyers from historically underrepresented groups for tenure-track faculty positions. The James E. Jones Chair is UW-Madison's first fully funded chair named for an African American

faculty member.

As a law and society scholar, Atuahene said joining UW Law's faculty is "an absolute honor given its rich history and remarkable reputation in this area."

"I am also honored to occupy the University of Wisconsin's first fully funded chair to honor an African American faculty member, James E. Jones," she said. "The generously endowed chair will allow me to take my Law-in-Action work to the next level, continuing the legacy of Professor Jones."

Atuahene is a property law scholar focusing on land stolen from people in the African Diaspora. She is the daughter of Ghanaian immigrants who grew up in Los Angeles, California. She earned her BA from the University of California Los Angeles, majoring in political science and African American studies. She then earned her JD from Yale Law School, and her MPA from Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She served as a judicial clerk at the Constitutional Court of South Africa, working for Justices Tholie Madala and Sandile Ngcobo, and practiced as an associate at Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton in New York. Atuahene has worked as a consultant for the World Bank and the South African Land Claims Commission. Prior to joining UW Law, she was a law professor at IIT, Chicago-Kent College of Law, and a research professor at the American Bar Foundation. Atuahene's teaching areas include property, trusts and estates, property and race, law and international development, and international business transactions.



Atuahene has been the recipient of the Fulbright Fellowship, Council on Foreign Relations' International Affairs Fellowship, and Princeton's Law and Public Affairs Fellowship. She is the author of *We Want What's Ours: Learning from South Africa's Land Restitution Program* (Oxford University Press, 2014), which is based on interviews she conducted with South Africans dispossessed of their land by the colonial and apartheid governments and who received some form of compensation post-Apartheid. She also directed and produced an award-winning short documentary film about one South African family's struggle to regain their land. Atuahene was also the recipient of a National Science Foundation award for her current project about racialized property tax administration in Detroit, Michigan, which has received several accolades, including the Law and Society Association's John Hope Franklin Award for best paper on race in 2020.

Atuahene, who will be based in Madison and continuing to conduct research in Detroit for part of the year, will begin teaching this fall.

"We're delighted that Professor Atuahene has accepted our offer to serve as our very first Jones Chair," said UW Law School Dean Daniel Tokaji. "Professor Jones was a towering figure at the Law School, whose career was devoted to making the promise of equal justice under law a reality. We are honored to keep his memory and legacy alive through the Jones Chair, and grateful to his former students and others whose generosity made this possible. Professor Atuahene's visionary research, teaching, and service make her the ideal person to hold the Jones Chair."

## Rachel Burg Joins the Wisconsin Innocence Project

Rachel Burg has joined University of Wisconsin Law School as a clinical assistant professor and director of the Wisconsin Innocence Project (WIP) at the Frank J. Remington Center. WIP seeks to exonerate the innocent and to train the next generation of legal leaders. Since WIP's founding, student teams led by professors with expertise in the field have successfully secured the release of more than thirty wrongfully convicted persons.

"The Wisconsin Innocence Project is vital to the Law School's mission," said UW Law School Dean Daniel Tokaji. "This pathbreaking clinic offers students the opportunity to develop their lawyering skills, while providing outstanding representation to people who are desperately in need of help. Professor Burg's experience and commitment to justice make her the perfect person to lead the Wisconsin Innocence Project toward new heights."

Burg started her legal career as an intern in the University of Michigan Law School's Innocence Clinic. (She would go on to receive her JD from the university in 2012.) That experience led her to public defense work, which she's done for the last decade.

"When the opportunity arose to join the UW Law School faculty and direct the Wisconsin Innocence Project, I felt like it was the chance to bring my career full circle to the work that started my passion for criminal legal system reform," she said. "The Wisconsin Innocence Project at UW Law School is a pioneer in the Innocence Movement and has provided invaluable hands-on legal education to students since its inception."

Burg said she is excited to continue this critical work with WIP staff and students.

"We're delighted to welcome Rachel to the Wisconsin Innocence Project," said Associate Dean, Experiential Learning, Ursula Weigold. "Rachel's experience as a training and supervising attorney for public defenders, as well as her interest in law, policy, and systemic reforms, will inform her teaching and be valuable for our WIP students."

As a public defender for ten years, Burg said she knows that the way the law works in the courtroom, for everyday people, can be wildly different from the law in textbooks, which is why she was so drawn to UW Law's Law-in-Action approach to legal education and emphasis on experiential learning.

"The clinical experience at UW Law gives students the opportunity to learn the real-world skills they will then be able to use to make positive impacts on their communities right out of law school," she said. "I'm so excited to be a part of such important work."



COLE ZIMMERMAN

# Emily Buchholz Joins UW Law as Director of L&E Clinic

Emily Buchholz has joined University of Wisconsin Law School as director of the Law and Entrepreneurship Clinic (L&E Clinic). The Clinic provides free legal services to emerging entrepreneurs and early-stage companies through the work of law students supervised by faculty and private sector attorneys. Since the creation of the L&E Clinic, participants have helped thousands of founders, creators, and inventors start innovative businesses.

“Emily brings a rich combination of practical skills and long-range vision to the Law School,” said Associate Dean, Experiential Learning, Ursula Weigold. “As an attorney, she worked with hundreds of small businesses, and as a clinic director, she excelled in mentoring law students working with entrepreneurs. But one of her other strengths is big-picture thinking, and she’s looking ahead strategically to the L&E Clinic’s exciting next chapter.”

Buchholz was introduced to the world of law by her mother.

A first-generation attorney, she allowed her young daughter to accompany her to the law school because she lacked access to childcare.

“Watching her find her way in the profession was formative for me, and I am grateful to her and all the other trailblazers out there who cut new paths into the practice of law,” said Buchholz, who went on to receive her BA from the University of Wisconsin–Mad-

ison, and her JD from the University of Minnesota Law School.

As an undergraduate student, Buchholz took a course at UW called Law in Action.

“It was an important moment in my legal career because it showed me that the law is a dynamic, human-created force rather than something purely logical or conceptual,” she said. “That has been a guiding principle for me throughout my career and informs the way I both practice and teach the law. Returning to UW Law to step into my dream job is a full-circle moment for me.”

Prior to joining UW Law, Buchholz served as executive director and program director of the Corporate Institute and lecturer in law at the University of Minnesota Law School.

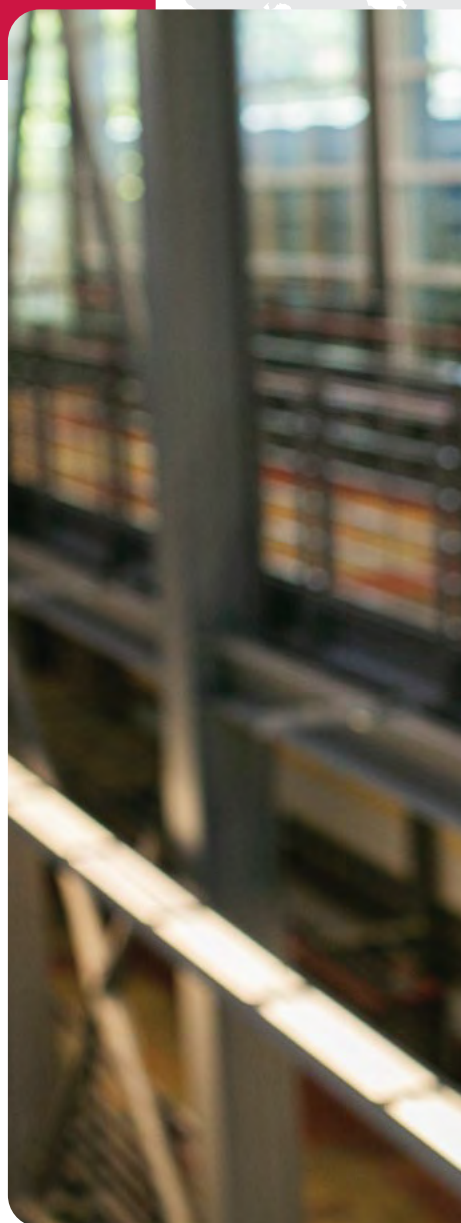
Since her time working in the Minneapolis startup scene, Buchholz said she’s set her intention to “do the most good”—work she knows she can accomplish as director of the L&E Clinic.

“I can work on systemic issues and strive to maximize the positive impact our programs have on our various communities,” she said. “Business is a powerful engine for good. I have the privilege to help law students help businesses. In doing so, the businesses receive high-quality legal services that are necessary for their success. And the students develop core competencies to deliver high-quality legal services to even more clients when they

graduate and begin to practice. It is a win-win-win situation, and it’s the best.”

When asked what appealed to her about joining the Clinic, Buchholz said “genuine excitement about the program itself was a primary motivator” for making the decision to apply.

“The Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic is a special program,” she said. “It is robust and well-developed and staffed by remarkable attorneys doing







interesting and cutting-edge work. I was, and continue to be, impressed with the depth of the Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic's ingenuity and real responsiveness to the needs of the Wisconsin business community."

And, Anne Smith, who retired from her role as director of the Clinic, "is an amazing role model," Buchholz said.

"It was meaningful to me to take over a program that was started and has flourished under

the direction of someone like Anne," she said. "I hope that I can move the program forward with a fraction of the capability, insight, and grace that she has embodied in building the Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic."

