

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL

Gargoyle

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Navigating the Future:
Positioning Students to
Work Alongside AI

Family Law: Trends in 2024
And Why Students Are Drawn to
Practice It

A Badger on (Almost)
Every Continent



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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 friends,

Welcome to another exciting issue of University of Wisconsin Law School's *Gargoyle* magazine! We've got some especially fascinating stories to share with you in this edition.

First is a topic we've all been hearing a lot about: AI. How will artificial intelligence shape the legal profession, and how are we at UW Law preparing students for a future in which AI's role will undoubtedly grow and evolve? You can read more about that on page 22.

We also take a look into the field of family law, which, as we know, touches people's lives in dramatic and meaningful ways. But what does that look like in 2024? Learn about trends in family law and why students are drawn to the field on page 18.

In this edition, we also explore the past, present and future of graduate programs at UW Law School (page 28) and welcome Margaret Miller as our new alumni relations officer (page 37). We also welcome Professor Ahmed White, a labor and employment law expert, as our new James E. Jones Jr. Chair (page 12).

This issue highlights the groundbreaking work of our existing faculty, including Professor Jeffrey Glazer, clinical professor in the Law and Entrepreneurship Clinic. Glazer and his students crisscross the state making presentations and holding office hours for Wisconsin's aspiring creators and innovators through the Rural Entrepreneurship Program. You can learn more about this valuable asset to Wisconsin's people and economy on page 10.

Also highlighted in this edition are Professor Renagh O'Leary, who recently made the transition from clinical to tenure-track faculty, and Professor Nate Atkinson, an economist researching both business and election law. Both are rising stars in their fields, contributing exponentially to the depth and breadth of our faculty. You can learn more about them on page 13 and 36 respectively.

Within this edition, we've got a lot of other wonderful treats as well, including an update on our strategic plan (page 6), and an interview with Vice Chancellor Charles Hoslet '89, who is retiring after 27 years at the university (page 40).

We've got so many other gems in this edition, including an update on the Great Lakes Tribal Law Collection and 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. On page 14, you can read all about how our incredible alumni donors like Joan Stafslie '92 are shaping the futures of the next generation of Badger lawyers and leaders.

We hope you enjoy reading these stories. We are, as always, eternally grateful.

On, Wisconsin!



Dan Tokaji



Ryan Poe-Gavlinski Named Inaugural Deputy Director of Economic Justice Institute

Ryan Poe-Gavlinski has been named the inaugural deputy director of University of Wisconsin Law School's Economic Justice Institute (EJI).

In taking on the one-year appointment as EJI's deputy director, Poe-Gavlinski is most excited about developing the position and providing "much needed" support to EJI's Director Mitch.

When Mitch became the director of EJI in 2019, UW Law had four clinics, five staff and about 26 clinical students.

"In the last few years, EJI has grown and now encompasses six clinics, 10 staff and nearly 60 clinical students," said Mitch. "Ryan's tireless work is a large part of the reason for our growth, and I could not be more thrilled to continue working with her in her expanded role as deputy director."

EJI is home to the UW Law School's six civil, anti-poverty clinical programs, the Consumer Law Clinic, Eviction Defense Clinic, Family Court Clinic, Immigrant Justice Clinic, Neighborhood Law Clinic and the Restraining Order &



Survivor Advocacy Clinic.

In addition to her new role with EJI, which became effective July 1, 2023, Poe-Gavlinski also serves as director of the Restraining Order and Survivor Advocacy Clinic (ROSA) and the director of the Lawyering Skills program.



Bethany Pluymer (pictured above, left) received the Outstanding Leadership award, one of the 2023 HR Partner Team Awards given during the HR@UW Conference in December 2023.

New Calendar Allows for Easy CLE Searching

Looking for Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs that fit into your schedule? The new-and-improved Events Calendar allows you to filter for CLE events:

law.wisc.edu/calendar/.

Dean Dan Tokaji joined Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin and former Madison Mayor Paul Soglin for an exploration of campus free speech last September.

