

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL

Gargoyle

Volume 47, No. 1
Fall 2023



Weight of the States

*State Democracy Research Initiative leads the way in focusing
attention, creating resources and building community.*

Hastie Fellows discuss how the
program impacted their careers.

UW Law welcomes three
back to Madison.

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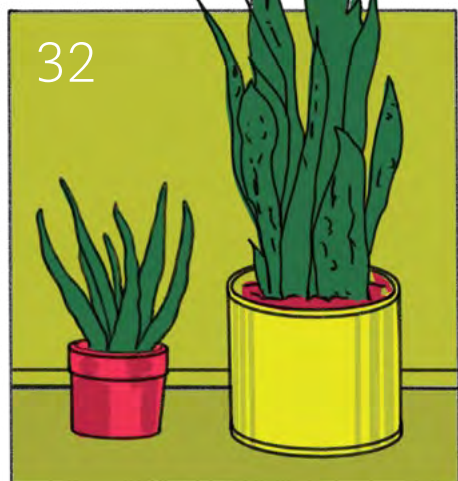
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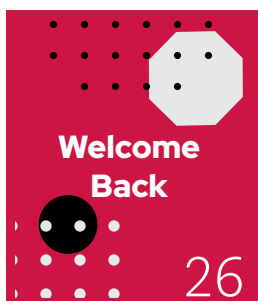
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Why Gargoyle?

In 1963, when the existing Law School was demolished to make way for a new building, 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 70 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 giving.

Hello dear friends, and welcome to another exciting issue of University of Wisconsin Law School's *Gargoyle* magazine! We've got some especially inspiring stories to share with you in this edition.

At the top of the list is our State Democracy Research Initiative (SDRI). Some of you may be familiar with the SDRI, from having attended one of their many in-person or virtual events. Founded by UW Law faculty Miriam Seifter and Robert Yablon, the SDRI fosters academic research on state-level democracy and institutions across the nation. In just over two years, SDRI has had a major impact by shining a spotlight on state governments, which traditionally receive much less scholarly attention than the federal government. We're incredibly proud of the work of Professors Seifter and Yablon and the talented SDRI staff who have built this incredible resource for academics, policymakers and advocates across the country. We're also deeply grateful for the outside support that SDRI has received, which has allowed them to build a top-flight team of lawyers and experts. You can read more about our SDRI team and their amazing work on page 22.

We continue to work toward creating an inclusive community that welcomes people with different backgrounds, experiences, identities and perspectives. This year, we're celebrating 50 years of our Hastie Fellowship, which has been a leader in preparing a diverse group of aspiring legal scholars for careers as law professors and leaders in their communities. The program honors William H. Hastie, a lawyer, teacher, jurist

and civil rights advocate who championed the importance of high-quality legal education. You can learn more about the program and a few of its impressive graduates on page 16.

In this edition, we also explore wellness at the Law School (page 32) and welcome Amanda White Eagle '05, Lisa Washington '22 and Christopher Lau. All are returning to UW Law after spending time at other law schools. We're so excited to have these all-star scholars and teachers rejoin our community. You can learn more about them on page 26.

We're also highlighting the excellent work of several of our faculty, including Sumudu Atapattu, director of the Global Legal Studies Center, who recently published a much-needed book on climate change and human rights. Professor Atapattu presents the first in-depth analysis of how UN human rights institutions and mechanisms have addressed environmental protection, sustainable development and climate change. It's incredibly fascinating and important work, which you can learn more about on page 8.

Also highlighted in this edition is the timely work of Assistant Professors of Law Nina Varsava and Franciska Coleman, whose current work focuses on stare decisis and cancel culture, respectively. You can learn more about their research on pages 6 and 10.

This year, John Ohnesorge, professor of law and director of the East Asian Legal Studies Center, is in Seoul, South Korea, on a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program. While there, Professor Ohnesorge is researching

South Korea as a case study of democratization and the role of law. It's a developing area of scholarship, and Professor Ohnesorge's many years of experience make him the ideal person to carry it out. He's also taken on a new role as senior advisor to our graduate programs, for which we're very grateful. You can learn more about him on page 11.

Within this edition, we've got a lot of other wonderful treats as well, including interviews with Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court Associate Judge JoAnn Jones '86, who recently retired at age 83. Jones was the first female leader of the Ho-Chunk Nation, a role in which she served from 1991-95. You can learn more on page 40.

We've got so many other gems in this edition, including interviews with several of our impressive students and outstanding alumni. I can't wait for you to read all about it.

In closing, a big thank-you to all of you who have supported the Law School financially over the past year. We depend upon our alumni and other friends giving back to keep the great opportunities we offer accessible to the next generation of lawyers and leaders. We are, as always, eternally grateful.

On, Wisconsin!



Daniel P. Tokaji

NICK WILKES



Yablon, McBride, Kasieta Named 2022 UW Law 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 UW Law 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 2022 include:



Robert Yablon, Classroom Teacher of the Year. Yablon is an associate professor of law and faculty co-director of the State Democracy Research Initiative (learn more on page 22). His research interests include political and election law, constitutional law, federal and state courts, and statutory interpretation. This is Yablon's second win; he also received the award in 2018.



Erin McBride, Clinical Teacher of the Year. McBride is director of the Government and Legislative Clinic and Native Nations Externship Program at the Law School. She teaches the regulatory state and legislative procedure and provides students with the opportunity to observe and participate in the many facets of governmental law, policy, legislation and tribal governance.



Robert "Bob" Kasieta, Adjunct Teacher of the Year. Kasieta has been teaching at the Law School as an adjunct professor since 2003. He is a certified civil trial specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocates and devotes a great deal of time to legal education, teaching many courses for lawyers and law students alike.



Heinz Klug Awarded Ronald Pipkin Service Award

Professor Heinz Klug has been honored with the Law and Society Association's 2023 Ronald Pipkin Service Award for sustained and extraordinary service to the association.

"I was truly honored to be recognized by the Law and Society Association for my service to the association, which has been my academic home for nearly 30 years," Klug said.

Anne Smith Receives Chancellor's Entrepreneurial Achievement Award

Anne Smith was among four innovators who received the 2023 Chancellor's Entrepreneurial Achievement Awards. Established in 2011, the awards recognize individuals with ties to the University of Wisconsin-Madison who further the Wisconsin Idea through outstanding accomplishments in entrepreneurship. Honorees have achieved entrepreneurial success that contributes to economic growth and social good, offers models for the UW community and inspires

the campus culture of entrepreneurship.

In 2009, Smith co-founded the UW Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic, which engages law students to provide free legal services to early-stage Wisconsin companies. Since its founding, the clinic has worked with 2,500 businesses across 30 Wisconsin counties, which combined have raised hundreds of millions in venture capital. It serves approximately 300 clients annually.

Eric Taylor Receives 2023 University Staff Recognition Award

Eric Taylor, evening reference librarian and acquisitions assistant in the UW Law Library, has been honored with a 2023 University Staff Recognition Award. Taylor has worked for the UW Law Library since 1989.

“I am very grateful to have work I enjoy so much,” he said. “I work with a fine group of people in the Library. It has been a high point and an honor to have helped a generation of law students with their studies and research as they worked toward their law degrees. My whole experience at the UW Law Library and the Law School has been rich and rewarding.”

Additionally, four UW Law employees were recognized on the Roll of Fame: Darryl Berney, IT senior support specialist; Justin Boehm, human resources manager; Adam Bushcott, main office manager; and Scout Slava-Ross, library circulation services assistant.



UW Law Hosts Hurst Summer Institute

The 12th Hurst Summer Institute in Legal History was a bright surge of activity at UW Law this summer – June 18-30, 2023.

The biennial event, sponsored by the American Society for Legal History (ASLH), was chaired by Sarah Barringer Gordon, Arlin M. Adams Professor of Constitutional Law and professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania, and Michelle McKinley, the Bernard B. Kliks Professor of Law at the University of Oregon School of Law.

Fellows (in alphabetical order): Dilyara Agisheva, Harvard Law School; Evelyn Atkinson, Tulane Law School; Jilene Chua, Johns Hopkins University; Saumyashree Ghosh, Princeton University; Linda Kinstler, University of California, Berkeley; David Korostyshevsky, Colorado State University; Michael McGovern, Princeton University; Yukako Otori, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies; Doris Morgan Rueda, Stanford Law School; Ari Schriber, University of Toronto; Maham K. Theisen, Brandeis University; and Charlotte Whately, University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Learn more at law.wisc.edu/hurst-institute.



Dean Dan Tokaji, Anne Smith and Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin during the awards ceremony.



Steph Tai Named Associate Dean at Nelson Institute

Professor Steph Tai has been named the new associate dean for education and faculty affairs at the Nelson

Institute for Environmental Studies.

“Environmental problems are inherently interdisciplinary, and I look forward to strengthening our existing interdisciplinary synergies in research and education, as well as fostering new ones,” Tai said.

Tai, whose scholarly research examines the interactions between environmental and health sciences and administrative law, holds affiliations with the Nelson Institute and the Wisconsin Energy Institute. They have been with University of Wisconsin–Madison since 2006, climbing the ranks from assistant to associate to full professor five years ago.

The Nelson Institute confronts global environmental challenges through research, education and public programs. The associate dean role acts as the institute’s de facto department chair, as well as the curriculum director, the leader for all undergraduate and graduate programs, the key point for Nelson faculty promotions and awards and more.

UW Law Library Wins 2023 AALL Award for Work on Tribal Laws Pilot Project

The University of Wisconsin Law Library has won the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) 2023 Public Access to Government Information Award for the Digital Publication of Tribal Laws Pilot Project, in partnership with the National Indian Law Library, the Open Law Library, the UW Great Lakes Indigenous Law Center and the Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians. This pilot project, funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, worked with Native Nations to make their laws publicly available using a customizable publishing platform that offers tribes full ownership and control over their content. Four tribes, including Wisconsin’s Stockbridge-Munsee and Lac Courte Oreilles, have already openly published their laws using this platform, and several others are in development.

Abortion Ruling Leads to Deep Look at Stare Decisis



Nina Varsava

Before last summer’s U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, Assistant Professor Nina Varsava had never focused on an abortion case in her work.

Yet within a month following the decision, Varsava had posted the first draft of “Precedent, Reliance, and *Dobbs*” to the Social Science Research Network (SSRN). The article was published in the *Harvard Law Review* in May 2023.

“I had read the leaked decision as soon as it came out and found it notable how much of the decision was about stare decisis,” she said.

While she wasn’t surprised that would be the case “because it was about whether to overrule this really important precedent” (in *Roe v. Wade*), Varsava was struck by “how the court treated stare decisis in the decision and how critical it was of the approach to stare decisis in *Casey v. Planned Parenthood*.”

Varsava first became interested in legal precedent during her Ph.D. studies in philosophy and literature at Stanford University; it was her dissertation topic and led her to pursue her J.D. at Yale Law School.

Stare decisis enables people to rely on judicial decisions to form expecta-

tions about their legal rights and duties into the future, so they structure their lives accordingly. In following precedent, courts support people's autonomy, self-governance and dignity.

But in *Dobbs*, the Supreme Court declined to give consideration to widespread reliance on the precedents protecting abortion.

"This move signals a notable shift in the Court's stare decisis jurisprudence and would seem to overrule *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* as a precedent about precedent," Varsava explained.

The *Dobbs* majority said only "tangible" or "concrete" reliance interests count for stare decisis purposes, and in this case, they found no tangible reliance worth considering, since it wasn't clear that people had made any investment decisions based on the precedent that would leave them materially worse off as a result of their reliance on it.

The most obvious group that would have had a worthy tangible reliance interest on precedent were those who were pregnant at the time of the *Dobbs* ruling. They believed they would have access to abortion or to critical health care if complications arose; after the ruling, they faced a detrimental condition. As Varsava points out, the majority opinion neglects to count reliance costs to this group, perhaps because the justices perceived the magnitude of reliance here to be trivial given the relatively small number of potentially affected individuals.

Intangible reliance is broader and harder to define. It refers roughly to disappointed expectations and understand-

ings. In the abortion context, individuals made decisions about their education, career, relationships and family life.

Varsava said the *Dobbs* majority insists intangible reliance is not relevant for stare decisis for two reasons: 1. it says the court hasn't considered that type of reliance in other cases, aside from *Casey*, which it views as anomalous; and 2. the court is not well-equipped to assess or measure that kind of reliance, so it should just refrain from considering it at all.

"It's unsettling when we're proven wrong, even when we didn't make different decisions, even if our expectations aren't upset in a tangible way," Varsava said.

She argues that the court has a responsibility to recognize and mitigate the harms induced when intangible reliance is ignored. But *Casey* was vulnerable to attack because it put weight on intangible reliance but did not unpack it. She spends a considerable portion of her article doing that unpacking.

While Varsava has not yet seen the U.S. Supreme Court rely on the *Dobbs* approach to stare decisis, moving forward, she said the court seems to think that reliance will mainly play a role in commercial cases where tangible reliance is at stake, for example, in the contract or property context where economic interests would be thwarted if a precedent were overruled.

In her newest work, Varsava is continuing to explore, from a philosophical perspective, problems related to precedent and adjudication.