"Anne Smith has been a powerful force at the Law School, leading the Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic since its inception in 2009," said UW Law School Dean Daniel Tokaji. "Thanks to her vision and teaching excellence,

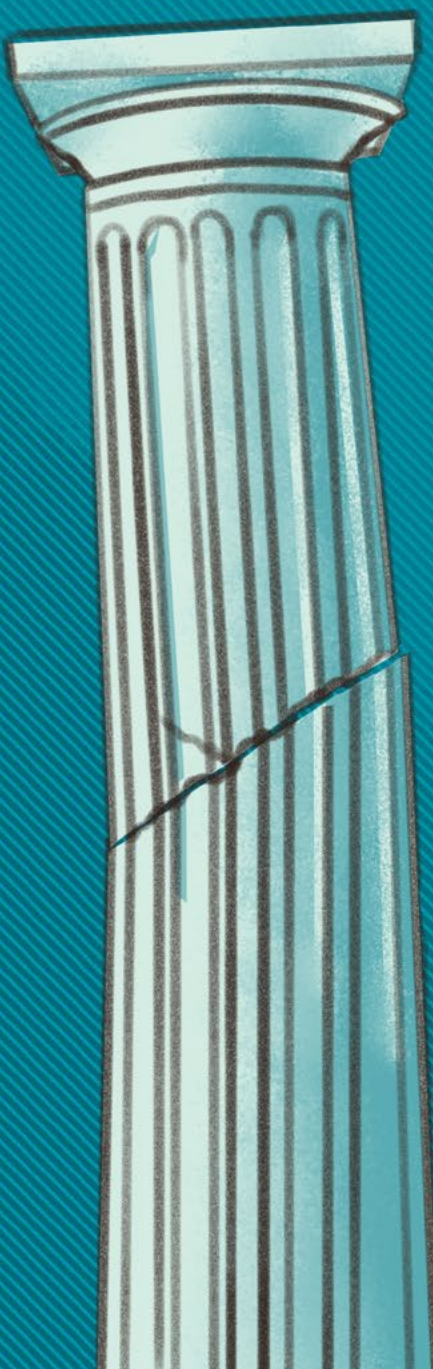
some 200 clinical students have provided top-notch legal services to more than 3,000 entrepreneurs, making our Clinic a national model. We're delighted that Emily Buchholz has joined us to lead the clinic toward even greater heights. Professor Buchholz brings a wealth of experience representing small and fledgling businesses and will ensure that future students learn how to guide them toward success in an ever-changing marketplace."



# DEMOCRACY IN CRISIS

*UW Law scholars  
seek to understand—  
and resist—  
authoritarianism.*

By Alexander Gelfand



In an article published last year in the *Wisconsin Law Review*, University of Wisconsin Law School Professor Heinz Klug noted that members of the School's faculty have, in recent years, gained increasing recognition for their "contributions to debates over both domestic and international constitutionalism and democracy."

Their timing could not be better.

Over the past two decades, much of the world has fallen into what Stanford political scientist Larry Diamond has dubbed a democratic recession, characterized by a gradual loss of freedoms and the rise of a new breed of autocrat.

Democratic scorecards calculated by organizations such as Freedom House and the Economist Intelligence Unit, which rate the robustness of electoral processes, political rights, and civil liberties, show significant reversals in countries from Afghanistan to Zambia. Even North America and Western Europe—home to the world's oldest and most developed democracies—show worrying signs of democratic backsliding.

These declines in democracy are often linked to illiberal populists (think Hungary's Viktor Orbán or Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdoğan) who win competitive elections, then go on to eviscerate by law the constitutional and institutional checks on their powers—a phenomenon known variously as autocratic legalism, electoral authoritarianism, and rule by law.

Yet if autocracy, authoritarianism, and antidemocratic movements appear to be on the rise everywhere, nowhere are they exactly the same. Understanding how autocrats and authoritarian regimes interact with the law—how they weaken the independence of the judiciary or manipulate electoral and constitutional systems to their advantage—is crucial to developing effective strategies for resisting them.

Here, five UW Law School faculty with expertise in autocracy, authoritarianism, and the law share their insights into what, exactly, is going on—and what can be done about it.



## Kathryn Hendley, Roman Z. Livshits & William Voss-Bascom Professor of Law & Political Science

*“There is a small group of incredibly courageous lawyers. But most people are keeping their heads down.”*



It's often assumed that authoritarianism and rule of law are mutually exclusive.

In fact, said Kathryn Hendley, “the story is much more complicated.”

Since the 1980s, Hendley has used fieldwork, surveys, and focus groups to study how Russians perceive their legal system. Her work reveals much about how autocracy shapes legal institutions, and how it affects people's attitudes toward democratic principles such as judicial independence and equal treatment under the law.

Among other things, Hendley has shown that while ordinary Russians are wary of going to court over cases that have political overtones or involve tangling with the wealthy and the well-connected, they are willing to do so to resolve more mundane disputes.

And they often come out on top: in Russia's justice-of-the-peace courts, which handle simple civil, administrative, and criminal cases, private plaintiffs enjoy a better track record than the state.

As a result, Hendley said, “the law can still mean something if you are an ordinary person.”

Alas, her work offers little hope that legal professionals will lead the charge for greater democracy in Vladimir Putin's Russia.

She has found, for example, that Russians who are motivated to study law by a desire to change and improve society are also more likely to support Putin's policies. She also noted that the Russian system of legal education remains an undergraduate enterprise

based on rote learning—and is therefore an unlikely breeding ground for pro-democracy activists.

“There is a small group of incredibly courageous lawyers,” Hendley said, pointing to those who represent government protesters and opposition leaders. “But most people are keeping their heads down.”

## Heinz Klug, Evjue-Bascom Professor in Law

A native of South Africa, Heinz Klug participated in the struggle against apartheid and spent eleven years in political exile before returning home to help his country make the transition to a constitutional democracy. More than thirty years later, Klug feels that South Africa is at a turning point, balanced between the antidemocratic tendencies of its politicians and the democratic resilience of its institutions.

Klug has analyzed the antidemocratic tactics employed by former South African President Jacob Zuma and his allies to shield themselves from prosecution on charges of corruption. These include lawfare, or the deliberate use of litigation to protect malfeasance; and state capture, which Klug described as “a process by which people in authority put people into institutions who will be loyal not to the system but to them, rather than people who are committed to the institutions or the constitution.”

For example, to make himself untouchable, Zuma strategically placed loyalists in key posts within the national intelligence, tax, and prosecution agencies. He also sought to undermine the Public Protector, an independent administrative oversight body that has the power to investigate, report on, and remedy improper conduct in all state affairs.

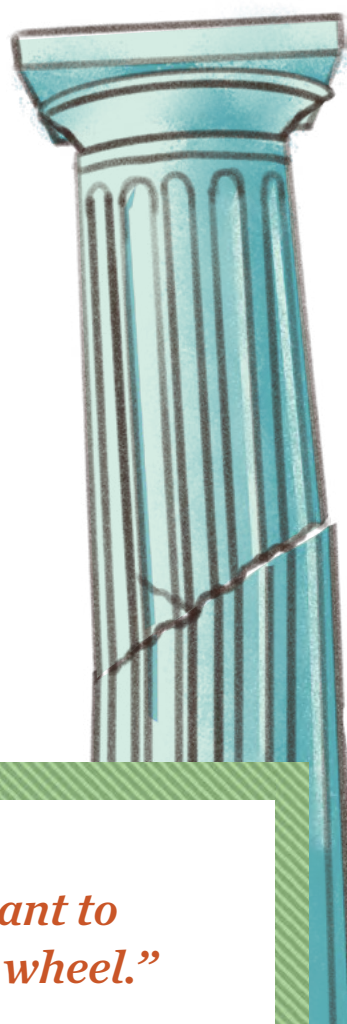
Klug said South Africa’s courts pushed back against these autocratic maneuvers with some success, and he is currently studying the history and practice of legal resistance to authoritarianism to better understand how democracies around the world can protect themselves.

Klug plans to survey the use of measures ranging from cultural boycotts to economic divestment and trade sanctions, all of which were employed in the anti-apartheid struggle—and which find echoes in current efforts to pressure Russia to change its conduct of the war on Ukraine. He is also interested in the legal tactics that were employed by abolitionists in the 18th and 19th centuries.

There are limits to such methods: they take time to work, and the domestic costs they impose can make them difficult to implement. (Witness the economic pain that the West has endured by imposing sanctions against Russian oil and gas.)

Still, said Klug, they can be extraordinarily powerful. And studying how governments and social movements have fought authoritarianism in the past can give us the tools to do so today.

“You don’t want to reinvent the wheel,” he said.



*“You don’t want to  
reinvent the wheel.”*





## David Trubek, Voss-Bascom Professor of Law and Dean of International Studies Emeritus

David Trubek, who is a senior advisor to the Project on Autocratic Legalism (PAL)—a group of international scholars that studies how rising autocrats use law to consolidate power and how law can be used to resist them—says the new wave of authoritarians lacks the totalitarian tendencies of their 20th century predecessors.