It's a challenging moment "to support both free speech and belonging in a time of intense polarized politics," Mnookin said.

Yet "it is very important that we as a university work to make everyone feel welcome here, and that is going to take more work," Tokaji said.



SDRI Launches Interactive Websites

The State Democracy Research Initiative has launched three interactive websites focused on state constitutions and democracy:

1. The 50 Constitutions project
2. The Democracy Principle website
3. Direct Democracy in the States

Visit them all at go.wisc.edu/sdri3.



Last December, Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin announced a pilot program that will cover resident tuition for full-time J.D. students who are enrolled members of federally recognized Wisconsin Indian tribes.

Cornerstone of Commitment

Wisconsin residents who are enrolled members of federally recognized Wisconsin Indian tribes may have their University of Wisconsin Law School in-state tuition and fees covered as part of a new five-year pilot program. This is just one element of a wider Wisconsin Tribal Educational Promise program announced by UW–Madison Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin last December.

Starting in the fall of 2024, the pilot program will cover resident tuition for full-time J.D. students

for three academic years. Currently enrolled as well as newly incoming students will qualify regardless of financial need.

“This is a cornerstone of our commitment to increasing access while also growing our presence in areas of law that are essential to Native Nations and peoples,” said Dean Dan Tokaji.

The program does not rely on taxpayer funding, but is supported by other institutional resources, such as private donations.

Study Finds Civil Legal Aid Delivers 8.4x Economic Return to Badger State

New research shows more than an 8:1 return on investment for civil legal aid in Wisconsin, reflecting the impact of work done at University of Wisconsin Law School.

According to the “Economic Impact of Civil Legal Aid in Wisconsin” study, the return of \$8.40 on the dollar represented \$176 million in measurable impacts.

“Civil legal aid provided by UW Law School’s clinical programs is part of this \$176 million impact,” explained Mitch, UW Law clinical law professor and the director of the Economic Justice Institute.



Keith Findley Collection Now Available in Digital Repository

Professor Keith Findley retired last fall. In time for his last class, the Law Library announced a new Digital Repository collection: The Keith Findley collection, featuring over 200 briefs authored or co-authored over the course of Findley’s storied career. The collection is fully browsable and integrated with the Library’s Digital Repository, meaning users can search these briefs, along with Findley’s articles, books and chapters, alongside all of UW Law’s other faculty scholarship.

Building Momentum

A progress report on UW Law's strategic plan.

At the heart of any great institution are the people within it. This is true for University of Wisconsin Law School, where our students, faculty, alumni and staff are all connected through the shared goal of making an impact in our community and our world; a theme not new to the Law School — with educational philosophies grounded in the Wisconsin Idea and our Law-in-Action approach to teaching and learning.

When UW Law unveiled its five-year strategic plan in May 2021, it was important to be bold, action-oriented and far-reaching in influence. Dean Dan Tokaji is “thrilled” with the work the school has accomplished so far in meeting its goals to educate exceptional lawyers and leaders to go out into the world and advance equal justice under the law.

While there are some long-term priorities that require more time, planning and resources, Tokaji is assured the Law School will succeed.

“I’m assured we can complete all our goals, but we will need help from our community to get there,” he said. “I feel fortunate that our alumni and broader community see how their support has a transformative effect on our students and Law School. I’m hoping others will be inspired so that we can continue to build and focus on what makes us stand out: our people.”

This 2023-24 academic year marks the halfway point of UW Law’s implementation of its strategic plan. Following is a brief progress report.