By Jennie Broecker

Noteworthy activities this year



In January, Varsava was awarded the Association of American Law Schools' (AALS) Jurisprudence Future Promise Award, which recognizes junior scholars who exhibit exceptional promise in philosophy and law.

In March, Varsava participated in an interdisciplinary discussion of "Roe at 50, the Anniversary That Wasn't," hosted by the UW-Madison Humanities Center.

In May, Varsava held the "Legal Reasoning and Adjudication Symposium," bringing together a diverse group of scholars from across the United States as well as the United Kingdom and Canada. She presented a new paper about statutory interpretation and intersystemic adjudication.

Sumudu Atapattu has extensively explored the link between human rights and environmental law in her research. In fact, she was one of the first people in the world to specialize in international environmental law.

Originally from Sri Lanka, Atapattu completed her master's in law and Ph.D. at the University of Cambridge in England, where she concentrated on international environmental law. At the time, 1986, the Chernobyl nuclear plant explosion occurred near Pripyat, Ukraine, which was part of the USSR.

"The Chernobyl disaster got me thinking about international principles, the environmental impact, the impact on people and the fact that no state was willing to sue the USSR at the time," explained Atapattu.

At the time, textbooks didn't even have a chapter on environmental law.

"It's amazing how much this field has grown since then," she said.

Environmental issues and human rights issues have always been looked at by institutions separately, said Atapattu.

"We tend to take a siloed approach to these issues, which has been problematic because we, until quite recently, did not apply a human rights framework to environmental issues," she explained.

Using a human rights approach to environmental issues is incredibly important, not simply because victims are able to obtain relief.

"It's important for policymakers to realize this link, and for local governments and consumers like ourselves to appreciate the fact that the choices we make could have an impact thousands of miles away, especially on poor, marginalized communities," Atapattu noted.

A report from the United Nations (UN) Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on Australia in 2017 piqued her interest.

Its recommendations regarding climate change were far reaching, Atapattu explained. The Committee even went to the extent of recommending that Australia wean away from coal power plants and pay attention to the Sustainable Development Goals.

"The mandate of these human rights bodies does not include environmental issues, so the fact that the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights made recommendations on climate change was really interesting to me," she said.

It was so remarkable, in fact, that it inspired her latest book, "UN Human Rights Institutions and the Environment: Synergies, Challenges, Trajectories," published this year by Routledge.

"UN Human Rights Institutions and the Environment" presents the first in-depth analysis of how UN human rights institutions and mechanisms have addressed environmental protection, sustainable development and climate change. It surveys the resolutions, general comments, concluding observations, decisions on individual communications and press releases. And it identifies principles that have emerged, explores the ways in which human rights charter-based and treaty-based institutions are interpreting environmental principles and examines how they contribute to the emerging field of human rights and the environment.

The latest work of Atapattu (who has written, edited or contributed to numerous books) is a "much-needed contribution to the field of study of climate change and human rights," said Ambassador Dessima Williams. "The devastating impacts of climate change are worsening as actors around the world engage to safeguard human life and protect

Latest Work of Sumudu Atapattu a 'Much-Needed Contribution to the Field of Study of Climate Change and Human Rights'

By **Kassandra Tuten**

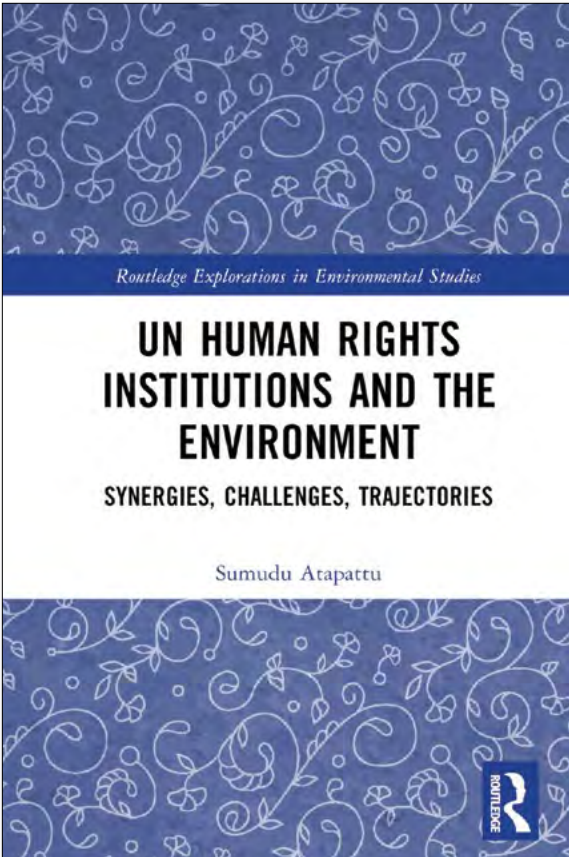
the rights of all, including those most vulnerable and exposed. Professor Atapattu helps the academic as well as the policy and activist communities better understand how a human rights framing helps victims of environmental degradation.”

When people read this book, Atapattu hopes to encourage them to look at the connections.

“Look at the link between what we are doing currently and the impact, not just on the current generation in other parts of the world, but entire generations in the future,” she urged. “It is important for us to recognize our responsibility to address these issues to lead a more sustainable life and make smart choices bearing the impact of our action on others in mind.”

This is especially important for those of us living in the global north, she said.

“Our carbon footprint is huge,” Atapattu explained. “This means that people in the global south are limited by what we are doing. It is important for us as individuals of the global north to recognize the link between our choices, our carbon footprint, and the impact on others. The choices we make on a day-to-day basis are not very sustainable and have a huge impact on future generations as well.”



“We tend to take a siloed approach to these issues, which has been problematic because we, until quite recently, did not apply a human rights framework to environmental issues.”



Assistant Professor Franciska Coleman (second from right) helps kick off the State Bar of Wisconsin's 2023 Meeting and Conference in Milwaukee in June.

Breaking Down the Anatomy of Cancel Culture

It's no shock to Assistant Professor Franciska Coleman that the "cancel culture" debate has been highly visible in higher education.

Coleman, who has been researching the social regulation of speech for the past eight years, said universities are both engines for the production of knowledge and norms in society *and* vehicles of racial integration and class mobility.

"Unsurprisingly, in times of hyperpolarization underscored by unprecedented demographic change, those twin goals seem to be in deep tension," she said.

Coleman's work made her a natural choice to serve on the advisory board for the University of Wisconsin System's Student Views on Freedom of Speech survey, which reported its findings in February. More than half of students reported wanting to express their views about a controversial topic in class but deciding not to, mostly due to worry that other students would disagree with them. A strong majority of students said faculty and instructors "sometimes," "often" or "extremely often" encourage

them to explore a wide range of viewpoints.

Coleman was pleased that the survey, which originally only referred to offensive speech, was updated to also ask about injurious speech as a result of her feedback.

"When students are calling for sanctions, they are asking you to hold people accountable for harm," she said. To these students, harm is more than offensiveness.

In her first paper, "They Should Be Fired: The Social Regulation of Free Speech in the U.S.," Coleman identified three categories of speech that are sanctioned as harmful. These categories are:

1. Censorable: defined by a strong (multi-racial, cross-party) consensus that it is harmful speech
 2. Contested: speech considered high-value and protected by a sizable group but low-value and harmful by a competing group
 3. Discreditable: speech people agree is callous but still disagree over whether it should be sanctioned
- Coleman's concern in this

paper was that "there was no distinction made between uttering a racial slur and just being rude." Both types of speech led to job loss.

The term "cancel culture" itself has become negative, Coleman explained. It is used by people who view the social regulation of speech, a neutral term, as something that silences dissent rather than holds people accountable. To them, it is something that makes ordinary Americans live in fear of being fired for not being politically correct enough. To others, she noted, "consequence culture" is an important way for individuals to challenge the type of racist speech that can be a prelude to violence.

In her second paper, "Anatomy of Cancel Culture," published this March, Coleman discussed these two competing narratives: cancel culture and consequence culture. She found that while neither is fully false, neither fully reflects reality. Instead, she noted that social regulation plays out across five phases in ways that both affirm and contradict these



narratives. The five phases she identified are:

1. Publication and dissemination
2. Accusation
3. Pillory
4. Sanctions
5. Direct action

Coleman wants universities to adopt policies in advance on how they will respond to social regulation of speech as it plays out in each of these phases. As a result, in her next paper, she aims to use her phases as a framework to ground a set of best practices for university administrators.

"It's hard to teach free speech principles when students are hurt and angry," she said, noting we need to have these discussions and set student expectations in advance.

Coleman also believes it's critical for universities to combine both free speech and inclusion training.

"We have to find a way to do those trainings together. Students need to understand that, as a society, we care about your ability to speak, and we also care about the impact of your speech," she said.

By Jennie Broecker

A Seoul Journey

John Ohnesorge returns to South Korea as Fulbright Distinguished Scholar.

As a young lawyer fresh out of law school in 1989, John Ohnesorge never thought he'd be practicing law in South Korea.

Sure, he had taught English in China prior to his legal studies, returning to Shanghai during his second year of law school for a unique semester in the law department of Fudan University.

At the time, the mid-1980s, China was just beginning to re-establish its legal system and legal profession after the Cultural Revolution, Ohnesorge explained.

"And they were just beginning to reopen their economy to foreign investment and international trade, so it was a really interesting time to be in China," he added.

As a student, Ohnesorge was originally interested in how law affects innovation and commerce.

"So, my first interest was coming back to the greater China region to be an international commercial lawyer," he explained.

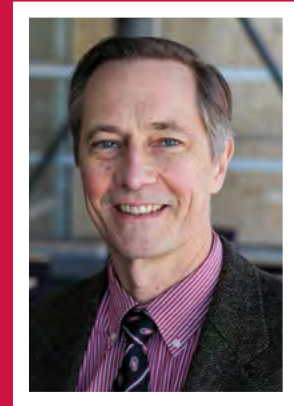
When Ohnesorge graduated with his J.D. from University of Minnesota (U of M) Law School in December 1989, he first set his sights on achieving that goal, hoping to maybe work in Taiwan or Hong Kong.

"There were really very few opportunities in mainland China at that point for a foreign lawyer," he said. "There were a couple foreign law firms that had tiny offices in Beijing and Shanghai, but China was very closed still to foreign firms. The Chinese firms that existed at that time were just beginning to separate from the state bureaucracy and were not ready to hire foreign lawyers themselves."

But then his wife, Jin, received a Fulbright fellowship to study intellectual property law in South Korea. Almost simultaneously, a Korean lawyer happened to write to the U of M placement office seeking an associate to work in his firm in Seoul.

"So, I wrote back and expressed interest, and he hired me through the mail," Ohnesorge recalled. "I had never been in Korea. Well, I had been in the airport once on my way back from China. But I came over on my own, before Jin even, and started working as a foreign legal consultant."

As part of his practice, Ohnesorge assisted international clients interested in investing in Korea.



continued on page 12

A Seoul Journey continued

"My role was not to advise on Korean law in a technical sense, because I'm not licensed there and shouldn't be offering legal advice, but to help facilitate the transactions," he said.

It was work Ohnesorge, now George Young Bascom Professor of Law and director of the East Asian Legal Studies Center at University of Wisconsin Law School, said he "really enjoyed."

This year, after decades away, Ohnesorge (alongside his wife) returned to Seoul as a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar at Yonsei University. In addition to teaching in the spring and fall semesters, Ohnesorge is researching Korea as a case study of democratization and the role of law in the region. It's a burgeoning area of scholarship that Ohnesorge said he's excited to engage in.

"There's a lot of literature recently about the role of law in democratic backsliding, or backsliding from democracy," he explained. Most of the literature focuses on Central and Eastern Europe, with some discussion of Latin America, he added.

But South Korea and Taiwan, Ohnesorge said, "managed the transition from authoritarianism to democracy, and they've maintained it."

For Ohnesorge and his wife, being back in Asia is "very normal."

"Jin was born in Korea, so we have relatives here," he said. "We also have many friends and colleagues here, and, throughout the whole region, I have former students and friends from Japan to Indonesia, so it's just nice to connect with these people face-to-face again following the COVID-19 pandemic."

Korean society has also become more open than it was in the '90s, he continued.

"So, it's a little more comfortable, a little easier to live here right now," he said.

While Ohnesorge completes his teaching and research as part of his Fulbright obligations, as director of the East Asian Legal Studies Center, he's also working to expand the Law School's connections across Asia. Over the summer, alongside Dean Dan Tokaji, Associate Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Rebecca Scheller and Assistant Dean of Graduate Programs Jason Smith, Ohnesorge met with deans, faculty and alumni in South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand.

"Over several decades, East Asian Legal Studies and the Law School built an amazing network in East and Southeast Asia, primarily through the work of Professor Charles Irish and a series of internationally minded deans," said Ohnesorge. "In a globalized world, it's crucial that we maintain and expand this network for the benefit of the Law School and the UW as a whole."

By **Kassandra Tuten**

An Enduring Legacy

Historical documents from Herman Goldstein's personal collection are now available in Digital Repository.

Over 850 historic documents from Herman Goldstein's personal collection, including many items related to his work with the Chicago Police Department in the early 1960s and his creation of the concept of problem-oriented policing, are now available on University of Wisconsin Law School's Digital Repository.