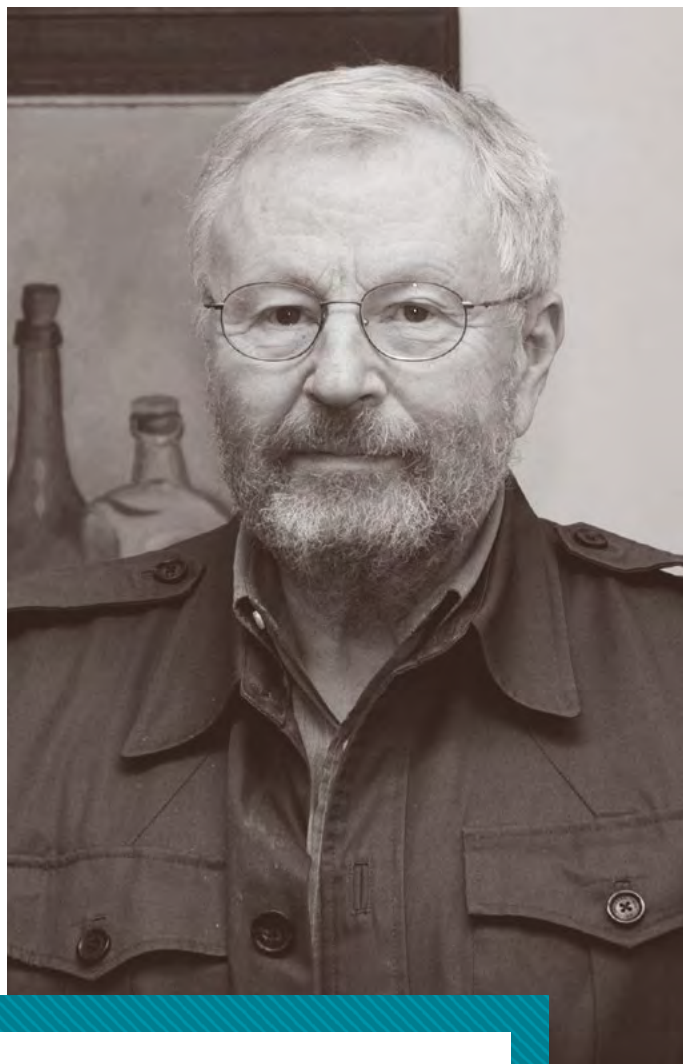
Rather than sweeping aside existing legal structures and institutions, this modern breed of aspiring dictator instead reshapes them to cement power—and avoid having to compete in fair elections ever again.

“The new autocratic processes proceed to some extent through established legal channels,” Trubek said. “They don’t try to completely reverse the constitutional order and create a new order, like the Nazis or the Communists did. They try to manipulate the existing order, which means that they deal with the law in a very complicated and sophisticated way.”

Trubek is collaborating on a PAL project called Global Resistance to Authoritarian Diffusion, or GRAD, aimed at evaluating the ways in which states, international courts, and non-governmental organizations support resistance to authoritarianism around the world. These include carrots, such as foreign assistance initiatives aimed at bolstering democracy abroad, and sticks, such as sanctions and human rights litigation.

Toward that end, Trubek recently co-authored a paper that considered whether sanctions imposed on Russia were likely to influence Vladimir Putin’s war on Ukraine. And his research on Venezuela, where sanctions have inflicted considerable economic pain without shifting the behavior of either Hugo Chávez or his autocratic successor Nicolás Maduro, highlights why it is best to prevent authoritarianism from gaining purchase in the first place.

“Once an autocratic regime takes hold, it is extremely difficult to dislodge,” said Trubek.



*“The new autocratic processes proceed to some extent through established legal channels. They try to manipulate the existing order, which means that they deal with the law in a very complicated and sophisticated way.”*



## Alexandra Huneeus, Professor of Law and Director of the Global Legal Studies Center

With its long list of autocrats and would-be dictators—Hugo Chávez and his successor Nicolás Maduro in Venezuela, Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil, Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua, Andrés Manuel López Obrador in Mexico—Latin America would seem to be a hotbed of authoritarianism.

But as Alexandra Huneeus points out, the situation is more complex than it might first appear.

Admittedly, the current crop of Latin American strongmen have much in common, including a predilection for abusing the language of law, rights, and constitutionalism to disguise their will to power.

“They use it to mask what they’re really doing, which is riding roughshod over the balance of powers and the independence of the judiciary,” said Huneeus, who studies human rights across the region.

Chávez, for instance, was quick to denounce as corrupt any judge who failed to toe his government’s line—and just as quick to pack Venezuela’s highest court with loyalists who would do his bidding.

But not all Latin American countries are equally susceptible to authoritarianism.

In Huneeus’s native Chile, the same public disaffection that led voters to elect illiberal populists elsewhere in the region instead led to calls for a new constitution to replace one written during the dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet—the result, perhaps, of the country’s relatively strong democratic institutions and its

relatively low levels of corruption.

The region even has a unique transnational tool for supporting constitutional rights and the rule of law: the Inter-American Human Rights System, which includes a court that adjudicates cases and a commission that holds hearings and issues statements.

The system has successfully pressured countries such as Mexico and Colombia to improve their behavior. But its ability to restrain authoritarianism is limited by the respect it commands among individual autocrats, as evidenced by Chávez’s decision to withdraw Venezuela from the court in 2012—a decision that Huneeus did not find surprising.

“If you’re not going to respect the local courts, you’re not going to respect the international courts, either,” she said.

*“If you’re not going to respect the local courts, you’re not going to respect the international courts, either.”*



## John Ohnesorge, George Young Bascom Professor of Law and Director of the East Asian Legal Studies Center

How can you tell when a country is sliding into authoritarianism? What factors are most important to safeguard democracy? And just how vulnerable is the United States to autocracy?

Decades studying Asian legal systems have given John Ohnesorge a unique perspective on these questions.

The region includes authoritarian states like China, Vietnam, and North Korea; struggling democracies such as Thailand and the Philippines; and success stories like Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan that transitioned from authoritarian regimes to vibrant democracies.

Drawing on these and other examples, Ohnesorge emphasizes the importance of distinguishing between genuine threats to democracy and threats to particular policy agendas. Elected leaders who use the law to undo projects of either the left or right might raise people's ire, but their actions aren't necessarily indicative of creeping authoritarianism.

For Ohnesorge, that requires attacks on rights and institutions directly related to elections—attacks that are meant to prevent the people from choosing their leaders, and to keep power from changing hands.

Yet relying on a purely procedural definition of democracy, in which those who win elections can do whatever they want, can lead to unjust outcomes.

"That's why the American system has been a model for so many countries," said Ohnesorge. "It's a liberal democracy, meaning that there are core individual rights."

An independent judiciary is therefore key to maintaining democracy; for if the courts won't defend citizens' rights and enforce election laws, politicians become free to hollow out vital institutions, leaving only a veneer of sham democratic processes in their wake.

That, said Ohnesorge, is precisely what happened in South Korea under the military dictator Park Chung-hee. The country possessed the hallmarks of a multiparty democracy, including opposition parties, a Supreme Court, and a constitution. But the regime had so rigged the electoral system that it couldn't lose, and so thoroughly intimidated the judiciary that the courts posed no real threat to its power.

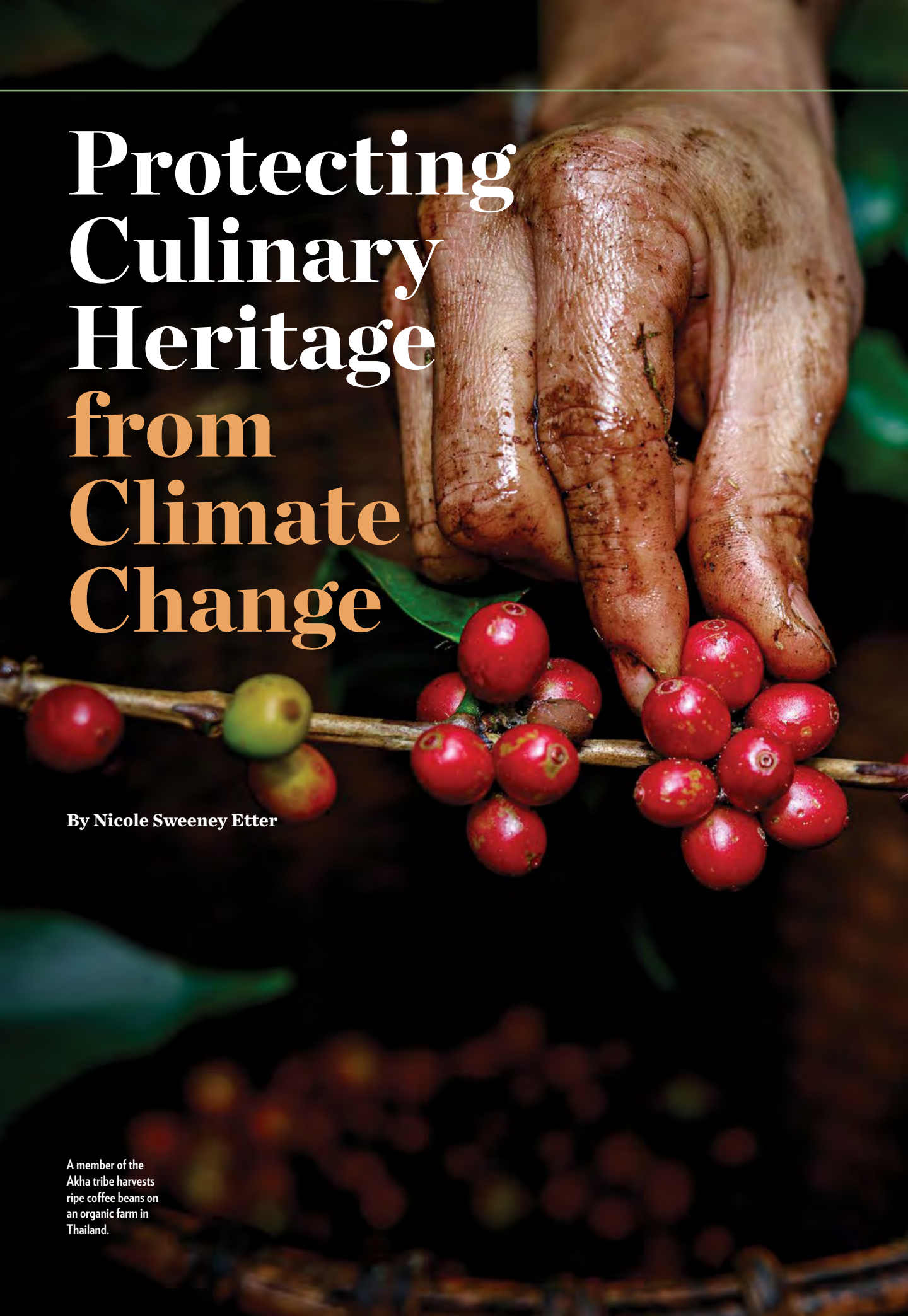
Could something like that happen in America?