Students

- **Increased access to our renowned clinical program:** Previously available to only 100 students in each class, as of 2022, any UW Law student is guaranteed a clinic opportunity if they want one.
- **Expanded financial aid resources:** Starting last fall, all incoming students are now required to meet one-on-one with someone from the Law School’s financial aid advising team. These meetings walk students through applying for and/or accepting financial aid, encourage them to review their expenses and create a budget for the academic year, and familiarize them with the financial resources on campus.
- **Curricular changes:** The Law School has enacted its most significant curricular changes in a half-century. Students starting in Fall 2023 have fewer mandatory courses, freeing up 10 credits for students in their 2L or 3L year to take additional elective courses or clinics of interest without negatively impacting Diploma Privilege eligibility.
- **Equal footing in the employment market:** UW Law changed the grading curve to better align with peer schools and increase our students’ competitiveness when looking for jobs.
- **Enhanced classrooms and facilities:** Over the last two years, UW Law has expanded and renovated many of the spaces where students receive direct services and counseling, like the Admissions & Financial Aid Office, the Academic Enhancement Program (AEP) and Office of Career and Professional Development (OCPD).





Faculty

- **Investing in our faculty:** Building financial resources to recruit and retain high-profile faculty is integral for UW Law's future. Last year, the school closed 10 gifts to qualify for a match from Laureen Seeger '86.
- **Updating our fellowships:** UW Law changed the William H. Hastie Fellowship Program to be in line with other prestigious fellowships so the school can continue its mission and expand its reach, educating students who are committed to teaching in a law school setting after graduation.
- **Expanding Indigenous law:** UW Law hired a new director of the Great Lakes Indigenous Law Center and just completed a successful search for a tenure-track faculty member to teach federal Indian law.

Still In Progress

- **Increasing the number of tenured faculty:** UW Law's rankings and reputational value are directly tied to the prestige of our faculty and their scholarship. A primary goal of our strategic plan is to grow our number of tenured faculty to 35 by 2026.
- **Rural law:** UW Law is developing programs that highlight a variety of legal career pathways, including careers serving the legal needs of smaller communities and rural areas in Wisconsin that enhance access to justice outside of Madison and Milwaukee.
- **Renovated library space:** Construction for the Legal Research & Writing Center is expected to be completed by Fall 2024, better situating the vital Law School program to increase accessibility and better serve students.
- **Research on teaching and implementing AI:** The Dean's Office formed an AI Working Group to explore the impact of large-language AI models and other AI applications on legal education generally and the Law School's policies and practices more specifically. The Group continues to explore how to adapt to the changes AI will have on legal education and the legal profession.

To review the full strategic plan, including all nine established priority areas and ongoing action items, visit law.wisc.edu/about/mission/.



Enhancing Power and Visibility of Tribal Laws

The University of Wisconsin Law School Law Library and the Great Lakes Indigenous Law Center (GLILC) have collaborated with various partners and Native Nations within Wisconsin and the broader Great Lakes region to develop a digital publishing solution. The Great Lakes Tribal Law Collection, launched in September 2023, shares select Tribal law documents, enhancing the power and visibility of Native Nations' laws and strengthening Tribal sovereignty. The initiative has been in the works since 2014.

"As a law student, I took a course on Tribal law with Professor Richard Monette," explained Bonnie Shucha, director of the Law Library. "That course was a transformational experience, giving me a deeper understanding of Tribal governance and sovereignty and the integral role of Tribal law in the American legal system."

Knowing of her interest in the publication of Tribal law, in 2014, Monette contacted Shucha to ask if the Law Library would be interested in working with the Wisconsin Tribal Judges Association to develop a database of Tribal court opinions.

"Richard had shown the Wisconsin Tribal Judges Association an article I wrote exploring the publication and accessibility of Tribal law and thought it sparked their interest. At that time, the Library had been in the early stages of developing our Digital Repository, and we eagerly agreed to take on this project as our first collection," Shucha continued, adding that, for various reasons, that project never got beyond the initial development stage.

In 2018, Monette introduced Shucha to David Greisen of the Open Law Library (OLL), a 501(c)(3) open-access publisher with a mission to make all official laws freely and openly accessible to governments and their citizens. GLILC and OLL were interested in partnering with the Law Library on another project, this time to develop a platform for Native Nations wishing to publish their codes. The National Indian Law Library and the Stockbridge-Munsee Band also joined on the project.