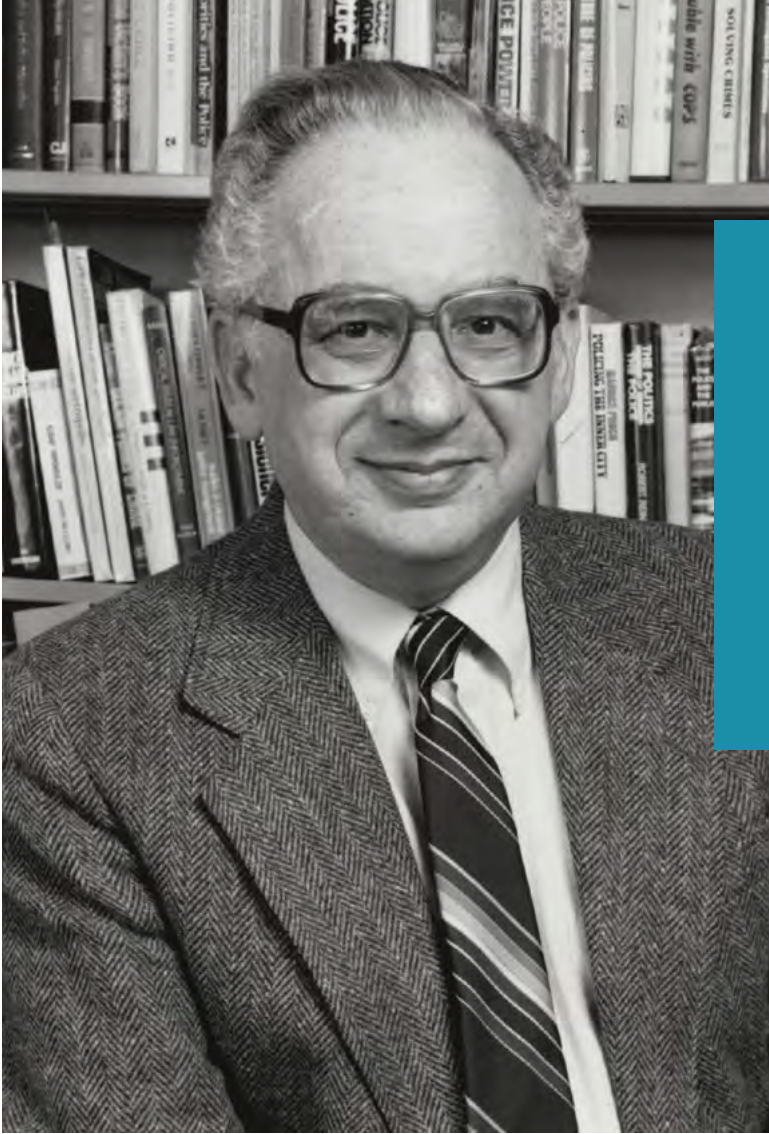
Before Goldstein passed away in January 2020, the Law Library worked closely with him to preserve his scholarly work, including finding a permanent and safe home for his papers, explained Kris Turner, associate director of public services at the Law Library.

"Herman's family kindly donated over 30 boxes of his papers to UW," Turner continued. "Of these thousands of items, one of Herman's friends and colleagues, Sergeant Jim Dexheimer of the Madison Police Department, with input from the Law Library, selected the more than 850 items that form the heart of the digital collection."

These items are unique and shed light on the development of the internationally renowned policing concepts that Goldstein spearheaded, as well as other materials of interest to researchers of UW Law School history and American policing development in general.

Goldstein joined the UW Law School faculty in 1964 after spending four years in Chicago as the executive assistant to the Chicago Police Department superintendent O.W. Wilson. He is credited with introducing more just and effective strategies for police to carry out their duties.

Spanning more than 50 years, Goldstein's work covered the most important aspects of policing in democratic societies: the broad nature of the police function, political accountability of the



Herman Goldstein in 1989.

“Professor Goldstein’s books on policing are renowned classics of his field, and his work continues to inform and advance contemporary thought and best practices on policing.”

– Former UW Law Dean Margaret Raymond

police, the exercise and control of police discretion, the control of police misconduct, the many dimensions of police administration that affect police effectiveness and fairness and, ultimately, his comprehensive proposal for improving policing through a problem-oriented approach.

It also included two groundbreaking books and many articles on policing reforms.

For his contributions to the field of modern policing, Goldstein received the 2018 Stockholm Prize in Criminology, an international award that has been called the Nobel Prize of criminology. In awarding the prize, the Stockholm jury not only praised Goldstein’s body of work but also commended its accessibility to broad audiences.

During an interview at the

time, former UW Law Dean Margaret Raymond said Goldstein is an important part of the Law School’s story because his work embodies its focus on learning, teaching and studying the law, not just as it is written but as it is experienced.

“Professor Goldstein’s books on policing are renowned classics of his field, and his work continues to inform and advance contemporary thought and best practices on policing,” she said.

Goldstein died in 2020 at the age of 88, though his legacy continues to shape young lawyers’ thinking, said Cecelia Klingele, associate professor at UW Law.

“Herman’s legacy endures not only through the work of his former students and mentees but also in courses taught at the

Law School today,” said Klingele. “Students read Herman’s work — which is as relevant now as it was when first published — in criminal procedure when examining the role of police and the importance of guiding and regulating police discretion. Herman’s thoughtful, practical and grounded approach to important questions about state power, public safety and basic fairness resonates.”

It’s hard to overestimate the impact that Goldstein had on criminal law scholarship in general and policing in particular, said Turner.

“Professor Goldstein’s work is an amazing example of UW’s Law-in-Action philosophy,” he said. “People from all walks of life have read or cited Professor Goldstein’s work and papers, ranging from police officers to tenured professors to international associations of criminology to small-town mayors. The breadth of interest in Professor Goldstein’s work is, in my opinion, one of the strongest testaments to the importance of this freely accessible collection.”

Goldstein’s works are available in the UW Law School Digital Repository at repository.law.wisc.edu.

By **Kassandra Tuten**



IN FOCUS *Igniting Success*

University of Wisconsin Law School honored the Spring 2023 graduates during an in-person Hooding Ceremony on May 12, 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 hoods over the heads of graduates to signify their success in completing their law degrees. Approximately 250 graduates were hooded during the event, and more than 1,500 family members, friends and faculty attended. The event was also livestreamed to a virtual audience.

Professor Erin McBride and students Damon Terrell, Trager Metge and Harriet Maona were the speakers for the ceremony. They were joined by keynote speaker Justice Louis B. Butler Jr. '77 in addressing Law School graduates, family and friends.

Photos By: Kassandra Tuten, Nick Wilkes and Empire Photography






REFLECTIONS FROM 50 YEARS



Hastie Fellows discuss how the program impacted their careers.

By Brian Walker | Photo illustrations by Kimberly Raether



Mario Barnes '04 had finished 12 years of active service in the United States Navy when he faced a difficult decision. He could have gone on to complete 20 years of military service before moving on to a second career or accept University of Wisconsin Law School's Hastie Fellowship that provides attorneys with diverse backgrounds and experiences an opportunity to prepare for a career in law teaching through two years of mentoring and scholarly work.

With the urging of law professor mentors, Barnes chose the latter despite all that extending his military career offered.

"Be willing to take some risks because the payoff is often well worth it," said Barnes, who was UW Law's Hastie Fellow from 2002-04. He is currently a law professor at the University of California (UC), Irvine. "Taking their advice has yielded rewards beyond anything I could have imagined."

In celebration of the Hastie Fellowship's 50-year milestone in 2023, UW Law School honors William H. Hastie (1904-1976), a lawyer, teacher, jurist and civil rights advocate who championed the importance of high-quality legal education.

UW Law School Professor James E. Jones Jr. (1924-2014), a leading expert in labor law and the architect of several significant programs aimed at achieving greater racial equality in the workforce, was a force in creating the pioneering program.


"Not only is the Hastie Fellowship the first such pipeline program ever established to try to diversify law faculties across the country, it remains the premier such program 50 years after it was established," said Michael States, associate dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) at UW Law. "When you look at the list of former Hastie Fellows, the impact that the program has had on legal education and the legal profession is undeniable."

Hastie Fellows pursue a scholarly agenda of their choice, typically prepare two pieces for publication, and receive mentoring in both their teaching and scholarly work. They have served or are now serving on the faculties of law schools throughout the country and have earned prestigious national honors. Several Hastie Fellows have gone on to become law school deans.

Mentorship from professors who encouraged Hastie Fellow candidates to tap the program as well as those who assisted the students at the Law School is a theme that led to pivotal career growth among the fellows.

Thomas Mitchell, a Hastie Fellow from 1996-99 and now a law professor and the Robert F. Drinan, S.J. Endowed Chair at Boston College Law School, said professors at Howard University (where he attended law school) helped solidify his decision to become a fellow, even nudging him to pursue being a law professor after he was practicing law.

"Professor Andrew Gavil, one of my law professors, came to my office at Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C., to show me a virtual tour of the Hastie program," Mitchell explained. "The focus on interdisciplinary research and the Law-in-Action mission really resonated with me. I got a sense that was central to what I was trying to do. That motivated me to apply to the Hastie program."



Mario Barnes, 2002-04: **Adopting Jones’ Philosophy Paid Off**

Mario Barnes ’04 helped build a law school at UC Irvine during his first stint at that university before becoming the Toni Rembe Dean of the University of Washington’s Law School (2018-21) and then returning to UC Irvine.

He is a nationally recognized scholar for his research on the legal and social implications of race and gender, primarily in the areas of employment, education, criminal and military law.

Barnes said Professor Jones made a huge impact on him during his time as a Hastie Fellow as well as on his career thereafter. He adopted Jones’ philosophy that fellows commit themselves to personal excellence and uplifting others.

“I would spend hours in his office learning about

the history of the Hastie Fellowship and the key role he played in advancing diversity, equity and inclusion throughout his career, in the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Department of Labor, the University of Wisconsin and the legal profession,” Barnes said. “His words were a constant reminder of the significant resources that had been expended to create and maintain new pathways for scholars of color. At the end of my fellowship, I had several offers of employment.”

Barnes went on to earn the 2008 Derrick Bell Award from the Association of American Law Schools Minority Groups Section (AALS-MGS) that honors junior faculty members who have made extraordinary contributions to legal education, the legal system or social justice. He was also a co-recipient in 2015 of the AALS-MGS’s Clyde Ferguson Award that recognizes senior law teachers who have provided outstanding support to aspiring legal educators. At the time, he and Boston University Law Dean Angela Onwuachi-Willig were the first people to be awarded both the Bell and Ferguson Awards. This year, along with colleague Kaaryn Gustafson, Barnes received the American Bar Foundation Fellows Outstanding Scholar Award.

Barnes said his time as a Hastie Fellow resulted in his own prioritizing of DEI matters, both as a faculty member and a dean.

“I know personally what it feels like for students, faculty and staff who are first-generation and persons of color to exist in majority institutions that do not understand the unique challenges they face due to status markers of identity,” he said. “It is only through the deliberate creation of structures such as the Legal Education Opportunities Program, Hastie Fellowship, diverse hiring and other institutional formations that reflect our commitments to meaningful inclusion that we make law schools more comfortable for everyone.”

In each of the six institutions where Barnes has served as a permanent or visiting faculty member, he said it has been a privilege to participate in efforts to advance DEI initiatives for the benefit of the schools, profession, clients and communities.





“...it was important for me to find programs like the Hastie Fellowship willing to support me to survive and thrive and help the next generation.”

—Angélica Guevara '21

Angélica Guevara, 2019-21: Hastie Helped Her ‘Survive and Thrive’

Angélica Guevara, assistant professor at the Department of Business Law and Ethics at Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business, was the Hastie Fellow from 2019-21.

She said her fellowship provided the opportunity of a tenure track position at Indiana University, one of the top business schools in the country.

“I never saw myself teaching law at a business school, but in the end, they offered better pay and greater support for someone with my reading and writing disability,” Guevara said. “I am sure I would not have been seriously considered by such a prestigious school had I not been a Hastie Fellow. Indiana University knew the prestige of the Hastie Fellowship.”

Guevara said her career has been especially fulfilling because she teaches in an area where Latinas are rare in academia.

“I am a dime a dozen in Los Angeles, but in the Midwest, I am rare,” she said. “After being a target of a neo-Nazi group, I realized the Midwest needed professors like me.”

She said diversity and inclusion have always been important to her, but it became even more critical after experiencing the hate for being hired to teach law.

“As a proud neurodivergent Latina with a reading and writing disability, at times making minimum wage with all of my degrees, given the level of discrimination I faced, it was important for me to find programs like the Hastie Fellowship willing to support me to survive and thrive and help the next generation,” Guevara said.

Upon finishing her Hastie Fellowship, Guevara became a business development specialist for the U.S. Department of Labor in the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). She also served as an American Bar Association (ABA) commissioner for disability rights from 2021-22.

Guevara encourages law students to keep in mind that a plethora of opportunities await them.

“Always keep your options open because you can really do almost anything with a law degree,” she said.

Thomas W. Mitchell, 1996-99: Never Settle on the Status Quo

Thomas W. Mitchell has engaged in law reform and policy work and served as the principal drafter of the Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act (UPHPA).