Ohnesorge doubts it. The cultural norms that support democracy, including the professional ethos shared by lawyers and judges, are too deeply entrenched here for an autocrat to easily seize control. And our federal system of government would make it difficult for one to consolidate power—especially without military support, which remains highly improbable.

"I suppose there are some people who would like to do that here," Ohnesorge said. "But I think the odds of succeeding are pretty close to zero."

*"That's why the American system has been a model for so many countries. It's a liberal democracy, meaning that there are core individual rights."*





# Protecting Culinary Heritage from Climate Change

By Nicole Sweeney Etter

A member of the Akha tribe harvests ripe coffee beans on an organic farm in Thailand.



**W**hen Steph Tai was a baby, their first spoken word was the Chinese word for “new.”

Tai craved new tastes to the point where their parents had to get creative with food presentation to appease their toddler’s novelty-loving palate. It was the beginning of Tai’s lifelong passion for food.

Now a professor at University of Wisconsin Law School, Tai is still a foodie—and fears that future generations’ culinary options might be shrinking instead of expanding. Tai, who studies food systems and environmental law, is exploring how climate change impacts food production and what that means for culinary heritage.

From traditional festivals to religious rituals to special occasions like weddings, certain foods hold meaning for different communities worldwide.

“Numerous sociological studies

have observed how food is an essential element of different cultural identities, in complicated ways. For example, words related to food are important parts of everyday languages, and in many languages, we speak of certain foods as synonymous to eating meals themselves, suggesting the importance of certain types of foods as an essential element of eating,” Tai wrote in a *Georgetown Environmental Law Review* essay titled “In Fairness to Future Generations of Eaters.”

Now, Tai worries that culinary heritage—and a lot more—is under urgent threat.

“This is not just about our food production system, but everything. Scientists have given us less than a decade before some of these effects will be really, really difficult to reverse,” Tai said. “So, we don’t have much time left. And no one’s listening. It’s terrifying.”



## Representing the Voice of Science

It was concern for the planet that drove Tai to pursue law after they first followed in the footsteps of their chemist parents by earning bachelor's and doctoral degrees in chemistry.

During graduate school, Tai worked with Mario Molina, a Nobel Prize-winning chemist who was pivotal in showing how human use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) had severely depleted the ozone layer. But the non-ozone-depleting substitutes, hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), turned out to be intense greenhouse gases. As Tai studied the global-warming potential of HCFCs and HFCs, they also took policy courses.

"I started becoming concerned about how scientists were basically getting ignored in policy making," Tai said. "I really did go to law school to try to figure out how to better advocate for climate scientists specifically because of climate change concerns."

In addition to Tai's scholarship, they've represented groups ranging from commercial fishers to organic farmers to climate scientists through amicus briefs in environmental cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and federal circuit courts. It was a niche Tai stumbled on after realizing that relatively few environmental cases had scientific amici.

"I think a lot of times science doesn't get communicated to courts very well, especially because judges are lay people and they often don't have these additional backgrounds," Tai said. "I think they sometimes treat science as magic or mumbo-jumbo. And so, what I find important in these briefs is not just to explain what the current scientific under-

standing is, but how that scientific understanding is developed so that it's much more accessible. There's a whole process behind it, verifying and validating and continuing to refine theories."

## The Future of Food

Outside of court, Tai studies what's happening in the world as environmental changes continue to unfold.

"There's been a lot of types of foods that are disappearing because of changes in climate," Tai said. "One thing that I teach in my Food and Agriculture Law course is how farmers have to adapt to climate change and also how some of the deforestation that is leading to farms also contributes to climate change by losing a lot of the carbon sinks (areas that absorb carbon from the atmosphere). For example, in the U.S., droughts and lower precipitation in California are leading to lots of different stressors—just people living and needing water to depend upon, stressors in terms of the agricultural industry, stressors in terms of wildlife. And I think we're going to see a lot of those kinds of stressors."

At risk are some of the most beloved foods and drinks around the world: wine, coffee, and chocolate, among others.

"For example, in Napa Valley, even the slightest taint of smoke from wildfires really just ruins wines," said Tai. "And we're seeing more and more wildfires as a result of both our patterns of maintaining forests and also climate change."

Wisconsin farmers are already feeling the effects of climate change, too, from flooded fields to hotter temperatures that can reduce crop yields. Heat stress decreases cows' milk production, which



*"I started becoming concerned about how scientists were basically getting ignored in policy making. I really did go to law school to try to figure out how to better advocate for climate scientists specifically because of climate change concerns."*

— Steph Tai





means less milk to craft the state's iconic cheese.

"There are also concerns that climate change might affect beer because of barley production," Tai said.

Changes in temperature can lead to more pests and plant diseases as well.

Beyond the effects on crops and livestock, extremely high temperatures can make it more difficult for farm laborers to do their work. Extreme weather patterns can also affect how food is transported and preserved.

Like many aspects of environmental justice, those who contribute the most to environmental harms probably won't experience the greatest impact.

"If you're a big producer, you can always buy land elsewhere and try to move your crops there. It's more about whether or not you can do that. It's probably going to affect the small-scale farmers more," said Tai.

It's not enough to preserve the mere existence of certain foods, Tai said. It's also important to protect food quality. For example, hotter temperatures affect the flavors of many foods, such as the sweetness of Georgia peaches. According to Tai, intergenerational equity is at stake if the practices of past and current generations of eaters and drinkers leave a less flavorful world for future generations.

## Fighting Back Against Climate Change

So, what can be done?

Existing legal protections are slim but include the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Intangible Cultural Heritage Program. Once a food or culinary process is listed through the UNESCO program—as is the case with Arabic coffee and Neapolitan pizza—it's eligible for safeguard measures, primarily through education and limited financial assistance. There's also the International Treaty on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which focuses on genetic plant material.

"But otherwise, it's relatively little, and it doesn't provide that stronger infrastructure that I think is probably necessary to face the threats arising, not only from climate change, but other sorts of environmental considerations," Tai said.

However, some are exploring other pathways to legal protections for food and culinary heritage.

"The White Earth Band of Ojibwe in Minnesota adopted a tribal law that recognizes wild rice as having the right to exist," said Tai. "Part of that is



Wild rice, growing  
along the river channel.  
Summer in Wisconsin.



ISTOCK.COM/LYNN BYSTROM

because wild rice is such an important part of their heritage, not just culinary heritage, but just a way of living. And they're using that to fight pipelines, under at least tribal law."

It remains to be seen whether those tribal protections would hold up in a federal court, but it's a major milestone as the first case of a legal protection being given to a food, said Tai.

Food and drink producers can also play a key role in fighting the effects of climate change. One important strategy is by lowering the carbon footprint of the agricultural and livestock industries.

"There are a lot of things that can help," said Tai. "Lowered use of agrochemicals because many of those are actually quite fuel-intensive; having more agroforestry, which is maintaining both forests and agriculture at the same time to allow for more carbon sinks; and lowered reliance on livestock. I'm not trying to suggest everyone has to go vegetarian, but livestock tends to be much more carbon-intensive than a plant-based diet."

Decisions made later in the supply chain pro-

cess can also make a difference. Drew Cochrane '99, former chief operating officer of New Glarus Brewing Company, spoke to Tai's class on advanced contracts and shared how New Glarus moved from bottled beer to canned beer to meet the demands of climate-conscious consumers.

"Aluminum is much lighter, and so the amount of fuel it takes to ship the beer is a lot less," Tai said. "This business move was driven by a climate-oriented perspective."

Companies can also embrace carbon-friendly procurement policies and build them into vendor contracts to ensure their suppliers are being carbon-friendly, Tai said.

But there's much more to be done—and fast.

"We only have fewer than ten years. It's drastic measure time, in my view," said Tai. "The younger generation actually seems to care and be taking to the streets. High school students, college students, even law students are actively working to do something and care about it, and that's more than I've seen in ages."



# Oven-Baked Lentil Dumplings with Sunflower Dandelion Pesto

Here's something fun for the summer that is based mostly on ingredients indigenous to the Americas, as well as ingredients which are relatively low-impact in terms of carbon emissions and water use. I mostly cook by sight (sorry), so use proportions to taste. - Steph Tai

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## Ingredients:

### DUMPLINGS

Store-bought Asian dumpling wrappers  
Dried red lentils (soaked at least four hours)  
Finely diced onions  
Finely diced garlic  
Finely diced tomatoes  
Sunflower oil  
Allspice

Chili powder (at your preferred spice level)  
Salt

### PESTO

Dandelion greens  
Sunflower seeds  
Lemon juice  
Salt  
Olive oil

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## Preparation:

Boil the soaked red lentils for at least 20 minutes (or until tender), and then cool.

Sauté the onions and garlic in sunflower oil until browned, then add tomatoes and continue to brown until the consistency is a light paste.

Add the red lentils and mix with allspice, chili powder, and salt, and continue to brown until the texture is not too wet for a dumpling filler.