In 2020, the UW Law Library — in partnership with the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, the GLILC, the National Indian Law Library and the OLL — received a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for a pilot project in which librarians and developers worked with Native Nations to openly publish their legislation using a customized platform that offers tribes full ownership and control over their content. Five tribes, including two

from Wisconsin, the Stockbridge-Munsee and the Lac Courte Oreilles, have already published their laws using this platform, and others are in development.

In addition, the UW Law Library has developed the Great Lakes Tribal Law Collection. This digital collection, available at go.wisc.edu/tribal-law, acts as an archival repository that encompasses a range of materials, including constitutions, bylaws, codes, resolutions, charters and other legal documents. Each time a document is created or revised, a new version is archived and added to the collection. It's a process that's important for many reasons, including the ever-evolving nature of the law.

"The importance and visibility of Tribal laws are crucial for Tribal governments and court systems as they empower tribal communities to take charge of our legal systems," said Amanda White Eagle. Currently the director of the GLILC at UW Law, White Eagle was involved in the group in 2014 as an officer of the Ho-Chunk Nation. She served as the first female president of the Wisconsin Tribal Judges Association from 2011-15.

"This empowerment leads to three immediate benefits: self-determination, access to justice and education," she said.

By providing access to legal information and resources, Tribal Nations can make well-informed decisions and assert their rights to self-determination, White Eagle said.

"Moreover, these resources enable Tribal members, the broader community, legal practitioners and judges to readily access information about Tribal laws and court rulings, ensuring fair and effective justice administration within Tribal communities," White Eagle continued.

Access to laws and case law also opens the door to educational tools for tribal members, leaders and policymakers to deepen their understanding of tribal law, governance and historical cases.

Today's partnership is exciting, said Shucha, and has led to a robust and important exchange of ideas.

"The project has brought together UW Law School faculty, directors, librarians and students in collaboration with Tribal officials and librarians, attorneys and technologists from numerous Native Nations and states," she explained. "The platform that was developed from the IMLS-funded pilot project was to publish legislation. The success of this project has generated interest from several Wisconsin Native Nations in adding judicial opinions. In this way, it's come full circle back to our initial conversations with

the Wisconsin Tribal Judges Association in 2014.”

The partnerships are certainly ideal, added Michael Williams, a 3L who is part of the Oneida Nation and has been involved in the project from its early stages, because it “connects Tribal Nations with exceptional legal scholars to address the legal issues affecting Indian Country.”

“Tribal Nations are constantly thought of as existing in the past, but they are sovereign nations that govern themselves and the people who come onto their lands,” explained Williams. “Creating greater access to Tribal Nation laws through projects like the Great Lakes Tribal Law Collection helps the Nations support themselves and continue to express their sovereignty.”

Williams first joined the collection’s efforts by working with the Oneida Nation Judiciary.

“I was creating legal summaries and metadata information for Court of Appeals cases,” he explained. “After about a year of work, I was thinking heavily about all my pre-law experiences that really helped me gain interest in law school. So, I developed the Tribal Court of Appeals Project, which was meant to get undergraduates to do the same case summaries and metadata information.”

At the same time, students would be learning basic legal skills and get exposure to the law. The program launched in Fall 2023 with five undergraduate students who analyzed more than 60 cases with the Oneida Nation Court of Appeals. Separate from the Tribal Court of Appeals Project, Williams also started working with OLL. Drawing on his expertise in analyzing judicial opinions, he’s helping to develop a tribal case law reporter using the OLL platform, which is expected to launch soon.

The Great Lakes Tribal Law Collection is important for numerous reasons, but also because, for any legal system to function appropriately, the citizens need to be able to access the law, Williams explained.

“This collection helps Tribal citizens access their law and engage with their governments,” he continued. “It is important for Tribal citizens to engage with their laws, so that they can develop their systems to adequately represent themselves. Additionally, having the laws accessible encourages U.S. businesses to work with Tribal Nations and develop the economy on Tribal lands. And, it allows Indigenous students like myself to work directly with Tribal Nations to better our people.”

While the grant project is coming to an end soon, White Eagle hopes they can continue to meet to keep the momentum going.