Designed to help disadvantaged families maintain ownership of their property and their property-related generational wealth, the act has been enacted into law by more than 20 states, the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Several other states will consider it in the next few years, making it one of the most successful uniform acts the Uniform Law Commission has promulgated over the past 30 years.

In 2020, Mitchell was named one of 21 recipients of the MacArthur Fellowship (commonly referred to as the MacArthur Genius Grant) for assisting disadvantaged farmers and property owners through his scholarship and law and policy work. He is the only lawyer in his MacArthur class. In 2021, he was awarded the Howard University Award for Distinguished Postgraduate Achievement, an award that former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and Vice President Kamala Harris, among other Howard luminaries, also have received.

In 2022, Mitchell received the American Bar Association's Jefferson B. Fordham Advocacy Award, a prestigious honor that recognizes "outstanding legal advocacy within the area of state, local, regional and tribal government law." He is also a previous recipient of the Elizabeth Hurlock Beck-

man Award for mentoring law students who went on to make substantial contributions to advancing social justice.

In addition to being a Boston College law professor, Mitchell is director of the Initiative on Land, Housing and Property Rights at the institution. The Initiative seeks to preserve and expand property rights for disadvantaged communities through training law students to have capacity in real estate and community development law, research, legal reform and policy work, community outreach and training lawyers and judges. Mitchell is also currently engaged in fundraising efforts to elevate his Initiative into a university-approved center.

Mitchell said facing hurdles as an undergraduate student at Amherst College, including financial hardships and racial equity issues, helped him develop a toughness that carried him throughout his career.

"There was constant financial pressure of not knowing if I'd be in school the next semester," he said. "I started every semester late and didn't have money for textbooks, so I'd work all kinds of jobs to earn money to try to keep me in school."

As a football player at the college, Mitchell experienced racism on the team, leading him to become a student activist. As a result of his activism, the president of the college appointed Mitchell co-chair of a task force to investigate systemic racism within the athletic department.

"I approached my task force role as a lawyer and was able



to force the athletic department to compile racial data on a variety of matters, including recruitment and retention,” he said. “The data was shocking, and it led to opportunities for minority players and coaches. It did not earn me a lot of friends in many circles, but I didn’t back down.”

Even though Mitchell knew he wanted to be a catalyst for change, he said he still had to be convinced by his law professors at Howard University that was a path he should follow.

“I was very resistant to being a law professor,” Mitchell said. “I gently kept putting them off, but ultimately they convinced me to apply for the Hastie Fellowship.”

He said his experience as a Hastie Fellow catapulted him on the job market.

“I didn’t go to Harvard or Yale for law school, so the stellar reputation of the Hastie Fellowship opened doors that would not have been open to me,” Mitchell said. “It also was invaluable in terms of giving me the time and space to write a thesis with good mentorship and polish it.”

Mitchell said he cannot thank Jim Jones enough for his vision in establishing the Hastie Fellowship and for his substantial mentorship.

“His vision and commitment changed the trajectory of my life,” he said.

Networking was another advantage of being a Hastie Fellow.

“I met a subset of professors at conferences who are engaged in the real world,” Mitchell said.

Mitchell’s thesis, which was published in the *Northwestern University Law Review*, was titled “From Reconstruction to Deconstruction: Undermining Black Ownership, Political Independence and Community Through Partition Sales of Tenancies in Common Property.” The article addresses how African Americans lost millions of acres of land and the sociopolitical implications of that land loss. Forced partition sales of tenancy in common property, referred to more commonly as heirs’ property, was a major source of the land loss.

One to never settle for the status quo, Mitchell, during his time as a Hastie Fellow, directed a national summer law externship program that he named the Community Development Externship Program. It sought to help individuals who faced a lack of access to affordable legal services throughout the country.

“It was part of the service work I did separate from serving as a Hastie Fellow,” Mitchell said. “It was a way to leverage the academic work I was doing to make a greater impact. Throughout my career, having that approach resulted in me doing a lot of essential work that was not a part of my job.”

Hastie Fellowship: Addressing Diversity With Measurable Outcomes

Mitchell said fellowships such as the Hastie one are critical in today’s job market because fewer tenured-track law jobs exist.

“Having opportunities to observe faculty up close is incredibly important,” Mitchell said. “Formal and informal networking allows you to expand your knowledge of the field.”

Since Barnes had worked as an attorney in the Navy and was building a research agenda at “the intersection of sociolegal studies and critical theories,” some believed when he re-entered the job market that he may be unemployable unless he was willing to “repackage” himself.

“But my Hastie mentors encouraged me to pursue the work I was passionate about and to find a school that would see value in my choices,” he said. “One of the greatest benefits to my career was that the fellowship convinced me I did not need to change myself to succeed in law teaching. Irrespective of conventional wisdom, I do belong and my work matters.”

Barnes said the example UW Law set with its own faculty hiring and the creation of the Hastie Fellowship is that we must place deeds behind words when it comes to improving diversity, equity and inclusion in law schools and the profession.

“Professor Jones established the Hastie Fellowship, in part, as a response to law schools claiming they could not locate any ‘qualified’ candidates of color,” Barnes explained. “If we are truly concerned about improving representation and opportunity, we must stop reinvesting in the status quo and start addressing our lack of diversity through plans tied to measurable outcomes. The large number of Hastie Fellows teaching throughout the nation is such an outcome.”



Weight of *the States*

State Democracy Research Initiative leads the way in focusing attention, creating resources and building community.

By Jennie Broecker

Several years ago, Miriam Seifter and Robert Yablon came to recognize that state-level law was both extremely important to the future of democracy and woefully understudied.

That realization led them to launch the State Democracy Research Initiative (SDRI) at University of Wisconsin Law School in 2021. Ever since, SDRI has been shining a spotlight on state-level democracy, government institutions and public law. Not just in Wisconsin, which has now famously drawn national media attention, but across the country.

“State-level issues deserve far more attention than they typically get,” Seifter said. “They play a huge role in people’s day-to-day lives and are central to our democracy. But you really can’t protect institutions that you overlook or don’t understand.”

Faculty Co-Directors Seifter and Yablon, along with their staff, have generated academic research, amicus briefs and legal explainers, all housed for easy access on their website, statedemocracy.law.wisc.edu.

They have fielded a plethora of newspaper, radio and television interviews, with more requests than they can accommodate. And they have hosted more than a dozen events, including the annual Election Matters Series and Public Law in the States Conference, to foster dialogue and build community.

It’s been fast paced from day one, Seifter said.

And all of that doesn’t even include their classroom responsibilities, which they still prioritize. Both have won Law School and university-wide awards for their teaching.

“Given that we are at a flagship state law school where many of our students go on to practice in state governments and in state courts, it is helpful for them to be exposed more systematically to state laws and institutions while they’re in law school,” said Yablon. “A lot of the core doctrinal curriculum they otherwise get is a nationalized curriculum and they can leave law school without a clear idea of what is distinctive about state systems.”

While Seifter and Yablon are widely published

leaders in the fields of constitutional law, administrative law and election law, one of the biggest challenges they faced was building an organization from the ground up.

“It really is like launching a startup,” Yablon said. “I don’t know the extent to which Miriam and I contemplated at the beginning that we would be spending time on things like designing logos, building websites and supporting a growing team of employees and interns.”

Another challenge is the meticulous work.

“State public law is a field without a lot of existing, off-the-shelf resources to answer even basic questions,” Seifter said. “We have frequently found that we need to create the resources — to read and digest the constitutions, the case law, the statutes, the regulations, the informal documents.”

Putting all of that together is complicated.

“It definitely requires a lot of human time and investment of legal analysis, but we think the pay-offs are really great,” Seifter said.

Bree Grossi Wilde, SDRI’s executive director, took it one step further: It can be laborious to access even basic information like state court dockets.

“Sometimes you can find the case, sometimes you can’t,” she said, adding that if briefs or opinions are not available, they have to call clerks’ offices and sometimes even mail in fees.

Seifter, Yablon and Wilde all agree that their work has been extremely fulfilling, and they are grateful for support from the broader Law School community and beyond.

“We’ve managed to build an amazing team,” Seifter said. “We’re really proud to be working with each of our colleagues, and to be collaborating with so many great people outside of UW, too. Academia can be a solitary field, and this has given us a real sense of community.”

SDRI is looking to build on its successes and expand the scope of its work by developing interactive websites as another resource to display research. The first two will focus on state constitutions.

And next year is expected to be as busy as ever.

In the 2023-24 academic year, SDRI will host Election Matters events on voting rights and the 2024 election; a panel discussion on state constitutions and climate change; two scholarship roundtables; a roundtable between academics and practitioners; and the fourth annual Public Law in the States Conference — with more still to come.

“Our work to date has been both reactive and proactive,” Yablon said. “We try to offer informed legal analysis of pending cases and unfolding events. In 2024, there will likely be a flurry of election-related lawsuits around the country, and we will no doubt spend time following those and trying to

engage with them. But we’re also trying to foster a community of academics and practitioners who are taking state laws and institutions seriously. Moving forward, our goal is to contribute to the long-term project of building strong and resilient state democratic systems while remaining attentive to near-term issues and challenges as well.”



UEDA PHOTOGRAPHY



Associate Professor Robert Yablon leads a panel discussion with state supreme court justices for State Democracy Research Initiative’s “Public Law in the States: The Work of State Supreme Courts” event June 2, 2023, at Memorial Union on the UW–Madison campus.



Faculty Co-Directors: Partners at Work ... And at Home

Before joining University of Wisconsin Law School and creating this new hub for people interested in state-level democracy, Miriam Seifter and Robert Yablon worked as litigators at top national law firms, briefing and arguing cases in state and federal courts across the country.

Seifter served as a law clerk for then-Judge Merrick Garland of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Yablon also clerked for Justice Ginsburg, where he and Seifter met as co-clerks. And he clerked for Justice Sonia Sotomayor, as well as for Judge William Fletcher of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

For those who didn't know, yes, they are married. And having two elementary-school-age children leads to interesting conversations at home.

"It's always a juggle, but of course there's no one I'd rather manage it with," Seifter said. "We met working together, so it doesn't seem that strange to us. At one point we realized our kids didn't know that not all parents work together."

"Sometimes the kids weigh in with surprisingly good insights," Yablon added. "Other times they make very clear that it's time to stop talking about work for the day."

About the Staff

It takes tremendous talent to do this work. Learn more about the staff of the State Democracy Research Initiative.



Bree Grossi Wilde

Executive Director, since July 2022

Most recent previous position: Career law clerk for Judge William Conley of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin for 12 years

Why I took this position: I joined SDRI in large part inspired by the work and vision of the Co-Faculty Directors, Professors Miriam Seifter and Robert Yablon. The executive director position provided me an opportunity to leverage organizational skills and engage in new areas of law. My hope was that I could take on the bulk of the administrative responsibilities to free up Rob and Miriam's time to devote to scholarship.

Most rewarding experience so far: I'm really proud of the various gatherings that we have hosted over the last year. We've supported cutting-edge academic research on state law, provided a space for state court judges to engage with academics, and fostered relationships between academics and practitioners focused on state-related democracy issues. We also provide a lot of free CLEs for alums looking for credits.

How to Donate

SDRI hopes to secure funding to expand its work in the years ahead. For information on how to support SDRI's efforts, please contact Executive Director Bree Grossi Wilde at 608-890-2923 or bgwilde@wisc.edu. Donations can also be made through SDRI's website, statedemocracy.law.wisc.edu.



Emily Lau

Staff Attorney, since August 2022, upon earning J.D.

Why I took this

position: I developed an interest in state government institutions and democracy during my time working in state government and through my coursework in law school. I also

knew that I wanted to pursue a career that involved research, so SDRI was a perfect fit for both my substantive and career interests.

Most rewarding experience so far: I have really enjoyed working on amicus briefs with other members of the team.



Derek Clinger

Senior Staff Attorney, since August 2022

Most recent previous

position: Partner at an election law firm in Columbus, Ohio (McTigue & Colombo)

Why I took this po-

sition: I went to law school wanting to work on issues of democracy

and governance, and I was really drawn to SDRI's mission of drawing attention to these types of issues specifically at the state level, where so many important decisions are made often with little public awareness. It has been a real joy to work on such fascinating and important issues in such a supportive environment.

Most rewarding experience so far: I'm proud of the amicus briefs that we've prepared and filed in several important democracy cases, though we're still waiting for several decisions.



Allie Boldt

Legal Research Director, since July 2021

Most recent previous

position: Attorney, Wisconsin Department of Safety & Professional Services

Why I took this po-

sition: I was thrilled to join the Initiative at its inception and return to working on democracy

law issues after a brief hiatus. My position allows me to draw upon my state legal experience and my passion for democracy. Directing long-term legal research projects is an exciting challenge.

Most rewarding experience so far: The opportunity to work with and get to know UW Law students. Our students rock!



Adam Sopko

Staff Attorney, since September 2022

Most recent previous

position: Law clerk to Chief Justice Stuart J. Rabner, New Jersey Supreme Court

Why I took this

position: I wanted to work on cutting-edge research into state courts and constitu-

tions. In that way, SDRI was a perfect fit because of its unique mission to study public law and institutions at the state level.