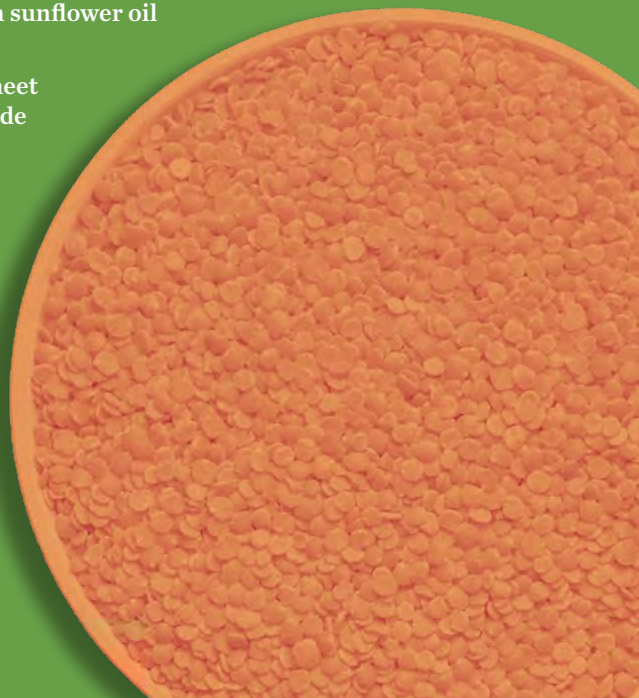
Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F and grease a baking sheet.

To make each dumpling, use your fingers to brush the edges of each dumpling wrapper with water. Then, put some of the lentil filling into the dumpling and fold and form a half circle. Crimp the edges to help the wrapper stick together. Repeat for each dumpling.

Either lightly toss the dumplings in sunflower oil or use spray sunflower oil.

Put the dumplings on the baking sheet and bake at 325 degrees F on one side for 10 minutes, and then flip and bake for another 15 minutes (this may vary with your oven, so really just watch until both sides are browned).

For the pesto, lightly blanch the dandelion greens (about 15 seconds at most in boiling water). Remove, drain, then puree in a food processor with sunflower seeds, lemon juice, salt, and olive oil to taste.



## All Ways Forward Campaign a Huge Success

University of Wisconsin Law School has completed the largest capital campaign in its history. UW–Madison launched its All Ways Forward comprehensive campaign in October 2015. As a part of this effort, the Law School set the goal of raising \$35 million. UW ended its campuswide campaign in December of 2021 with the Law School exceeding its goal with \$49.8 million raised.

“The success of this campaign affirms the Law School’s excellence and the impact it has on our community and world,” said UW Law School Dean Daniel Tokaji. “The vision and success of this campaign is shared with our dedicated alumni who chose to join with us and to invest in our future. Our deepest thanks go to former Dean Margaret Raymond, who worked tirelessly with alumni and donors to ensure that the Law School’s campaign was a success.”

Student scholarships were the largest target for the campaign. The added resources from donors came at a critical time in law school admissions, where institutions must be competitive with financial aid packages to recruit high-quality students.

“We are deeply grateful to everyone who supported the Law School in this campaign,” said Rebecca Scheller ’07, associate dean for Admissions and Financial Aid. “The gifts received during the All Ways Forward campaign

increased our resources for financial aid and broadened pathways to serve our students, who will change the world for the better.”

One of the leading highlights of the comprehensive campaign for UW Law was the opportunity for the school to honor its first African American faculty member, the late James E. Jones Jr. ’56, with a chair named in his honor.

“We are delighted to have the first fully funded faculty chair on the UW–Madison campus named after an African American faculty member,” said Tokaji. “It’s remarkable that, decades after his retirement, Professor Jones still inspires his former students to band together in his honor.”

The All Ways Forward campaign also served as a catalyst for the Law School to increase its efforts to expand its faculty and the resources needed to fulfill its research, teaching, and service mission.

The successful conclusion of the campaign does not mean that the work is done.

“We must shift our focus to our faculty—the backbone of any law school,” said Tokaji. “Our reputation and stature, as well as the quality of instruction that our students receive, depend on having world-class professors who are leading scholars in their fields. Alumni support for faculty hiring and retention is therefore critical to UW Law’s future success.”



# 4,970

total donors (4,785 individuals)



# \$49.8

MILLION

raised



**\$14.4**  
million  
planned gifts



**\$11.2**  
million  
discretionary

**203**  
**GIFTS**  
from current students



**\$13**  
million  
student support



**2,453**  
first-time donors gave a total of  
**\$4 million** during the campaign

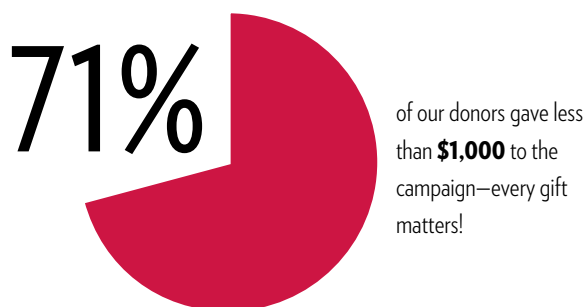
**\$3.6**  
**MILLION**  
programs

Faculty, staff, and emeriti gave

**\$2.2 million**



**\$7.1**  
million  
faculty support



## Jacob Gardner 2L Publishes Debut Novel

For lifelong Wisconsinite and second-year law student Jacob Gardner, formative childhood experiences in Northern Wisconsin as a self-described “poor rural kid” served as inspiration for his debut novel, *North of Highway 8*.

The novel features protagonist Matt Harris’s return to his small hometown, where a once robust blue-collar economy has declined. Buildings are boarded up, schools are under-resourced, and poverty has increased. *North of Highway 8* explores the plight of rural America, our inherent connection with nature, and the importance of tolerance, friendship, and ethics.

“This book grapples with questions like how far will you go for your pride or your career, and what does it really mean to love your home,” said



Jacob Gardner

Gardner. “I explore the tension between people’s prosperity and the Earth’s welfare.”

Loosely inspired by real events in Wisconsin—such as the Foxconn deal—the novel allows readers to “truly reflect on how to best ‘save’ small town America, and it proposes extra tolerance as the way to bridge the rural-urban divide,” he said.

Accolades are already coming in for the novel, including two awards from the Speak Up Talk Radio Firebird Awards: third prize for

Contemporary Fiction and first prize for Young Author (under 25 years old).

We sat down with Gardner to discuss his writing career, UW Law influences on his work, writing a novel during the COVID-19 pandemic, and more.

**Q: This is your debut novel. What encouraged you to pursue writing a novel?**

**A:** I have enjoyed writing my entire life. Usually focused on poetry and short stories, I always dreamed of writing a full-length, albeit a little short, novel. My first time published was for a simple nature-oriented poem when I was 7 years old. Since that time, I have written countless poems and short stories.

In the spring of 2020, just before COVID-19 took the world by storm, I was invited to participate in the Creator’s Institute program for first-time authors. While I originally deferred participation, in the fall of 2020, with a vacuum of a social life, I finally dove in. The program was focused on teaching first-time authors how to write a book like a second-time author. In short,

it was designed to build both writing competence and confidence. I ended up working with a super developmental editor and finished the first draft of the book by January 2021. At that time, I was introduced to New Degree Press, a publisher partnered with the program and focused on new authors.

**Q: What spurred your desire to write this particular story?**

**A:** Having worn both hats—that of a rural Wisconsinite and that of a Madisonian—I hated the divide in our state. From politics and economics, that amount of hate between the ruralites and the urbanites in this state astounds me. Moreover, I have a lot of love for both settings. I wanted to write a story that addressed division, as well as the economic plight of the rural rust belt.

**Q: Did your experiences at UW Law play into this story or into your desire to write a novel?**

**A:** I actually wrote the book entirely before starting law school, but I did juggle the editing and proofing with my first semester of law school. It was fun. I will say that the process of publishing added an extra interest in intellectual property and the legal side of the publishing industry.

A lot of the inspiration for the story came from my experiences in Northern Wisconsin, as well as witnessing the rural-urban divide as a poor rural kid. From my time as a ‘trailer trash’ and ‘weird queer’ kid, as branded by peers growing up, I couldn’t wait to escape my small town. As a Madisonian, I miss the nature found in the rural areas. One of my escapes from Madison is all the way north



of Highway 8, around the Brule River and Bayfield areas. My fiancé's grandmother lives in that area, and my experiences visiting the area helped me to connect my personal experiences with the different culture found north of Highway 8. That same cultural shift can be seen in the main character of my novel, once he crosses the threshold to the north.

**Q: How would you describe the process of writing, editing, and publishing a novel during a pandemic?**

**A:** It was tough. So many times, I had major imposter syndrome. I

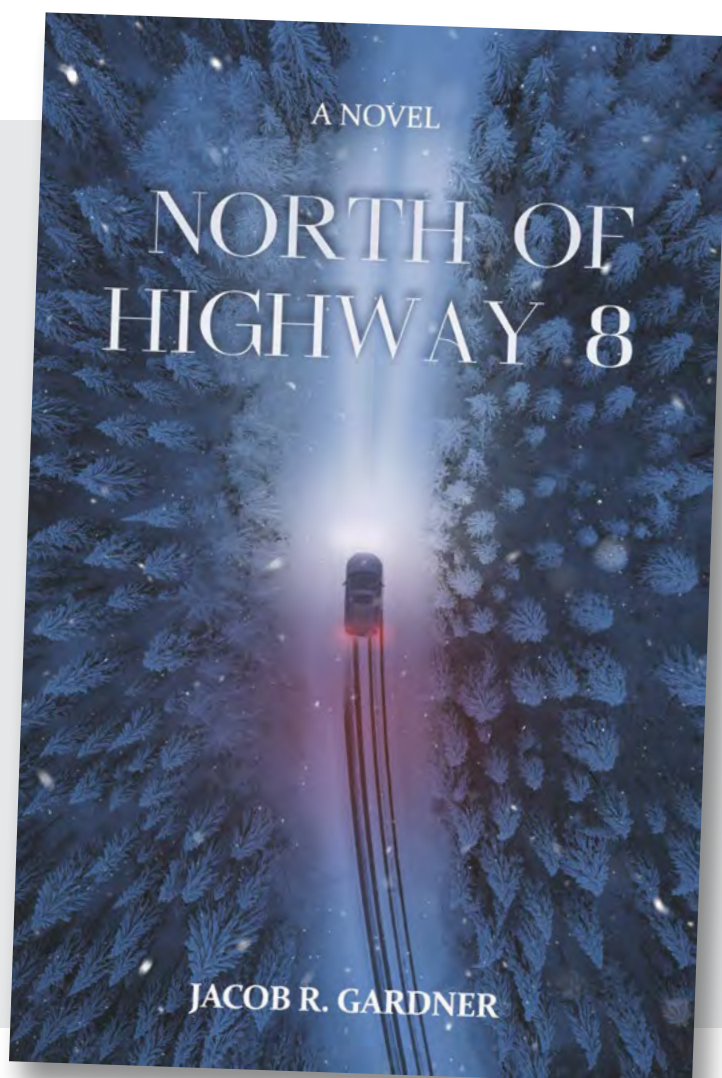
still sometimes have a hard time recognizing that I *did* do it. In some ways, the pandemic helped me write it. Since I was holed up inside, I followed the common wave of trying out new things. I made homemade mozzarella, baked bread, signed up for TikTok, and spent my nights drafting a novel. It really helped pass the time. Additionally, a big theme of the book is the winter isolation that comes every year, especially in Northern Wisconsin. I tried to infuse my own frustrations with social isolation to that of being an outsider in a small town in the northern winter.