“Growing the Digital Repository and Tribal collec-



tions will involve a concerted effort to improve access and expand resources, but it will involve collaborating with Tribal governments and securing funding,” she explained. “Specifically, UW Law School, through the Great Lakes Indigenous Law Center, needs to establish and maintain partnerships with Tribal governments to identify the needs and changes, as well as seek funding opportunities to continue to digitize both new and existing laws and case law. Digitizing will help increase access, preservation and dissemination of materials to a wider audience.”

By Cassandra Tuten

Sowing the Seeds of Rural Entrepreneurship

The path from software developer to manager of the Rural Entrepreneurship Program in the Law and Entrepreneurship Clinic (L&E) at University of Wisconsin Law School may not seem like an obvious one. But for clinical professor Jeffrey Glazer, it all makes sense.

Glazer began coding at the age of 8, chose the University of Toledo to study industrial engineering, and left with a degree in operations management and information systems. The internet was just taking off, however, and he quickly fell into a career as a programmer, developing online systems for Fortune 500 companies like KeyBank and Owens Corning.

Yet Glazer had long harbored an interest in law school. So, when it looked as if the first Internet bubble was about to burst, he picked up an MBA at the University of Akron and a J.D. at Chicago-Kent College of Law.

Much of Glazer's early work focused on tech startups and intellectual property. But when he moved to Madison with his wife in 2007, he didn't have a legal job lined up and had to fall back on his own entrepreneurial skills: He created a blog, *Madison Beer Review*, dedicated to his favorite beverage; cofounded *Madison Craft Beer Week*; and founded a solo practice focused on the food and beverage industry.

When he joined the L&E Clinic as a part-time clinical instructor in 2011, it was mostly to inject stable employment into the mix. But the clinic's mission of providing free legal services to nascent entrepreneurs and early-stage companies struck a chord: The startup founders Glazer had previously worked with often faced problems like bankruptcies and receiverships that could have been avoided entirely if they'd received sound legal advice early on.

"That kind of education and discussion is really what we do here at the L&E Clinic," said Glazer, who created the clinic's IP Practice Group.

In 2019, with farm closures surging and the state bar association sounding the alarm over the lack of lawyers in rural Wisconsin, Glazer realized rural entrepreneurs were facing a fundamental shift in their economic landscape without the benefit of legal guidance. The L&E Clinic already had programs in place to meet the needs of underserved urban entrepreneurs, including partnerships with organizations such as the Urban League and the Progress Center for Black Women. Glazer created



Jeffrey Glazer and his students crisscross the state making presentations and holding office hours for rural entrepreneurs wherever they may be.

the Rural Entrepreneurship Program to do the same for small business owners beyond Madison and Milwaukee.

Glazer and his students crisscross the state making presentations and holding office hours for rural entrepreneurs wherever they may be. Their clients range from farmers making the shift to agritourism — or as Glazer puts it, "transitioning the farm to something other than just farming" — to Main Street business owners and videogame developers. They also help municipalities understand the statutory rules governing broadband deployment so they can improve local Internet access; explain the inner workings of cooperatives to trade organizations so they can organize more effectively; and train staff at service providers all across Wisconsin, like University of Wisconsin–Madison Extension County Offices and Small Business Development Centers, to recognize basic legal issues so they can refer potential clients to the clinic.

By its nature, the program serves as a pipeline development tool to identify and support students who want to practice in rural areas.

Glazer said, “I have raised my hand and said to any law student in the school who is interested in working in a rural community, ‘Tell me where you want to work. I will introduce you to the leaders of that community. I will introduce you to the service providers in that community. I will introduce you to other lawyers in that community. I will make sure

that if you want to work in that community, you will be a rock star there by the time you leave.’”

“The students need somebody there saying, ‘You can do this,’” he added, pointing out that many of them feel pressure, financial and otherwise, to find jobs at big-city firms. “The problems are interesting, the people are interesting and there’s plenty of work here for them.”