Most rewarding experience so far: Seeing our research relied on by courts, scholars, policymakers and the media, and knowing that our work is making a difference to help solve some of the biggest issues facing our democracy.

“Working at the State Democracy Research Initiative has been a critical part of my professional development. I’ve had a valuable opportunity to develop my legal research skills as well as contribute to the academic study of some foundational components of our political system.”

—Thomas Tretheway, 3L



Welcome Back

By **Kassandra Tuten**



*Amanda White Eagle, Lisa Washington
and Chris Lau return to UW Law.*

Amanda White Eagle '05 Joins Great Lakes Indigenous Law Center as Director

As a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation, Amanda White Eagle '05 thought it was important to be a part of University of Wisconsin Law School, which occupies ancestral Ho-Chunk land, a place their nation has called Teejop (day-JOPE) since time immemorial. This fall, White Eagle returned to fill an essential role at her alma mater: director of the Great Lakes Indigenous Law Center (GLILC).

White Eagle, a double Badger who first studied French, anthropology and American Indian Studies, graduated from UW Law in 2005. Her path to the legal profession was anything but typical.

"I had a bit of a nontraditional experience as a law student," said White Eagle, who gave birth to her daughter during her first semester of Law School and her son during her last. "Nontraditional students were in a different category back then. We didn't always get the same opportunities for making connections and feeling part of the school like our counterparts were able to."

Despite this, White Eagle never felt alone at UW Law; she found the Indigenous Law Students Association (ILSA) and the broader Legal Education Opportunities (LEO) Program community, which offered her opportunities for friendship, networking and inclusivity.

"Being a member of ILSA really helped me and my family succeed," she said.

It wasn't until the second semester of law school that White Eagle discovered her interests in tribal law.

"When I first started law school, I was convinced I wanted to go into corporate or tax law," said White Eagle. "I took a lot of tax law courses and just thought I was going to go into that area as my career after graduation. I've actually done very little tax law professionally, but my coursework in that area did give me a strong background that's been beneficial in other areas of my professional life."

During her second semester, White Eagle became a Josephine P. White Eagle Graduate Fellow, which is available to Ho-Chunk Nation members who intend to complete a master's or doctorate degree at an accredited college or university in the United States. The award covers tuition, fees, books and living expenses while in school. Upon completion of the degree program, recipients choose to either work within the Ho-Chunk Nation for the time covered by the award or pay back the funds. White Eagle chose the former (and then some), working for the tribe for

an impressive 18 years.

White Eagle fulfilled various roles while working for the Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Government, including judicial law clerk, tribal attorney, senior tribal counsel, associate judge, interim chief judge and attorney general. She credits the Ho-Chunk Nation with her opportunities.

In 2019, White Eagle pursued an opportunity as a clinical fellow with the New York University (NYU)-Yale American Indian Sovereignty Project. The Project seeks to support initiatives pertaining to issues of tribal sovereignty and federal Indian law in the United States. Housed jointly at NYU Law and within Yale's College of Letters and Science, the project coordinates faculty and student research efforts, campus programmatic work in the field and educational programming at both campuses.

"With the Sovereignty Project, I filed amicus briefs before the Supreme Court and worked with students on historical legal research and tracking of federal Indian law cases across the different circuit courts," explained White Eagle.

It's crucial to ensure students have experiences studying federal and tribal law while in law school, she said. And it's something UW Law, with its Law-in-Action tradition, excels at.

"As a first-generation law student, if you don't have any experience with court systems or lawyers, the lessons are really abstract," White Eagle said. "I remember sitting in class my first year of law school and not fully comprehending what things mean. You sit there and repeat the words, but you don't understand how it's all applied. But with the Law-in-Action tradition and the experiences I had at UW Law, I was

"I'm excited for the opportunity to bring my ideas to the table to ensure [GLILC's] continued success. My vision focuses on strengthening partnerships to support the Center's reputation as the preeminent organization in the Midwest for Native issues..."

afforded many experiences of applying and practicing the law within the borders of Wisconsin. All these opportunities gave me practical experience, and it showed me the dynamics of how law played out in practical terms.”

While White Eagle enjoyed the Sovereignty Project and strongly supported its mission, when the director position for UW Law’s Great Lakes Indigenous Law Center was posted, she couldn’t resist applying.

“I thought it would be a great opportunity to bring my expertise to UW Law and share some ideas I had that could assist the Center,” she said.

The first charter for the GLILC was adopted by UW Law faculty at Professor Richard Monette’s request in 1992. Monette ’90, a former Hastie Fellow, had recently joined the faculty. One of his first action items was drafting and placing the original charter for the Center on the faculty agenda.

GLILC was established to improve the practical legal skills of all students interested in federal Indian law while providing a legal resource for Native Nations. Eleven federally recognized Native Nations are surrounded by the state of Wisconsin, including six bands of Chippewa and Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, Oneida, Menominee and Mohican (Stockbridge-Munsee) Tribes. The Center’s mission is to “advance the Wisconsin Idea by connecting Law in Action to Native Nations and Native organizations throughout Wisconsin and the nation, and to Indigenous peoples throughout the world.”

“Richard has done a lot of really great work building this great Center, and, as an Indigenous person, I’m excited for the opportunity to bring my ideas to the table to ensure its continued success,” said White Eagle. “My vision focuses on strengthening partnerships to support the Center’s reputation as the preeminent organization in the Midwest for Native issues and has a series of incremental steps for its implementation and growth. I hope to revitalize the Center’s infrastructure and create new partnerships, including cross-institutional collaborations with other law schools.”

Monette, who has served as the Center’s director since its founding, is thrilled to welcome White Eagle into the role.

“I am delighted and excited for the Law School and the Center,” said Monette. “Amanda and GLILC Outreach Specialist Dan Cornelius ’09, both of whom are local tribal members and UW alumni, will connect well with area Native Nations and fulfill the missions of the university, the Law School and the Center.”



While White Eagle’s decision to accept the position rested strongly in her cultural identity and professional background, she said she felt incredibly welcomed to the Law School by Dean Dan Tokaji as well as the faculty and staff who reached out to her to express their excitement about her work and ideas for the future of the Center.

White Eagle noted she was also highly impressed by the UW Law Library, which, in partnership with the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, the GLILC, the National Indian Law Library and the Open Law Library, received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to develop the Digital Publication of Tribal Laws Pilot Project. In this Project, librarians and developers work with Native Nations to openly publish their laws using a customized platform that offers tribes full ownership and control over their content.

“UW Law has a strong legacy in tribal law, and there are wonderful new things happening in that area and the community was so welcoming. I just felt like this was a place I could contribute and thrive as a professional,” she said.

Christopher Lau Felt 'Desire to Return' to Wisconsin

Christopher Lau understands the importance of struggling alongside marginalized clients.

After receiving a joint J.D.-M.P.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, and Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs, Lau spent seven years in the criminal defense practice of The Bronx Defenders. He then spent a year as director of University of Wisconsin Law School's Wisconsin Innocence Project before serving last year as a visiting assistant professor at Cardozo School of Law in New York.

This fall, he felt the call to come back to UW Law as a clinical assistant professor.

"Part of the impetus for my desire to return was knowing how much need there is to help incarcerated people in Wisconsin," he said. "Unfortunately, Wisconsin has higher incarceration rates than almost all its neighbors. By some metrics, it also has the highest Black incarceration rate in the nation."

According to Lau, despite having a similar population size, Wisconsin incarcerates twice as many people as neighboring Minnesota and spends twice as much on corrections — with no indication that it makes the state any safer.

Lau's research and teaching originates from his experience working alongside Black, brown and low-income people ensnared by the criminal legal system.

"As a public defender in the Bronx, it was impossible to ignore how the legal system disproportionately targets, surveils and punishes poor communities of color," he said. "My research examines alternatives to our current system of policing and prosecution."

Lau's work rests within the Law School's Law-in-Action tradition, which is central to the clinical teaching model at the Wisconsin Innocence Project.

"Our students work with clients who have been wrongfully convicted and learn firsthand just how unfairly the legal system is structured," he explained. "They learn that the legal system is not a neutral system, but one built to subordinate people who are marginalized because of their race, economic status, and sexual and gender identity. Our students learn how to use their knowledge and skills as law students to fight alongside clients who otherwise are left without recourse."

A strong tradition of equal access to justice under

the law and a desire to help the incarcerated were among the top factors that shaped Lau's decision to return. The other consideration was the opportunity to be part of a community that "can make real change," both at the Law School and more broadly.

"The Law School under Dean Dan Tokaji has provided great support for clinical teaching and emerging scholarship, which makes it an exciting place to teach and to practice," he said, adding that the entire UW Law community has been incredibly supportive and welcoming.

Although it's a sad testament to the long delays in post-conviction cases, many of the clients Lau worked with previously at UW Law are still active clients of the Wisconsin Innocence Project.

"I'm most looking forward to getting back to work on their cases," he said. "The goal is always to try and get some modicum of justice for our clients. We hope that more of our clients, many of whom have been incarcerated for decades, are able to come home. However, we also hope to instill in our students the importance of struggling alongside their clients, no matter the outcome."



Former Hastie Fellow Lisa Washington '22 Returns to UW Law

Former Hastie Fellow Lisa Washington '22, who returned to University of Wisconsin Law School this fall, brings with her a philosophy rooted in the Law-in-Action tradition and a desire to inspire the next generation of lawyers.

“My research interest and passion for teaching and working with students is driven by a belief that legal education should have an impact outside of the classroom,” explained Washington, assistant professor of law.

Washington received her first law degree from Humboldt University in Berlin and went on to earn her LL.M. at Columbia Law School. While working as a public defender at The Bronx Defenders in New York City, she worked on her Ph.D. studies in comparative criminal procedure at Freie Universität Berlin and recently successfully defended her dissertation.

During her time in practice, Washington worked alongside parents ensnared in the child welfare system — a system she refers to as the “family regulation system” — and other carceral systems. She learned how connected the immigration, criminal legal and family regulation systems are and how they impact the lives of marginalized people across the country.

Washington came to UW Law as a 2021-22 Hastie Fellow, an experience she said “could not have been better.” (You can learn more about the Hastie Fellowship on page 16.)

“I felt supported by the faculty and really part of the larger campus as well,” she said. “My time as a Hastie Fellow gave me the opportunity to focus on my research agenda after a busy but fulfilling time in practice.”

Washington said she’s been lucky to have mentors who generously supported her at various stages of her career. She’s grateful for individuals such as Professor Catherine Smith at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law for convincing her that the move from practice to academia was a real possibility. And for UW’s John and Rylla Bosshard Professor of Law Heinz Klug, her research advisor during her time as a Hastie Fellow.

His own experience and excellent reputation as a teacher and scholar are an inspiration, she said.

“Lisa Washington is one of the most thorough and creative young scholars I have had the privilege to work with and I am very excited that she will be



joining our faculty,” said Klug.

After her time as a Hastie Fellow, Washington joined the faculty of Brooklyn Law School, where she taught evidence and criminal procedure with a focus on police investigations.

“My research is informed by my practice experience and interdisciplinary interests,” said Washington. “I draw on lived experiences and highlight my own positionality within my work.”

In the classroom, Washington said she loves incorporating real-world examples, current debates and simulations into her teaching.

“As stressful as law school can be, it should also be fun and generative,” she explained.

Washington looks forward to showing her students that even a “rule-based class like evidence can be a lot of fun.”

“I hope to support them in finding their own unique place as lawyers and challenge them to think critically,” she continued. “Being a lawyer — with all its challenges — changed my life, opened up opportunities and helped me find my own way of working toward a world I’d like to see become reality. I hope I can inspire students to do the same.”



‘Ahead of the Curve’

UW Law’s whole-person approach to education encourages students to think holistically about their wellness.

By Kassandra Tuten | Illustrations by Danielle Lamberson Philipp

Training future generations of lawyers and leaders is what University of Wisconsin Law School does. Today, we understand that setting students up for success goes beyond simply teaching them how to take care of their clients; at UW Law, it also means supporting a healthy mind, body and spirit.

This whole-person approach to education has made UW Law a trailblazer in the law school community in terms of providing student wellness support services and resources.

“We’ve developed a wellness-in-action website that encourages students to think holistically about their wellness,” explained Lauren Devine, assistant dean for Student Affairs at UW Law.

The website, law.wisc.edu/wellness, addresses multiple aspects of student wellness, including mental health and safety, personal life, financial and academic.

“It informs them about the various resources in the Law School, on campus and in the community, many of which are free to them as students,” Devine added. “Also, under my predecessor’s leadership, we hired an embedded mental health counselor for our students. Some entities now have an embedded services model. We’ve adopted that approach, and it really sets us ahead of the curve.”

In short, having John Schneider in the School is significant.

“It’s important that our students have University Health Services (UHS) available to provide diagnoses when needed, but also that the Law School can provide resources and support and services for those students who don’t need a diagnosis, those who just need support during a particularly challenging time,” he explained.

While Schneider works directly within the Law School, he also works collaboratively with UHS and other area providers to deliver the best care and resources to students.

While significant, mental health and counseling services are just one avenue for supporting law students on their wellness journey. In recent years, the Law Library has broadened its offerings to support student health and well-being.

More Than Books: Law Library Provides Wellness Resources

“The Law Library places a high priority on supporting the well-being of our law students,” said Associate Dean and Law Library Director Bonnie Shucha. “We offer a range of resources to actively support their mental, emotional and physical wellness alongside their academic journey.”