**Q: Are you working on other projects at the moment? If so, care to plant a teaser?**

**A:** Yes. I recently helped my mother publish her first cookbook, and I have started planning and drafting my next novel. The next one—not a sequel to *North of Highway 8*—will still explore the role of business and business ethics in our society, but it will also touch on the military-industrial complex and explore the ‘cans vs. shoulds’ of technology. That is, we *can* create a certain device, but *should* we? It will also highlight the intersection of mental health and professional success.

*North of Highway 8* is available for purchase at most major retailers, especially through online order.

By **Kassandra Tuten**



**Favorite Underappreciated**

**Novel:** *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham. It's his light-hearted, lesser-known, non-legal fiction. I read it every holiday season just to relax and laugh.

**Favorite Author:** Caleb Carr.

Even before they made it into a series, I loved his *The Alienist* novel/universe.

**Favorite Book While in Law**

**School:** I recently read *These Silent Woods* by Kimi Cunningham Grant. It was also a character-driven novel of an imperfect protagonist that you wanted to love, and a well-intentioned antagonist you wanted to hate. Really a good one.

## Studying Professional Ethics at Auschwitz

How can the conduct of lawyers and judges in Nazi-occupied Europe inform professional ethics today? Ben Levey, a rising second-year law student at University of Wisconsin Law School, spent his summer reflecting on that and much more.

Levey was one of just fourteen law students and early-career attorneys selected from around the world for the 2022 Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE). Levey spent two weeks in Germany and Poland, where he and other law fellows explored legal ethics through a historical lens, from the rise of the Nazi party through the Holocaust and beyond.

"I was interested in learning more about the Holocaust," said Levey, who previously worked for HIAS (originally known as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), a Jewish-American organization dedicated to helping refugees and asylum seekers. "And also, this just seemed like politically the right time to do this in that we're in a moment of fascism on the march, a moment of growing antisemitism. It felt like an amazing opportunity to do the right thing at the right time."

The fellowship brought Levey to sites ranging from the small town where the Nazis first experimented with using a gas chamber to kill people with disabilities to various concentration camps to the villa outside Berlin where the Nazis plotted their "Final Solution." The fellows explored how German lawyers, judges, and other professionals were complicit in those atrocities.

The fellowship also touched on

more contemporary issues, such as the actions of a law firm that was defending a Swiss bank against descendants of Jewish residents whose assets had been seized by the Nazis. Witnessing the site of a famous Nazi book burning in Berlin, Levey also found himself thinking about modern-day controversies in the United States around critical race theory and pushback against some books in libraries and schools.

Levey, who is Jewish, is still processing the intense fellowship experience.

"It really destabilized me, but also I think it bolstered my sense of identity, and I think this will be a source of inspiration going forward," said Levey, who is considering focusing on refugee or immigration law after graduation.

While the fellowship is over, the networking with FASPE fellows will continue. And so will the lessons Levey took from the experience.

"One was the importance of collective action—lawyers and people in any space working together to take on big problems—because the problems we face now are structural, and so they need collective responses," he said. "I think another thing that was helpful was being around a really smart, diverse set of people. It was a reminder that you always have more options in a situation than you might initially think."

When presented with 'yes or no' situations, you often have a 'no, but,' and a 'yes, and,' and a 'here's my counteroffer.' Those are really good tools to have in the toolkit."

Previous FASPE fellows from UW Law include Jack Huerter '17, Anna Grilley '17, Thomas Wilson '16, and Eileen Dorfman '15.

By Nicole Sweeney  
Etter







## Toward a More Perfect Union

Ashley Morse '06 is the first woman of color on the Rock County Circuit Court Bench.

In April 2022, Governor Tony Evers appointed Ashley Morse '06 to Rock County Circuit Court—Branch 4, making her the first woman of color to serve on the bench in Rock County. Morse will complete a term ending July 31, 2023.

When asked what that appointment meant to her, Morse said, “It means YES. It means that we are moving toward a more perfect union where there is a space in our most revered institutions for people who look like me and who have made the choices in terms of a legal career, that I have. It is meaningful to me, and I hope to others who may follow me.”

It was fear and hope that initially encouraged Morse to pursue a career in law.

“I was afraid we could not move on from the past and hoped the future would be better through my practice of law,” she said.

The notions of fairness and equity have always been foundational to Morse.

“I remember filling out the demographics section on a standardized test in fourth grade and telling my teacher that there was not a box for me in the ‘race’ section,” Morse said. “You could pick white, Black, Hispanic, or other. I had a white mother and Black father and wanted to mark both boxes. I was told that was not acceptable. I was told to mark ‘other.’ That didn’t seem fair to me and also felt hurtful in a way I had not previously experienced.”

It was from that point on that Morse said she felt she was different.

Morse was the first in her family to attend college and the first to go to law school. Her mother and grandparents worked factory jobs, and her siblings both pursued careers in the trades.

It wasn’t until college, where she studied history and the African diaspora and social movements, that Morse learned about “how rich and vibrant and strong and beautifully multi-dimensional my history was.”

It was also during college that she learned that so much of the Black experience in America has been shaped by the decisions of our courts, she said.

“From *Dred Scott* to *Brown v. Board of Education*, I was struck by the reality that a group of powerful people could get together and decide what rights other people have and how they can be treated,” said Morse. “It struck me that those judicial decisions defined much about what my day-to-day life looked like. I saw in our history the tremendous potential for both harm and good. I knew that pursuing a career in law was essential for my hopes for the future.”

Initially, Morse said she found the Law School to be intimidating, but she became involved in the School’s Black Law Students Association and other affinity groups. The friendships she made and the support she found in those organizations were crucial to making law school a successful experience for her.

“Seeing people that look like you in the spaces you are in gives you a sense of comfort, increases your confidence, and really gives you a sense of belonging,” she said. “You don’t feel like you have to change anything about yourself to achieve legitimacy.”

With her judicial career still new, Morse said she is looking forward to the future.

“The positive, welcoming reaction from the community to my appointment has been so special to me,” she said. “I am committed to work every day to make our system more accessible, inclusive, and fair. I’m so honored for this opportunity.”

By **Kassandra Tuten**

## UW Law Grad Named Executive Director of Wisconsin Public Media

Heather L. Reese '02 was named executive director of Wisconsin Public Media (WPM), the division at the University of Wisconsin–Madison that oversees Wisconsin Public Radio and PBS Wisconsin. Reese has served as interim director since August following the death of Gene Purcell, who had served in the role since 2018.

The Wisconsin native is a graduate of University of Wisconsin Law School and earned her bachelor's degree in hospitality and tourism management from the University of Wisconsin–Stout. Reese is a longtime supporter of the Wisconsin Idea—the belief that UW–Madison teaching, research, outreach, and public service should provide benefits beyond the classroom.

"PBS Wisconsin and Wisconsin Public Radio are nationally recognized for their outstanding quality of programming," said John Karl Scholz, UW–Madison interim chancellor. "We also understand they're a jewel for the campus and our state. We are excited about the energy and experience that Heather will bring to this position as WPM colleagues navigate the rapidly changing media landscape."

Reese brings more than eleven years of experience in the public media industry and has previously served as associate director of Wisconsin Public Media as well as director of strategic initiatives and compliance.

"I am delighted to be the next director of Wisconsin Public Media. Public media is an essential public service in the tradition of the Wisconsin Idea," Reese said. "As media continues to evolve at a rapid pace, I look forward to building on our strong legacy to adapt and enhance our services to meet the needs of our audiences well into the future."

The WPM executive director establishes and maintains relationships at the local, state, and national level to advance and support public media through balancing the interests of multiple partners while focusing on meeting audience and stakeholder needs and preferences.

"I've had the pleasure of working with Heather throughout her tenure at WPM," Educational Communications Board Executive Director Marta Bechtol said. "She's been a great collaborator and I look forward to continuing our work together."

Educational Communications Board (ECB) distributes public broadcasting across the state in partnership with the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents.

"Heather's experience with both public radio and



ALTHEA DOTZOUR

television, as well as her leadership skills, knowledge of media law, and passionate belief in the value public media brings to the people of Wisconsin, are just some of the qualities that made her stand out in a field of applicants from around the country," said search committee co-chair Kathy Bissen, chief operating officer of PBS Wisconsin.

As executive director, Reese will lead a unit of approximately 280 full-time and sixty part-time and student staff and oversee a budget of more than \$35 million from multiple and variable revenue sources including: university, state, and federal governments; audience memberships; major and planned giving; grants; business sponsorships; special events; and sales of goods and services.