By Alexander Gelfand



Labor Law Powerhouse Joins Faculty

For years, Ahmed White had been impressed with University of Wisconsin Law School from afar. This fall, he joins the faculty as the James E. Jones Jr. Chair. The endowed faculty chair honors the late Professor James E. Jones Jr. '56, who was a trailblazing labor lawyer, civil rights activist, prolific scholar and committed professor.

"I had a broad sense of the high quality of the faculty, students and institution overall," said White. "It has a very good reputation. My visits to the school over the course of the last year or so confirmed that."

White's considerable interactions convinced him that UW Law would be an ideal place to continue his career.

"In nearly every conversation I had, and in most every exploration of the institution, I found more reasons to join this community," he said. "My wife, Teresa Bruce, who will be joining me at the school, was similarly impressed. And we both find Madison and the surrounding region enormously appealing."

White is a graduate of Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Yale Law School, where he was a classmate of Dean Dan Tokaji. After graduating in 1994, White spent a couple more years in New Haven, Connecticut, on a research fellowship before working for nearly two years with the Louisiana State Senate. He started his teaching career as a visiting assistant professor at Northwestern Law School but has been on the faculty at the University of Colorado Law School in Boulder since 2000.

White's research is primarily situated in labor and employment relations, with an emphasis in history, particularly labor unions, labor law and labor repression in the first half of the 20th century.

In the last eight years, White has published two books on these topics: One delves into a very violent and politically important steel strike in the New Deal period. The other focuses on the repression of a radical labor organization, the Industrial Workers of the World, during the 1910s and 1920s.

"I think this kind of work is actually essential for understanding how the institutions, traditions and values that define the world of labor today came about, and likewise for helping us to think intelligently about where the world of labor is likely heading in the years ahead," he explained. "I also like to think that the work



I do is important for the broader and more basic reason that it brings to light dramatic events and preserves the memory of people whose often tragic but extraordinarily meaningful lives would otherwise have been forgotten."

Coming to UW Law, White said he finds the Wisconsin Idea "enormously appealing."

"It realizes a notion that should be at the center of institutional education everywhere, but, for me, there's also the more personal reason that it validates something that I have long made central to my work," he explained. "My books

are scholarly texts, meaning that I wrote them with every expectation that they would be cited, judged and generally consumed by academics. And they have. But I also wrote these books with the hope that they would be of interest to people who are not academics, people who read not because it is a direct mandate of their work lives, but because they are for whatever reason curious about things like the New Deal; or maybe because, though not professional scholars, their callings in life are such that they would benefit from knowing, for instance, how the Espionage Act was used against the Industrial Workers of the World. I have found few things more rewarding than engaging with these individuals — hearing, for example, how reading something I wrote helped a woman better understand what her grandfather, a steel worker, endured."

White said he looks forward to working with his new colleagues, the students and staff. Besides that, "there is something else that excites me," he said.

"I don't think I could find a law school and a university better situated than UW to support the work I've been doing and plan to continue to do," he explained. "In both teaching and service, I'll have the opportunity to focus my efforts as never before on issues concerning labor and employment. I'll not only be surrounded by an extraordinary community of scholars, many of them working in allied fields; I'll also be working with some of the country's best librarians and archivists at a law school that is just yards away from one of the country's finest archives. And I'll also be in a city that is fairly surrounded by a great number of other archives whose collections are likely to occupy me for many years to come. I'm quite eager to get to work."

By Cassandra Tuten

A Professor's Advocacy Changes Tracks

Long-time decarceration advocate Renagh O'Leary transitions from clinical teaching to tenure-track research.

For five years, Assistant Professor Renagh O'Leary advocated for compassionate release for seriously ill people in prison through University of Wisconsin Law School's Legal Assistance to Incarcerated People (LAIP) Clinic. As a new tenure-track professor, she's dedicated to examining decarceration.

"The questions I explore in my research are rooted in my experiences working with clients in LAIP and as a public defender," said O'Leary.

O'Leary attended college at the University of Michigan and was inspired to pursue a law degree by the state's then-notoriously dysfunctional public defender system.