This includes a collection of books about wellness such as “Yoga for Lawyers” and the illustrated “RBG Workout,” based on former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s regimen.

But these, along with legal-themed fiction and movies, are just the beginning.

The Library also offers a selection of more unique items, including chargers and cords, book stands, standing desks, cushions and light-therapy lamps.

Library staff are always seeking to be responsive to the students’ requests.

“One of the pieces we received a lot of feedback on, but which is difficult to accommodate, is the desire for more natural light in the building,” said B.J. Ramsay, cir-



Lauren Devine



John Schneider



Bonnie Shucha



B.J. Ramsay



Emma Hawley

ulation law librarian and member of the Law School's Student Wellness Committee. "The Library has beautiful, massive windows in the Habush, Habush and Rottier Reading Room, but other areas are not as well-illuminated."

So, the Library purchased numerous therapy lamps, also known as happy lights.

"It's not quite the same thing as adding more natural lighting, but it's as close as we can come since we can't really do much about the architecture of the building," Ramsay said. "They're really popular. And they can serve a double duty in that we have students who also use them as lighting for virtual interviews and meetings. So, that's a plus."

The Law Library also provides a selection of recreational materials for law students to enjoy when taking a break from their studies, including Frisbees, ping-pong paddles, puzzles, coloring pages and even Play-Doh. Last year, the Library introduced a collection of legal-themed board games inspired and donated by Professor Steph Tai. In these games, students can rule on hot-button issues in I Dissent, investigate food-related crimes as an FDA agent in Chew or draft their ideal bill of rights in Bill of Rights.

The Library also provides space for wellness activities like weekly guided mindfulness meditations, which provide students an opportunity to decompress.

"These student-led sessions just started last fall and have been gaining interest," said Ramsay. "Space is at a premium in the Law School, but we all try to do what we can."

Last fall, Library staff also created an interactive display called The Wellness Pitstop. The goal was to encourage students to engage in short wellness practices throughout the day such as deep breathing, being grateful, laughing and connecting with others.

You can find a guide to the Library's many Law Student Wellness resources at researchguides.library.wisc.edu/lawstudentwellness.

"Some people don't think about some of these items like chargers and Frisbees as wellness related, but it's all about helping the students take a level of stress off, whether that's giving them tools to study more comfortably in a space or giving them a tactile activity to take their minds off their studies," said Ramsay. "It's all important, and it all adds up."

The students have also taken up the call to action themselves through activities to support their physical, mental and emotional health. Take the Law Run Club, for example.

Students Build a Wellness Community

In Fall 2021, five first-year UW Law students got off to a running start.

Even though they didn't know anyone outside the walls of their classes, they shared a schedule and a passion for running. Thus, the UW Law Run Club was born.

"We would all meet up after our contracts class," said Emma Hawley, now a 3L and founding member of the club. "As new law students, we found running to be an important part of our mental and physical health. It got us outside and away from our studies for a bit, and it allowed us to connect with each other and our peers in ways we never imagined."

Running along the Lakeshore Path was a way to take care of themselves holistically.

"We left so many classes confused as 1Ls, and we didn't have the confidence yet to ask questions in class, so we found the Run Club as a way to not only remain active physically, but it became an outlet for us to ask our peers questions," said Hawley. "We would talk about everything from particularly challenging topics from class to the best restaurants in town. It was great to be able to connect with other fellow students outside the classroom, in what can be, at times, an isolating field of study."

Each week during the semester, members of the group meet to run three miles along Lake Mendota. Some choose to run the full distance to Picnic Point. It's a real "build your own adventure," said Hawley. The goal is always accessibility, however.

"We've tried to create a space for everyone to participate and gain the physical and mental health benefits of the club," said Hawley.

Though it's sometimes difficult keeping the club up and running (pun intended), especially in finding a time that works for multiple participants, Hawley said the rewards far outweigh any of the challenges.

It's been fun to see and "kind of surprising" how quickly word of the club has spread, said Hawley, who is working with

members of the group to ensure the club continues.

“It’s incredible how many faculty, students and staff across the Law School and broader Madison community are interested in joining us, even Dean [Dan] Tokaji,” she said. “We’re even considering working toward a networking run with some of the Supreme Court justices. It’s just incredible how this little club has allowed us to expand into an even larger community than UW Law. It’s really something.”

Change Is Coming

Jodi Klagos, a third-year UW Law student, sees growing recognition that law schools and the legal profession must address the stress and often unhealthy coping practices in their ranks.

“There seems to be a growing recognition that law school and the legal profession are stressful, and many of the ways in which people cope are not healthy,” said Klagos, who has been heavily involved in wellness initiatives at UW since her second year. “People also recognize that to be able to serve others, it is important to take care of yourself first.”

While Schneider says he’s seen a shift in the stigma around mental health decreasing, there’s more to do.

“I’ve noticed a significant divide in how our student body sees mental health when compared with the regulators of the profession (e.g., boards of bar examiners), for example,” he explained. “Our students view mental health the same way they view physical health, meaning just as they would have no qualm about going to the doctor to treat an injury, our students feel comfortable contacting a mental health provider when emotionally distraught. However, talking to a therapist typically necessitates a diagnostic code to bill insurance which, in turn, could be misunderstood as a more serious or chronic impairment. Suddenly, their path to becoming a lawyer may have gotten more challenging. We want to encourage and not punish help-seeking.”

In general, he said, he’s “optimistic” to see the stigma falling away.

“More and more students will see me in the hall and tell their friends to come see me for help,” he added. “I hear professors and judges, and there’s always a plug in their discussions for taking care of yourself, and I see a really big shift in this direction,



and that makes me hopeful.”

While much progress has been made, there’s still more to do.

“Last academic year, the Law School hosted several listening sessions with our students,” explained Devine. “They obviously love John, but we need more resources. We’re offering as many unique services to our students as we can, but we do have financial limitations. Through the help of our alumni, we’re hoping to continue improving our students’ experiences in this area. They deserve the very best. And we’re going to continue providing that.”

A Student's View

Jodi Klagos 3L explains why wellness initiatives are important for law students.

Q: Can you describe how you became involved in UW Law's student wellness initiatives?

A: Coming into Law School, I was passionate about wellness and was hopeful that I would be able to maintain that part of my life while also going to school. Early in the fall of my first year, I learned about the Mindfulness in Law Society (MILS) through a Student Bar Association email. MILS's mission is to enhance well-being in the legal profession by educating it about the benefits of mindfulness meditation, yoga and other contemplative practices. I contacted MILS and became a student ambassador for their student division. I currently work with MILS to help connect students at other law schools with resources about mindfulness and other contemplative practices, and I recently attended their conference and retreat in Memphis, Tennessee.

After I found out about MILS, I learned about the UW Law School Wellness Coalition (LSWC) and attended a wellness panel they hosted, where practicing attorneys and a UW Law professor spoke about how they maintain balance in their personal and professional lives. After that, I started to think about ways I could integrate some of the practices that MILS focuses on with the activities of the LSWC.

Q: How did you do that?

A: I have had several conversations with peers, as well as with practicing lawyers, about the importance of well-being. Through a couple of different outreach initiatives, such as having a booth at the fall orientation student organization fair and sending out a wellness survey to the Law School student body, the LSWC found out that there is a large interest in wellness among law students.

Q: With such interest in this area, what sort of programming was offered to meet the needs of students?

A: This past year, the LSWC hosted an event in conjunction with the fall orientation for new law students. About 40 students hiked Picnic Point and had a campfire afterward with s'mores. This past school year, the LSWC organized an outing to a pumpkin farm and apple orchard, hosted another wellness panel, shared virtual wellness opportunities from MILS, offered a yoga class, hosted weekly meditations and organized a movie night in conjunction with Admitted Students Weekend. Additionally, in my TA position in the Law School last spring, I included 5-10 minutes of mindfulness and wellness into my weekly review sessions. Moving forward, the LSWC hopes to continue to offer more wellness opportunities for students.

Q: Why do you feel that wellness initiatives are important for yourself and your peers?

A: Because having a set of tools and resources that you can turn to can help you stay holistically healthy, including building resiliency and the ability to keep things in perspective.

For the last couple of years, I have made morning meditation a non-negotiable in my life, so I meditate for 30 minutes every morning before I start my day because it helps me to be more responsive instead of reactive.

Throughout the day, as I find myself needing to feel more grounded and centered, I will try to get outside and get some fresh air. When I am on campus, my go-to spots are the Memorial Union and Bascom Hill. Both make me feel better almost immediately, especially if the sun is shining. I also write in a journal in the morning and at night, which helps me set intentions for the day, express gratitude and reflect on my day.

These practices have made a big difference in my life and have helped me to enjoy my Law School experience. My goal in my last year at UW Law is to help create a community around wellness so that students can stay healthy throughout their school experience and their legal career.



Changing What's Possible

After the U.S. Supreme Court's *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision made same-sex marriage equality the law of the land, Clayton Goetz knew his personal life would be different. But he had no idea that the ripples of that 2015 landmark case would change the direction of his professional life, too.

"In the wake of *Obergefell*, all of a sudden, I saw a future for myself that I hadn't seen before," said Goetz, who had just come out at the time. "And it felt like the rest of the world opened. I felt this need to give back and plug into this community that I was building around myself of queer people, who were the ones getting me through that time of soul searching."

He began volunteering with the San Francisco Steering Committee for the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBTQ+ civil rights organization — and soon found himself mingling with lawyers for the first time.

"I have no attorneys in my family, and my only other exposure to attorneys were billboards and ads for personal injury attorneys," he said. "And then I started meeting attorneys who did other things, and it just opened my mind to what was possible with a legal education. It can get me close to these things I'm passionate about: the policy work, the advocacy, moving things forward."

Law school was never something he considered when he left high school early and enrolled in college at age 16.

"I was really eager to get out in the world and be working," said Goetz, who earned his bachelor's degree in organizational behavior and leadership.

During his nine years in the working world before law school, Goetz tried a lot of different jobs: everything from selling kitchen remodeling for The Home Depot to working in sales and marketing for a mortgage bank. By the time the COVID-19 pandemic hit, he was commuting three to four hours a day as a recruiter in Silicon Valley.

"So, when we went all remote, I suddenly had way more time in my day," he said. "And I was sitting around thinking: What do I want to do with my life? Where do I want to be in five years? I don't want to be in HR. I was good at it — I enjoyed working with people one-on-one and interviewing and all that

kind of stuff — but there was something missing."

He decided to apply to law school and was intrigued by University of Wisconsin.

"I had volunteered with campaigns, I'm interested in election and political law and I wanted to go somewhere that was purple so I can see what is actually going on in the country in these national conversations that we're having and really get close to the work," he said. "I was also very, very lucky to be offered a scholarship that made a huge difference. So that really changed the game and made it possible."

He quickly threw himself into Law School, competing with Moot Court, getting involved with the *Wisconsin Law Review* as an associate, conducting constitutional law research as a research assistant to Assistant Professor Joshua Braver, and serving as president of the Wisconsin Student Bar Association. This summer, he worked at a Washington, D.C.-area law firm and is applying for clerkships for after graduation. Ultimately, he plans to focus on litigation.

"I would love to work on voting rights cases, and it's a great opportunity for pro bono work," said Goetz, who interned at

the League of Women Voters last fall. "I'm trying to really be very intentional about building my early career skills and seeing where that takes me."

He's come a long way from the young adult who was mostly focused on surviving in the ultra-expensive Bay Area.

"I knew that I wanted to do something with purpose and meaning and passion, but I just didn't see how it would be possible," he said. "I don't know that I would've believed myself if I had told early-20s-me that this is where I'd be and this is the work I would be doing. It's amazing how much this Law School experience at UW has changed the direction and course of what I'll be able to do with my life."

It's the generosity of UW alumni donors who made it possible, Goetz added.

"That's huge," he said. "And I am so glad to be at a place like UW Law School and kind of stand on the shoulders of everybody else who came before and all of the pioneers who have passed through those doors, and hopefully, I'll take that spirit with me."

By Nicole Sweeney Etter



Clayton Goetz

Neiha Lasharie Isn't Interested in Becoming a 'Black-and-White' Lawyer ...

And luckily, UW Law School has no interest in making her one.

Neiha Lasharie has no interest in being a “black-and-white lawyer.” Luckily, her experiences at University of Wisconsin Law School are setting her up for success in that mission.

Lasharie was born and raised in Pakistan and lived in Dubai between the ages of 12 and 18. She received her undergraduate and master's degrees at universities in Boston, where she specialized in public international law and human rights.

“I've always known that I needed to help people in some way; it was always a matter of figuring out how, and I realized pretty young that it was going to be political and international in some way,” she said. “International law ended up being exactly what I was looking for.”

In 2017, Lasharie worked at the Dutch Rapporteur for Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence Against Children as a research intern, an experience she said impacted the entire trajectory of her career.

“It was a really affirming experience for me because it helped me gain confidence in my research skills,” she said. “I was able to see the ways policy and law informed the Netherlands' approach to human trafficking and contribute toward some of the research products the Rapporteur's office produced.”

She also utilized the extensive library at the Rapporteur's office, where she was first exposed to the critiques of the anti-trafficking field.