"Heather's appointment comes as very welcome news," said committee co-chair Niles Berman, board chair of the Wisconsin Public Radio Association and member of the ECB. "She brings a collaborative leadership style, existing strong relationships with the stakeholders, and a commitment to our traditional broadcast services while we expand our use of other content delivery platforms with a dedication to editorial independence underlying all of that. Wisconsin Public Media should be well positioned for the future under Heather's leadership."

**By Kāri Knutson**



## Native Nations Flag Ceremony

University of Wisconsin Law School and the Indigenous Law Students Association (ILSA) have invited all the tribal nations in Wisconsin to participate in a traditional flag ceremony at 4 p.m. Friday, **Nov. 4**, at the Pyle Center. All are welcome to attend the ceremony.



## All-Class and 50-Year Reunion

All University of Wisconsin Law School graduates are invited to join us for our All-Class Reunion **Oct. 21–22**. This year, the All-Class Reunion is being held in conjunction with University of Wisconsin Homecoming Weekend. On Friday, Oct. 21, enjoy a day of Law School activities and participate in the Homecoming Parade. On Saturday, Oct. 22, reconnect with classmates over traditional gameday snacks during a tailgate at the Law School before heading to Camp Randall for Badger football. There will also be a special 50-Year Reunion Dinner specifically for the classes of 1970, '71, and '72 on Oct. 21. Learn more at [law.wisc.edu/alumni/reunion](http://law.wisc.edu/alumni/reunion).

## Wisconsin Law Review Symposium

Attend the Wisconsin Law Review Symposium **Oct. 27–28**. This year's topic is "Controlling the Supreme Court: Now and Far into the Future." Topics include the confirmation process for justices, originalism, SCOTUS precedent, and democratic action options. Learn more at [wlr.law.wisc.edu](http://wlr.law.wisc.edu).

## Dean's Summit

Connect with fellow Benchers' and Legacy Society members, see how your gifts impact the Law School, and cheer on the Badgers during this year's Dean's Summit, **Oct. 20–22**. Learn more at [law.wisc.edu/alumni/benchers](http://law.wisc.edu/alumni/benchers).

## Kastenmeier Lecture

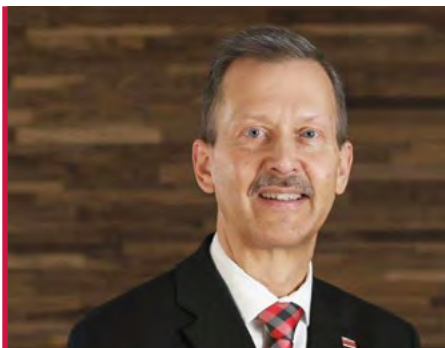
Join us for the 2022 Kastenmeier Lecture, 4 p.m. Friday, **Sept. 23**. This year's featured speaker is Larry Krasner, district attorney of Philadelphia. The Kastenmeier Lecture is supported by the fund established to honor Robert W. Kastenmeier, an outstanding graduate of University of Wisconsin Law School who served with great distinction in the United States Congress from 1958 to 1990. During his tenure, Congressman Kastenmeier made special contributions to the improvement of the judiciary and to the field of intellectual property law. The Kastenmeier Fund was created to recognize these contributions by fostering important legal scholarship in the fields of intellectual property, corrections, administration of justice, and civil liberties. Learn more at [law.wisc.edu/alumni/kastenmeier.html](http://law.wisc.edu/alumni/kastenmeier.html).



This year's featured speaker is  
**Larry Krasner**, district attorney of Philadelphia.

MICHAEL CANDELORI

## 1970s



STATE BAR OF WISCONSIN

**James C. Babler '79**, Barron County Circuit Court judge, is the 2022 recipient of the Wisconsin State Bar Bench and Bar Committee's Judge of the Year award. The award recognizes an outstanding circuit court judge who has improved the judicial system during the past year through leadership in advancing the quality of justice, judicial education, or innovative programs. Judge Babler was first appointed in 2003, elected in 2004, and re-elected three times.

## 1980s

**Rick J. Mundt '81** is a shareholder in the Madison office of von Briesen & Roper, s.c. Mundt focuses his practice on litigation involving construction defects, catastrophic property damage, professional liability, bodily injury, and complex insurance claims. He is also an experienced mediator for property and casualty dispute resolution.

## 1990s

**Jane M. Beckering (Buchanan) '90** was appointed by President Joe Biden to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan. She was approved by the U.S. Senate and began serving as a U.S. District Judge in December 2021. Her investiture was at the Gerald R. Ford Museum and Library in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on June 4, 2022.

**David Ansel '93** recently retired from private practice to focus on environmental issues. Previously, he was at Loeb & Loeb as a partner in the corporate department specializing in mergers and acquisitions, partnerships, and joint ventures. He now serves as a trustee of the Waterkeeper Alliance and as a director for the Westchester Land Trust.

**Gregory M. Davis '97** received a Cornerstone Award from the Lawyers Alliance for New York. The award honors outstanding business and transactional lawyers who have provided superior pro bono legal services to nonprofits that are improving quality of life for low-income New Yorkers. Davis was recognized for his work in fielding pandemic-related legal issues for nonprofits.

**Mark W. Vyvyan '97** was included in *Minnesota Lawyer's* POWER 30 in Construction and Commercial Real Estate. Honorees were selected by *Minnesota Lawyer's* editorial team, who conducted interviews with respected professionals around the state of Minnesota. Vyvyan is an attorney with Fredrikson & Byron.

**Julie D'Angelo '98** has joined national law firm Dykema's new office in Milwaukee, where she serves as an attorney in the mergers and acquisitions practice group.

**Amy Vandamme '98** joined national law firm Dykema's business litigation practice as senior counsel in the firm's recently opened Milwaukee office. Vandamme counsels clients in a variety of industries, including financial services, fintech, consumer products, and manufacturing.

## 2000s

**Rhonda K. Frank-Loron '00** began working as a senior policy specialist for the Crime and Justice Institute based in Boston, Massachusetts. Initially, her focus will be on restrictive housing reform.

**Wendy S. Rusch '00** has been appointed to serve as the Wisconsin State Chair of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. Rusch is a shareholder



in Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c.'s Trusts and Estates and Corporate Law practices, where she focuses on estate planning, family business succession planning, retirement planning, prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, as well as probate and trust administration.

**Kenia Seoane Lopez '02** was appointed by President Joe Biden on June 15, 2021, to serve a period of fifteen years as an associate judge in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. She was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on Feb. 2, 2022, and sworn-in as associate judge on Feb. 28, 2022. Judge Seoane Lopez served as a magistrate judge in the same court since 2012.

**Benjamin S. Wagner '03**, of Habush Habush & Rottier S.C., received the 2021 Robert L. Habush Trial Lawyer of the Year Award from the Wisconsin Association for Justice, the state's largest voluntary bar association. The prestigious award recognizes Wagner for his exemplary abilities to successfully litigate complex claims before a jury, mentorship of the next generation of trial attorneys, and leadership in navigating the challenges posed to courtrooms by the pandemic.

**Chiann**

**Bao '07** was appointed as a Trustee of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law in February. Bao is a full-time arbitrator and mediator with Arbitration Chambers qualified in New York and Hong Kong. She is currently a vice president of the ICC Court of Arbitration and a vice chair of the International Bar Association International Arbitration Committee among many other notable roles.



**J**o Deen B. Lowe '85, Jo Anne House '93, and Dan Cornelius '09 were named among Wisconsin's thirty-nine most influential Native American leaders by Madison365. Those highlighted on the list are dedicated leaders of Wisconsin's Indigenous communities. They include elected leaders, business leaders, and community leaders doing difficult, important work, often in the face of discrimination and generations of oppression.

**Lowe** is chief judge of the Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court. She has served as in-house counsel for a number of Wisconsin's tribes and worked at the Great Lakes Intertribal Council. She served as the district attorney for Jackson County and was the first attorney general for the Ho-Chunk Nation.

**House** is chief counsel for the Oneida Nation. She graduated from University of Wisconsin Law School in 1993 and went on to earn a PhD from Walden University in public policy and administration with a focus on deliberative democracy within Tribal governments with a goal of developing a tool that can be used by Tribal governments to improve information, discussion, and decision making at membership meetings.

**Cornelius** is a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and outreach specialist and deputy director of the Great Lakes Indigenous Law Center at UW Law School. For seven years, Cornelius worked for the Intertribal Agriculture Council in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. His work has focused on assisting Native Nations and their members with development of Native agriculture and food systems, promoting improved access to USDA programs, including conservation, value-added production, and infrastructure development, as well as expanding intertribal trade and commerce.

## What's new?

Share your updates at  
[gargoyle.law.wisc.edu/class-notes](http://gargoyle.law.wisc.edu/class-notes)



**Tom O'Day '06** has been appointed to a three-year term on the Board of Trustees of the Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation. O'Day, a partner in Husch Blackwell's Madison office, is a member of Husch Blackwell's Healthcare, Education & Life Sciences industry group and its Labor and Employment team. He counsels hospitals, physician groups, health systems, and individual providers on complex employment and medical staff matters.

**Holly Pomraning '08** has joined Lake Effect HR & Law in Madison. The practice is focused on management-side employment law and human resources, assisting and advising employers at every stage of the employment cycle. Pomraning is a trained and experienced mediator who previously served the Wisconsin Department of Justice as an assistant attorney general.

## 2010s

**J. Malcolm (Jay) DeVoy '10** has been appointed to partner at Holland & Hart in Las Vegas, Nevada, effective Jan. 1, 2022.

**Richard Orton '12** has been elected managing partner of Gass Turek LLC, a litigation boutique in Milwaukee. Orton is a trial lawyer practicing in the areas of products liability, general liability, professional liability, and commercial, construction, and insurance litigation and appeals.