A Yale Law School graduate, O'Leary started her career at The Bronx Defenders. The New York City-based organization supports clients through their criminal cases, as well as the dominoing consequences that can come from being charged with a crime: job loss, eviction, changes in immigration status and removal of children from their custody.

"What appealed to me about working as a public defender is that you're really standing alongside your clients at what is often one of the most difficult periods in their life," O'Leary explained.

Starting in 2018, she built on that experience while instructing students at the LAIP Clinic, which represents people in Wisconsin prisons who are seeking a second look at their sentence.

"A big portion of my work at the LAIP Clinic was representing people seeking compassionate release — release from prison based on a serious or terminal health condition," O'Leary said. "All of my work with students in the clinic focused on challenging excessive sentences and seeking release for our clients."

Every state in the country except Iowa has a compassionate release program on the books. But snags in the system, like mandatory sentencing conflicts and requirements to have a nursing home space secured before release, often block them from being effective.

"The de facto presumption is that you will stay incarcerated, even if you meet these medical criteria," O'Leary explained.

Racial injustice is an undeniable aspect of working within the justice system, O'Leary said, citing profound racial disparities in incarceration rates. In Wisconsin, one in every 36 Black people is in

prison — the highest Black incarceration rate of any state in the country.

O'Leary's first article, "Compassionate Release and Decarceration in the States," published in the *Iowa Law Review* in 2022, explored the challenges facing people seeking compassionate release from prison. Currently, O'Leary's scholarship focuses on the role of probation and parole officers in decisions about sentencing. Her second article, "Supervising Sentencing," will be published by the *University of California Davis Law Review* in 2024. Both of O'Leary's articles were named runners-up in the American Association of Law Schools Criminal Justice Section's Junior Scholars Paper Competition in the years they were published.

As the United States reckons with leading the world in incarceration rates, as well as the deep racial injustice within the criminal legal system, O'Leary sees decarceration as a way forward.

"The second-look advocacy that I both participated in as a clinician at UW Law and have written about as a researcher is definitely an area of hope," she said.

By Holly Marley-Henschen



In Memory of a Life of Service and to Others

Joan Stafslieen '92 creates fund in memory of husband, Tom '91.

Joan Stafslieen '92 recalls many moments during her time at University of Wisconsin Law School, but one series of events holds particular meaning.

"A group of law students would meet Thursday nights at the Law School and watch 'L.A. Law' in the student center, then we'd go out for the evening on State Street," she recalled. "This is when and where Tom and I met, during my first year and his second."

Tom '91, who grew up in Janesville, was in the military on active duty. He was "easygoing, fun and had a dry sense of humor," she recalled.

"He didn't take law school too seriously, which in hindsight was probably the right approach," Joan said. "Perhaps his previous nine years in the Marine Corps taught him that."

Tom started his military career in the Marine Corps as a Field Artillery Officer after graduating from Drake University in 1981. He deployed twice to Beirut, Lebanon, the last of which provided security for search and recovery operations following the 1983 bombing of the Marine barracks there. He then served at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) in San Diego, California, as a Series and Company Commander in enlisted recruit training.

While at MCRD, Tom sought a change. Through the Marine Corps' Excess Leave Program, he was able to attend UW Law School and still work at the local Marine Corps recruiting station. Tom spent his second and third years at UW Law with the Legal Defense Project (LDP), which provided trial-level representation to indigent Dane County misdemeanor clients.

"He loved working with LDP," said Joan. "I'd say it was the highlight of his Law School time. He deeply respected both Professor Baldwin and Professor Tuerkheimer."

Following his time at UW Law, Tom attended the Naval Justice School at Newport, Rhode Island, where he learned the Uniform Code of Military Justice. He then served as a Marine Corps Judge Advocate based at Camp Pendleton, California, where he practiced criminal law.