“I was funding my time in the Netherlands with a research grant, and I used that to explore the anti-trafficking industrial complex,” she explained.

This undergraduate research



led to Lasharie's graduate capstone, which resulted in her receiving the best paper award at the Human Trafficking Research Network Conference — which she ran the following year while a 1L at UW Law.

"This is now an area that I'm deeply passionate about, and it empowered me to take a staunchly decolonial lens to the rest of my legal research, which I have pursued even in Law School," she said.

When choosing what law school to attend, Lasharie said she asked herself which would best fill in the gaps in her already robust international law knowledge.

"I remember seeing Professor Asifa Quraishi-Landes' work, and I was told about Professor Mitra Sharafi. Both their research areas appealed to me as someone who is interested in Islamic law and South Asian legal history, and I didn't find any other schools that had the collegial feel I prioritized and had a faculty as incredible as UW Law," she explained.

Lasharie said she's "really proud" of what she's accomplished so far as a Badger.

She joined the Middle Eastern Law Students Association (MELSA) early on because of her ties to the Middle East and Islamic culture. She also joined the Student Bar Association as both a 1L and 2L representative and did research work for Professor Sharafi. She later conducted a directed research project under Professor Quraishi-Landes on the potential Islamic law influence on the original conception of the law of nations. Lasharie also joined the Wisconsin International Law Society, for which she was president throughout her 2L year, and she is the editor-in-chief of the *Wisconsin International Law Journal* (WILJ).

"This past academic year, I've also been a student intern with the amazing Restorative Justice Project, and I was the instructor for Human Rights in Law and Society, an undergraduate legal studies class," she added.

Both these experiences have "genuinely changed my life," she said.

"Every single experience I've had at UW Law has only reaffirmed my goals and has introduced me to people I know I will remain connected with for the rest of my life," Lasharie added.

After Law School, Lasharie seeks to work as a legal fellow at an international law-related organization, conducting research while also helping individuals achieve justice. Her teaching experience has also opened her eyes to the possibility of becoming a fellow at a law school clinic, supervising students working on international criminal law, humanitarian law or human rights law projects, she said.

"Long term, I'd love to get my Ph.D. in international law and do even more serious research and publishing while moonlighting as a pro bono litigator/attorney representing clients who have faced injustices under international law," Lasharie explained.

Ultimately, she hopes to make international law more equitable.

"I'm not blind to the criticisms of international law, and I think many international legal regimes (like the trafficking regime) entrench colonial logics," she said. "But I also have hope in the potential of international law, if not in its current guise, then in some future guise. I want to be a part of articulating what that might look like."

Her vast experiences at UW Law are preparing her well to meet that goal.

"I've had the privilege of being taught by people like Professor Heinz Klug, who has literally been a part of upsetting oppressive regimes," she said. "My time with the Restorative Justice Project has only reinforced my love for and hope in people. Being part of WILJ has given me the opportunity to articulate myself on an issue that matters to me a lot — the underprotection of transgender and nonbinary people in international criminal law — and now I get to shape the next year of an international law journal."

According to Lasharie, every professor she's spoken with at UW Law has been supportive and encouraging of her journey.

"And, of course, that's to say nothing about the skills and knowledge I've acquired as a future lawyer," she added. "At UW Law, we don't just learn about the law as it is; we also learn about the law as it should or shouldn't be. I have no interest in being a black-and-white lawyer, and luckily, UW Law has no interest in making me one."

By Cassandra Tuten

Jones '86: 'I wanted to serve my Ho-Chunk people'



Tom Jones, son of Judge JoAnn Jones and UW–Madison professor, created this 2015 portrait of his mother.

In July, Ho-Chunk Nation Trial Court Associate Judge JoAnn Jones '86 retired at age 83. But she's not done "working" by any means.

Sure, Jones wants to travel more, hence her recent trip to Peru and her goal of making it to Alaska, the only state she hasn't visited.

But she also wants to give presentations and help younger generations preserve their cultural and historical background. Plus, she will have more time to devote to a book about her term as the first female leader of the Ho-Chunk Nation, a role in which she served from 1991-95.

"I wanted to represent my people," she said. "I really admired my ancestors for enduring such harsh treatment by the United States government, keeping the Ho-Chunk Nation spirit, traditions and ceremonies alive in spite of everything."

Jones said she never thought she would be the president, but the elders encouraged and supported her.

This follows a pattern for many of the big roles she has taken on.

"Everything I've done, I've been asked by the people," she said. "From the beginning, it was a spiritual journey. There has to be a meaning to guide us in a way to benefit people, and that's what I did. I wanted to serve my Ho-Chunk people."

Jones said her proudest accomplishment as president was getting the constitution revised to reflect the Nation's modern-day challenges. Setting up their own tribal judicial system to resolve disputes helped them retain their sovereignty.

"We kept fighting to preserve and protect our nation," she said.

She is also proud of the extensive effort that opened the door to gaming as well as the memorable 1994 meeting of more than 300 tribal leaders with President Bill Clinton on the South Lawn of the White House. That day, Clinton issued a directive calling on his administration to treat Native gov-

ernments with the same deference given to state governments.

"I was the only woman who was asked to speak at that meeting," said Jones. "I was honored."

Jones originally did not pursue law as a career path. While taking undergraduate courses in Florida, she wanted to go to medical school — until realizing chemistry and organic chemistry gave her a "head-ache."

Jones, who grew up in the Black River Falls area, was asked by her uncle to join the medicine lodge, which drew her back to Wisconsin.

On her way north, she stopped in Madison to see if she could finish her studies in social work and political science because she wanted to work with her people and teach. It was summertime, past the application deadline, but "they accepted me for the fall semester with full scholarship."

Jones interned in the governor's office and the Department of Health Services, then went on to earn a master's degree in social work and attend University of Wisconsin Law School.

"When I used to be walking up Bascom Hill, I would be mad because they built buildings on or near burial mounds and leveled some of them," she said. "They didn't respect or appreciate my culture. Now, I'm seeing

change with the younger ones coming behind us and people becoming more aware and making students aware of the land's cultural significance."

While she is happy to see increased hiring of Native Americans, she would like to see more, plus visible recruiting programs.

Jones is doing some of that work herself by encouraging Ho-Chunk youth to go to law school.

"There's a critical need for them in all areas of our government," she said. "There are so many laws affecting the Indian people. I'd like to see our young people grapple with the ins and outs of our government, existence and lives."

By Jennie Broecker

"Everything I've done, I've been asked by the people. From the beginning, it was a spiritual journey. There has to be a meaning to guide us in a way to benefit people, and that's what I did. I wanted to serve my Ho-Chunk people."

1970s

Bruce Kerr '72 has retired from his law practice in northern California following a career at Oracle and Sun Microsystems, where he was assistant general counsel. Kerr was co-founder with fellow law student Marty Milgrim of the Community Law Office on the Madison campus, which started during the protests in 1971 and ran for many years, staffed by UW Law student volunteers and local attorney-supervisors. He continues his music and songwriting career as "Loose Bruce" Kerr.

What's new?

Share your updates at gargoyle.law.wisc.edu/class-notes

Scott Hansen '76 received the 2023 Judge Myron L. Gordon Lifetime Achievement Award from the Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Association, presented during its annual meeting at the Saint Kate Hotel on May 25, 2023. The award recognizes Hansen's contributions to Milwaukee's federal court bench and bar, his years of skillful, professional and strategic advocacy, and his mentorship of younger lawyers.

1980s

John H. Heide '87 received the Brown County Bar Association Lifetime Achievement Award in December 2022. Heide has been named as one of the Top 50 Wisconsin Super Lawyers every year since 2018. Effective January 2023, Heide retired from private practice. He does provide mediation services for family law matters throughout the state. He also flies a Cessna Cardinal regularly and spends as much time with his grandchildren as possible.

1990s

Monroe County Circuit Court Judge **Richard Radcliffe** '90 is the recipient of the State Bar of Wisconsin's 2023 Judge of the Year Award. The award recognizes an outstanding circuit court judge who has improved the judicial system during the past year by their leadership in advancing the quality of justice, judicial education or innovative programs.

F. John Podvin Jr. '91, Dallas partner of Otteson Shapiro, was named to Who's Who Legal (WWL) Thought Leaders 2023 in two categories: Global Banking Regulation Review and USA-Banking-Regulatory. Podvin was also named to WWL's Global Leader list in the area of Banking-Regulatory with a ranking of "Recommended."



2000s

April Faith-Slaker '07

was named by the city of Detroit to lead the Office of Eviction Defense as its executive director. Faith-Slaker has spent her entire career fighting for justice in the legal system, with a data-driven approach. She most recently served as the associate director of the Access to Justice Lab at Harvard Law School.



Kenechukwu Onyemaechi Okocha '07 has been nominated by President Joe Biden to serve as judge for the District of Columbia Superior Court. Okocha has served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia since 2011. He has been deputy chief for the Sex Offense and Domestic Violence Division in that office since 2019. Okocha previously served as an assistant district attorney in the Dane County District Attorney's Office from 2008-10.

Ashley Morse '09 was named among Wisconsin's most influential Black leaders by Madison365. Morse is a Rock County Circuit Court judge, the first Black woman to serve in that position.

2010s

Eric Hatchell '11 was elevated to partner status with Foley & Lardner LLP in February 2023. Hatchell is a trial lawyer and member of the firm's Business Litigation & Dispute Resolution Practice Group. Hatchell's practice focuses on complex litigation issues, and he has extensive experience counseling and representing clients in matters including trust, estate and probate litigation, in addition to sophisticated tax disputes. Hatchell also counsels clients on appellate-related aspects of litigation.

Ryan Nilsestuen '12 was appointed to the Dane County Circuit Court-Branch 10 by Governor Tony Evers. The appointment will fill a vacancy created by Judge Juan Colás' retirement. Nilsestuen has served as chief legal counsel for the Office of the Governor since 2019. During that time, Nilsestuen also served as the chair of the Pardon Advisory Board.

Amber Raffet August '13 was appointed to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court by Governor Tony Evers in May 2023. She has been an assistant family court commissioner for Milwaukee County since August 2022, where she presides over family court proceedings. She has served as the president of the Wisconsin Association of African-American Lawyers, as an executive committee member of the State Bar of Wisconsin Board of Governors, and on the board of directors of the Community Immigration Law Center. She will complete a term ending July 31, 2024.

Frederic Behrens '13 joined Cerity Partners LLC through a merger with Round Table Wealth Management, as a partner in the firm's New York office. He is a member of the cross-border private client group, working significantly with U.S. expats, green-card holders and non-U.S. investors on complex tax, legal and investment issues. A significant portion of his client base are attorneys at large and global law firms.



Monica A. Mark '13 was named one of Madison's 40 Under 40 by In Business Magazine. Mark is a shareholder in Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c.'s litigation practice, where she is part of the intellectual property team and active in appellate work.

Alexander Neuworth '13 was elevated to partner status with Foley & Lardner LLP in February 2023. Neuworth is an intellectual property lawyer and a member of the firm's Mechanical & Electromechanical Technologies Practice Group and Manufacturing Sector. Neuworth's practice focuses on identifying and protecting his clients' intellectual property by procuring foreign and domestic utility and design patents, managing their patent portfolios and providing counsel regarding patent risk mitigation in new product launches.

Kelly Hays '19 was elected by Governor Tony Evers to serve as Langlade County District Attorney. The appointment fills a vacancy created by District Attorney Elizabeth Gebert's resignation. Hays will serve for the remainder of the unexpired term that ends January 2025. Hays joined the Langlade County District Attorney's Office in May 2019, where she is currently an assistant district attorney.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Learn more about UW Law events, including the one highlighted here, at law.wisc.edu/events.



Nov. 3-4, 2023

Wisconsin Law Review Symposium

Professor Bernadette Atuahene will serve as faculty host for this symposium on national and international "statecraft" Nov. 3-4. The event will feature scholars, journalists and practitioners from across the country and culminate in a groundbreaking special issue of scholarship. One of the highlights will be a local government roundtable, where current and former mayors and other elected officials will speak about the challenges of governing under fiscal austerity.