**Rui Lu '13** has joined Howard & Howard in the Business and Corporate Law Group, continuing her practice at Howard & Howard's Royal Oak office. Lu brings extensive international experience with her, working in a variety of industries and fields in China for the last decade. While there, Lu served global, publicly traded pharmaceutical companies in addition to international and domestic law firms.

**Monica Mark '13, Andrew Price '13,** and **Kelsey Berns '14** have been named shareholders of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c. Berns advises wealthy individuals and families on a wide range of



estate planning matters, such as complex wealth transfer planning, charitable planning strategies, and tax planning. Mark focuses on intellectual property matters and commercial litigation. A large part of her practice centers around appellate litigation, where clients rely on her ability to guide them through the appeals process. Price represents borrowers, lenders (traditional and non-traditional), and other related parties throughout the county in structuring, negotiating, and documenting financing transactions ranging from smaller loans to affiliated borrowers up to large and complex facilities.

**Michael Weigel '13** has been promoted to partner at Mayer Brown LLP. He is a member of the Fund Formation and Investment Management group in the firm's Chicago office, representing private equity fund sponsors on a broad range of issues.

**Blayne Nicole Christy '14** joined von Briesen & Roper, s.c. as an associate in the Madison office. Christy represents insurance carriers and their insureds in complex legal disputes, including in areas related to construction defects, contract disputes, and professional liability claims. Christy is a member of the Wisconsin Defense Counsel.

**Melissa Buckman '16** has joined Weintraub Tobin as an associate in the Firm's Entertainment & Media practice group.

**Emma Jewell '19** received the Milwaukee Bar Association's 2021 Pro Bono Publico award, which recognizes individuals for their outstanding pro bono service and dedication to the practice of law. Jewell undertook successful representation of a pro bono client, devoting over 300 hours to the case, which culminated in her successful argument before the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

## 2020s

**Connor Fleck '21** has passed the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Registration Examination for Patent Attorneys. Fleck, of Barrett McNagny LLP, will be able to represent clients in matters before the

U.S. Patent Office, including the filing and prosecution of patent applications. Fleck concentrates his practice in intellectual property, assisting clients with filing for patents, securing trademarks, and helping to register and enforce copyrights.

**Christina M. Puhnaty '21** joined Babst Calland's Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, office as an associate in the Environmental Group. She assists clients with matters encompassing a broad range of environmental issues, including those related to state and federal permitting, regulatory compliance, and environmental litigation.



**Brady J. Seidlitz '22** has been hired as the new Barron County assistant district attorney. Seidlitz started with the District Attorney's Office in June 2022.

## Jinjin Li '98's Path to a Legal Career in the U.S.

News of immigration attorney Jinjin “Jim” Li ‘98’s murder on March 14, 2022, at his office in New York City was shocking not only to Chinese legal circles, but also to those who knew him from his years as a graduate student at University of Wisconsin Law School.

“The world needs more people like Jinjin Li,” said Emeritus Law Professor Charles Irish, founding director of UW Law’s East Asian Legal Studies Center.

According to the *New York Times*, Li was killed in an attack at his office in Queens. Police arrested a 25-year-old woman from China, whose immigration case Dr. Li is reported to have refused to accept.

Li’s path to a legal career in New York City led through Madison, where he spent almost four years in the late 1990s transitioning from a Chinese labor rights activist to an American attorney.

### China’s 1989 Democracy Movement

Born in 1955 in Wuhan, Li served in the People’s Liberation Army and, after China’s Cultural Revolution, received a bachelor’s degree in law from the Hubei University of Finance and Economics. He continued his legal studies at Beijing’s prestigious Peking University, where he chaired the graduate student association.

When protests erupted in the heart of Beijing in the spring of 1989 (a movement that ended in the infamous June Fourth Tiananmen Square Massacre), Li was a 33-year-old graduate



Jinjin Li

student focused on constitutional law, with a wife and young son. In interviews and writings, he has described how he quickly became swept up in the activism emanating from Peking University and was soon being asked legal questions about workers’ rights, including the right to strike, in part because he was wearing a sunhat emblazoned with the phrase “Peking University Constitutional Law Doctoral Student.”

As he recalled in a 2018 interview with medium.com blogger Grace Wong: “I began to think that this was not a student movement, but a people’s movement. So I made efforts to organize a workers’ movement. With two workers, Han Dongfang at the lead, I encouraged them to start a union under my guidance. I ended

up being the legal consultant for the group. I explained to them their rights and how to effectively organize an activist group step-by-step.”

This group would eventually become the Beijing Workers’ Autonomous Federation (BWAf), for which Dr. Li drafted the inaugural statement: “Our old unions were welfare organizations. But now we will create a union that is not a welfare organization, but one concerned with workers’ rights.” The BWAf lasted only fourteen days, ended by the military crackdown the night of June 3. Li was among those arrested in the aftermath. Li was not released until April 22, 1991. In February 1993, he was issued a passport and allowed to leave China for the U.S. He began his



American sojourn at Columbia University, but soon transferred to UW Law School to resume his studies in law.

### **A Career Focused on Immigration and China**

After graduating, Li returned to New York, where he passed the New York bar in 1998 and opened a law practice in Queens specializing in immigration. In 2004, he qualified to appear before the United States Supreme Court, and in August 2010 served as the lead attorney in *Bi Xia Qu v. Holder*, 618 F.3d 602 (6th Cir. 2010), which held that women who are sold or forced into marriage and involuntary servitude are a “particular social group” for asylum law purposes.

Li also remained involved in pro-democracy projects, advising advocacy groups and speaking to the media in both English and Chinese about Chinese legal topics. In 2011, he published a memoir in Chinese with Mirror Media Group, with a title that translates into English as “From the Peoples’ Square to the Qincheng Prison.” He served as director of Human Rights in China and chair of the supervisory board of the China Democracy Party National Committee.

“Jinjin was a big tree, which spread seeds on the earth,” said Wayne Zhu, fellow Queens attorney who officiated at the memorial service for Li, which was attended by over 300 people, including prominent members of the Chinese legal and dissident communities. “He is always living in our hearts. I appreciate UW–Madison for remembering the amazing life of Jinjin.”

By Laurie Dennis

## **1940s**

Warren Stolper '48

## **1950s**

Thomas Kells '53

Morton Dicker '54

James Olfson '54

James Petrie '54

Alvin Ugent '54

Thomas McKenzie '55

James Peterman '55

Jack Osswald '56

Dean Beck '57

John Goodland '57

Joan Ledebur '57

Philip Smith '57

Thomas Ward '58

John Haydon '59

Jerome Silber '59

## **1960s**

Gerald Geyso '61

Cyrus Hoaglund '63

Costa Perchem '63

Dennis Asmus '64

Irving Kahn '64

James Klauser '64

Fred Reiter '64

George Douglas '65

A. Henry Hempe '65

Stephen Jones '66

Robert Fletcher '67

Dennis Mahoney '67

Roger Pinkert '67

Andrew Egseth '68

Karl Marquardt '68

Henry Stark '68

## **1970s**

Harold Langhammer '71

Richard Beal '72

William Kocol '73

Kenneth Andraski '74

Mary Wilburn '75

Earl Imhoff '79

Gerardo Perez '79

Ronald Walker '79

## **1980s**

Stephen Armstrong '80

Catherine Fisher '80

Richard Martin '81

Gregory McDonald '82

Donna Paske '82

Richard Barta '84

Keith Mehn '85

## **1990s**

Ronald Perez '90

Tamara Jackson '98

Yvonne Johnson '98

## **2000s**

Sheryl Albers '04

## **2020s**

Scott Wellhausen '20



Governor Tommy Thompson '66 loves his native state, from his 1,800-acre family farm in Elroy to the people who call this great state home. The longest-serving governor in Wisconsin history, Thompson's career is one of service to his fellow man, from responding to the 9/11 terrorist attack as United States Secretary of Health and Human Services to serving as President of the University of Wisconsin System. UW Law sat down with Thompson to discuss his University of Wisconsin Law School experience, career, farm life, and more.

By **Kassandra Tuten**

**Q: Why did you decide to go to law school?**

**A:** I decided I wanted to go into politics and run for office. To do that, I knew I needed more than my political science and history degree, so I decided a law degree would help me meet that goal. I met with Dean George Young, who said there were some openings in the first-year class. So, I took the LSAT, scored high enough to get in, and started classes in the fall.

**Q: Speaking of your time at UW Law, what is your favorite Law School memory?**

**A:** Oh, there are so many. The individual people you meet in your classes remains with you your whole life. They're great people at different stages of their lives and careers. The friendships you make, the professors you meet, the classes; it all really rounds you out as a person and makes you ready for life and for your career. And those are the memories I have: building those foundations. I couldn't be happier to have had the opportunity to go to UW Law and get



a degree and go on and do what I did in politics.

**Q: You've had a diverse professional life. What was the most rewarding aspect of your career?**

**A:** The best job I ever had was governor. There's no question about it. Being governor and being able to do things for the state of Wisconsin, to build the economy, to build social services,

improve the education system of the state, that was always the most rewarding for me. Aside from that, helping steer the country through 9/11 as United States Secretary of Health and Human Services was a big deal, and creating the Global Fund, as was helping the University navigate and get students back into school during the pandemic. Those were all big accomplishments.

**Q: You live on your family farm in Elroy. Can you talk a little about farm life, its challenges and rewards?**

**A:** I think anybody who grows anything is a better person. It brings out the best parts of a hu-

man. You have so many concerns from the weather to taking care of the animals that it teaches you about life. I think that's a positive thing. I thoroughly enjoy it. If I have any spare time, I love walking through the woods, through the pastures, with the cattle, and seeing what's going on.

*Read the full interview with Governor Thompson at [gargoyle.law.wisc.edu/thompson](http://gargoyle.law.wisc.edu/thompson).*





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## 35+

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