1930s

Francis B. Huot '31

1950s

Betty A. Flynn '50
Raymond H. Flynn '50
Reuben W. Peterson '50
Fritz Stradling '50
Joseph C. Fagan '52
Pertti J. Lindfors '53
Lawrence W. Rice '53
Alfred M. Rogers '53
James F. Bremer '54
James W. Cassidy '54
Thomas A. Friesch '54
Gordon A. Gregory '55
Robert B. Hentschell '55
Howard D. Blanding '56
Hugh G. Hafer '56
Donald F. Mitchell '57
John E. Martinson '58

1960s

Patrick Putzi '60
Robert L. Sanderson '61
I. Curtis Brewer '62
Felice D. Cohen '62
John F. Englund '63
Bert L. Kahn '63
Phillip M. Lev '63
Don R. Lucas '63
James L. Rosenbaum '63
Neal E. Schmidt '63
Robert C. Knight '65
Myron E. La Rowe '65
Thomas C. Marshall '65

George E. Dix '66
James T. Rogers '66
Jeffrey R. Wheeler '66
Franklin C. Jesse '68
Thomas T. Rogers '68
Daniel Sinykin '68
Richard P. Staedtler '68
William K. Thompson '68
Jonathon R. White '68
William U. Burke '69
James L. Dean '69

1970s

John T. Eakins '70
Terry Hoyt '72
John G. Scorgie '72
Robert F. Sfasciotti '72
Robert L. Gruber '73
Philip Lehner '73
Allyn J. Lepeska '73
Peter W. Santori '73
Ronald A. Suppa '73
John D. Winderl '73
Gerald Mackin '74
Gordon K. Miller '74
Paul J. Swain '74
David W. Easton '75
Frances S. Ryan '75
Thomas S. Wroblewski '75
Michael J. Mathis '76
George S. Long '77
George H. Senteney '77

1980s

Thomas H. Bennin '80
Jerome A. Doornek '82
Michael J. Klug '84
Robert A. Schroeder '84
Pamela D. Crawford '85
Christine M. Kraus '85
Diane Kliebard Silverberg '86
Stephan A. Rogge '89
Trina J. Tinglum '89

1990s

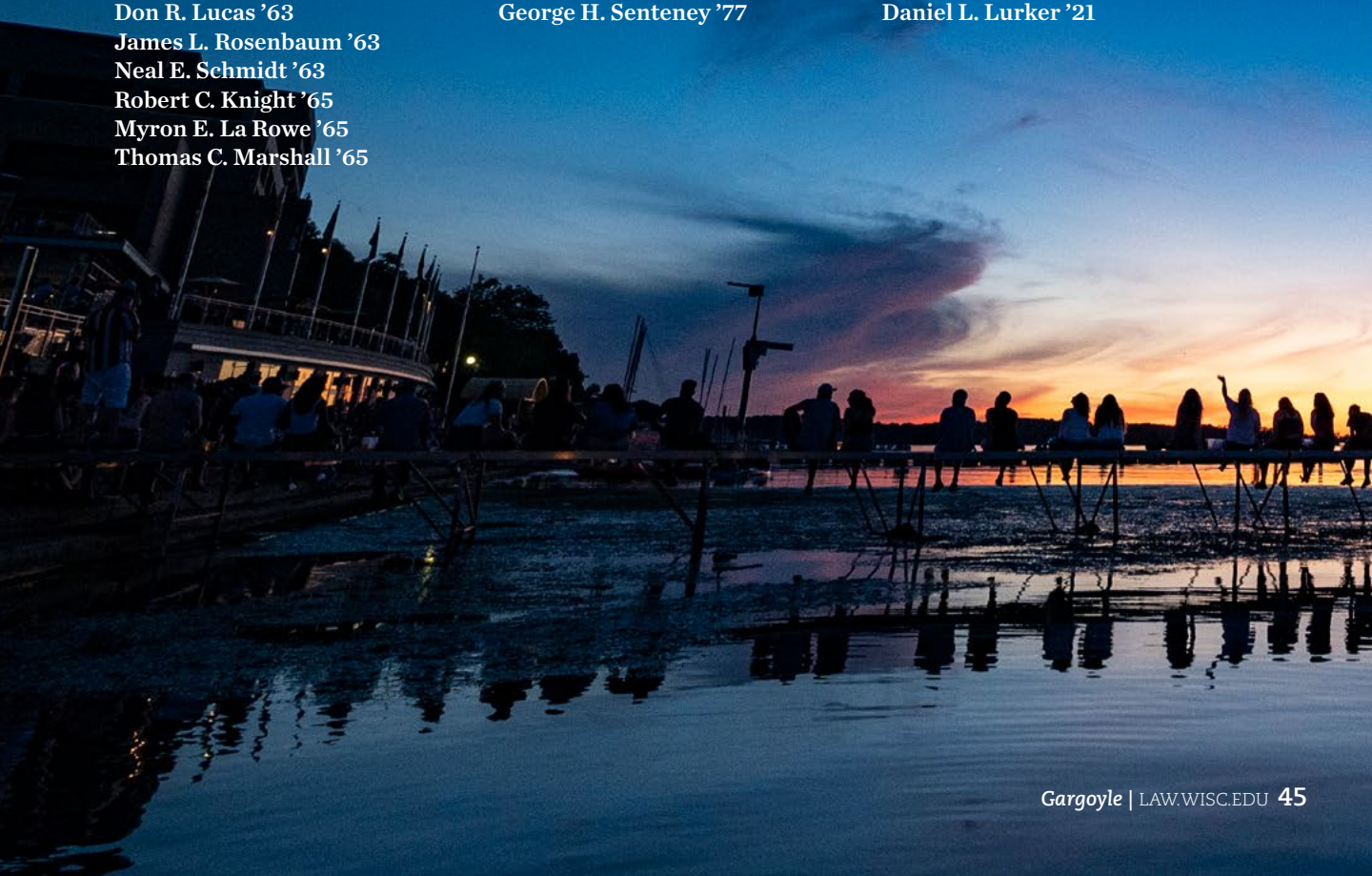
Harry G. Brown '91
Charlie W. Priest '91
Marcia A. MacKenzie '92
Alan Tafapolsky '93
Victoria B. Wing '93
Harish C. Mirchandani '94
Kenneth R. Sipsma '94
Paul G. Belke '96
Meredith S. Elliott '96
David A. Dodge '97
Timothy V. Norton '98
Sarah R. Boardman '99

2000s

Melissa K. Warner '01

2020s

Daniel L. Lurker '21





Judge Ramón Alvarado '05: Celebrating a Life, Building a Legacy

Judge Ramón Alvarado '05 often wore a Bucky Badger sweatshirt as he ran through his Gwinnett County, Georgia, neighborhood in early 2020. Though he'd completed many half-marathons in his lifetime, the one he was training for was special. He'd registered for the race as motivation to regain his strength after chemotherapy.

Appointed to the Gwinnett County bench in 2019, Ramón became the county's first Hispanic judge; he was also the county's first full-time judge of Korean descent. When he was sworn onto the bench, Ramón hoped to change the public's perception of the court system.

"I hate that people have to come to court and are stressed or are under this impression that court is an awful place," he said. "What I want to do is provide people with a very positive experience of what the court system is."

Even on what Ramón deemed the best day of his life, his thoughtful consideration for others was evident. This came as no surprise to the people who knew him.

Growing up, the Alvarado family — including his Puerto Rican father, Korean mother and older sister — relocated many times due to his father's military

service. They eventually settled in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ramón later earned his bachelor's degree from Grand Valley State University in Michigan, followed by his J.D. at University of Wisconsin Law School.

After graduating from UW Law School, Ramón moved to Georgia and began his career with the Coweta County Public Defender's Office. He would later open his own firm in Lawrenceville, Georgia, where indigent clients comprised half of his caseload.

"Not only was Ramón a fierce and passionate advocate for his clients, but he was always ready to listen to others and give thoughtful advice," said Lawrence Zimmerman of the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

When Ramón and his wife, Drew, got married in 2015, the couple opted to forgo a traditional wedding registry, instead raising \$25,000 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, a cause they supported due to Drew's diagnosis with the condition.

Ramón was also an avid animal rights supporter, volunteering and fostering with several Atlanta-area rescue groups. He and Drew once adopted a senior beagle mix, and when the dog's condition declined, Ramón slept on the couch for almost six months so

the dog could sleep in her favorite location: in front of the fireplace. He also arranged a weekly slide show featuring animals in the county shelter, which he displayed in his courtroom to encourage people to adopt or donate to the shelter.

At his judicial investiture, Ramón said, “I promise to, when I’m sitting on the bench, use all my life experiences to make the very best decisions.”

Many agreed that he did just that.

Despite making history as the first Hispanic person to serve as a judge in his county, Ramón said he’d done the easy task of walking through doors that others opened for him. But family, friends and colleagues know that Ramón’s hard work and dedication led to his success. He didn’t just walk through doors; he made the passageways larger so others could join him.

Just four months after his investiture in 2019, on his 40th birthday, Ramón was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. Though his leukemia went into remission for eight months, he learned of its relapse the week after completing the milestone half-marathon in February 2020. Ramón received a stem-cell transplant in April 2020 but eventually died of complications on July 20, 2020.

To honor Ramón’s life, his classmates, family and colleagues have created the Ramón Alvarado Memorial Scholarship at UW Law School. The fund provides a scholarship to a UW Law student who has a demonstrated financial need and identifies as a member of an underrepresented group or population and/or has exhibited an interest as a public defender or in a role serving the indigent.

“We were deeply saddened at UW Law School to hear of Ramón’s passing but honored that his loved ones wanted to carry on his legacy by creating something in his name,” said Dean Dan Tokaji. “Ramón’s life and the way he lived it should be celebrated. His family and friends have done a wonderful thing to honor Ramón by also creating and expanding a pathway for others to follow in his footsteps.”

In 2022, Gwinnett County unveiled the Judge Ramón Alvarado Bridge in his honor. At the dedication ceremony, Drew recalled a time she and Ramón were running errands and were approached by a man asking for money. He told the couple he’d been released from jail and needed transportation money. They declined his ask. While in the store, Ramón disappeared for a while. When he reemerged, he said he’d decided the man was likely being truthful about his situation, so he went and gave him some cash.

“It can be hard to re-enter society,” Ramón explained. “I just wanted to help.”

He’ll continue to help others through the Ramón Alvarado Memorial Scholarship. To join others in honoring Ramón, visit go.wisc.edu/alvarado.

Remembering Former Dean Cliff Thompson



Former University of Wisconsin Law School Dean and Professor Emeritus Cliff Thompson died April 17, 2023, in Madison, after a long illness. Thompson, 88, served as UW Law dean from 1983-90 and went on to direct the University of

Wisconsin–Madison’s African Studies Program from 1992-93. He also served as dean of law schools at Hawaii, Michigan State and Haile Selassie University of Ethiopia, and he co-founded the faculty of law at the University of Zambia. Thompson also served as a legal education advisor for the Indonesian government from 1993-97 and 2000-04. He most recently was acting dean at Michigan State University College of Law from 2007-08.

Thompson’s journey to Madison began in 1983, having moved to the area in August after serving as the dean at University of Idaho Law School.

During his time as dean of UW Law, Thompson was committed to recruiting and retaining a more diverse faculty and student body, increasing salaries for faculty and building improvements with a focus on the Law Library. He announced his resignation in August 1990.

After a yearlong sabbatical, Thompson joined the faculty, where he taught several courses, primarily in comparative law and international law, focusing on Africa and Asia.

A lifelong passion was documenting and amplifying the Sudanese Revolution of 1964. He worked at the University of Khartoum Law School for four years, and many of his colleagues contributed to the peaceful takeover of the government.

Thompson was the first in his family to go to college. He received his A.B. from Harvard University, graduating magna cum laude. He earned his B.A. from Magdalen College, Oxford University. He returned to the U.S., acquired his J.D. from Harvard, and later returned to Oxford to obtain his master’s degree with honors. In addition, Thompson was a Rhodes Scholar and a Distinguished Fulbright Scholar.



Laura Schumacher '88 has built a career on service.

As vice chairman of external affairs and chief legal officer of AbbVie and its predecessor company Abbott for 32 years, she's impacted the lives of many. Last year, she was selected by the American Bar Association Commission on Women in the Profession as one of five winners of the 2022 Margaret Brent Award. Founded in 1991, the prestigious award recognizes outstanding female lawyers who have achieved excellence in their industry and have advanced career opportunities for women in the legal field.

Schumacher's time at University of Wisconsin Law School provided her with firsthand insight into the need for equal access to justice in our legal system and encouraged her of the need for all attorneys to do their part to ensure representation for all. We met with Schumacher to discuss her life and experiences.

Interview by Kassandra Tuten

What's been the most rewarding aspect of your career?

The single most rewarding aspect of my career has been the privilege of doing my part to help impact the lives of the patients we serve. Everyone who dedicates their career to health care knows that it is a privilege and a great source of personal pride to be able to work in a field that is dedicated to helping others. The legal challenges have been

both intellectually rigorous and strategically important. Playing a leadership role in two great companies, both Abbott and then AbbVie, has been enormously fulfilling.

What's been the biggest challenge?

Increasing diversity in the legal field. This is both a challenge and a meaningful opportunity not only for me, but for our entire legal profession. I have long

believed that true leadership means using our influence for the greatest good possible.

For example, attorneys at AbbVie volunteer to mentor law students through the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity, the Minority Corporate Counsel Association and informally with outside law firms. We have also established an intellectual property first-year law school internship program for minority students — an area of the law historically trailing other practice areas in diversity.

You were one of five women honored with last year's Margaret Brent Award. What did this mean to you?

Receiving this award was a tremendous honor, especially being recognized with so many outstanding female lawyers working for lasting change in our industry. Embracing equity, equality, diversity and inclusion has always been important to me personally. I believe as women leaders, we play an essential role to help inspire, encourage and pave the way for future generations.

How did your Law School education or experience shape your career?

The most profound Law School experience that shaped my career is my participation in the Legal Defense Program (as it was called then). This program allowed third-year law students to participate in the criminal justice system and to appear in court, under the supervision of licensed attorneys. This program provided me firsthand insight into the need for equal access to justice in our system and the responsibility for all attorneys to do their part to ensure representation for all.

Read the full interview with Schumacher at gargoyle.law.wisc.edu.

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