As Tom progressed through his military career, he also served as the Staff Secretary for the Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, and as the Staff Judge Advocate for the 1st Force Service Support Group. He later received an LL.M. in Military Law from the Judge Advocate General's School of the Army in Charlottesville, Virginia. He finished his



"I am hoping this fund will help these amazing individuals fulfill their dreams of either continuing with their military service or transitioning post-service to their next career."

Marine Corps career as the Officer in Charge of the Legal Assistance Center at Camp Pendleton before retiring in 2001.

Tom and Joan, who married in 1994, had two sons: Ben, born in 1996, and Jonathan, who came along five years later.

"As a family, we traveled the world," recalled Joan. "When Tom was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 2013, we determined to live life to the fullest for as long as possible. We were together from that first day in the law school in January 1990 until he passed away in January 2020."

In 2023, inspired by her husband's service, Joan created the Major Thomas Stafslieen, USMC, Ret. Scholarship Fund.

The core of Tom's being was service of others, and service to the United States was his life's work, Joan said.

"Tom was one of the most kind and gentle people I have ever met," she added. "He believed deeply in the ideals of the United States — resolving conflicts peacefully through the courts, and valuing democracy, independence and freedom. He didn't believe the United States was perfect, but he believed in this



Tom and Joan with family before a football game

country's ideals and its constitution so much so that he was willing to serve to protect them for all of us."

Those who serve or previously served with the armed forces are special, Joan continued.

"They exemplify service and sacrifice to others. I am hoping this fund will help these amazing individuals fulfill their dreams of either continuing with their military service or transitioning post-service to their next career," she said. "I hope this scholarship will assist in their ability to graduate debt-free."

This scholarship will receive matching dollars from the Laureen Seeger Match.

"It is a fantastic way to immediately double the impact of my grant," said Joan. "I am deeply grateful for this match as a means to accelerate funds to incoming UW Law students."

To learn more or make a gift, visit

go.wisc.edu/staflien-fund.

By **Kassandra Tuten**



Tom & Joan Staflien



Tom, Joan and baby Ben

SHAPING FUTURES

The following are new funds established with support from the Laureen Seeger Match:

1. The Bruce Colburn Scholarship
2. The Claire Silverman Municipal Law Scholarship
3. The Major Thomas Stafslie, USMC, Ret. Scholarship
4. The Topinka Bernhardt Family Scholarship
5. The Steven J. Thompson Courage and Compassion Scholarship
6. The Steven J. Thompson Family Courage and Compassion Scholarship
7. The Frank Tuerkheimer Scholarship
8. The Theodore and Nancy Widder Scholarship
9. The 1890 Family Scholarship
10. The Ralph M. Cagle Memorial Scholarship



IN FOCUS *Judge Luttig, 2024 Kastenmeier Lecturer*

University of Wisconsin Law School hosted Judge J. Michael Luttig as the speaker for the 2024 Robert W. Kastenmeier Lecture, which took place March 14.

Judge Luttig spoke on “American Democracy and the Rule of Law in Peril.”

“There is no one who has done more to protect American democracy over the last 10 years than Judge Luttig,” said UW Law School Dean Dan Tokaji.

Judge Luttig served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit from 1991 to 2006. He is currently counselor and special advisor to the Coca-Cola Company and its board of directors.

The moderator for this year’s event was Charlie Sykes, a Wisconsin political commentator and an NBC/MSNBC contributor. Following the lecture, Dean Tokaji presented Judge Luttig with a statue of the Law School’s mascot, the Gargoyle. A reception and dinner followed.

Photos By Nick Wilkes







Family Law

Trends in 2024 and why students are drawn to practice it.

By Jennie Broecker | Illustrations by Charlotte Easterling

Trends and new challenges paint a different picture than what it looked like just a few years ago. But the importance and appeal of family law remain consistent.

“Family law issues impact the entire lives of those we serve at the clinic: their physical safety, economic security and children’s welfare,” said Jennifer Binkley, director of the Family Court Clinic at University of Wisconsin Law School. “Although it involves incredibly emotional issues and high stakes, family law provides amazing opportunities to make a real difference and offers practical experience in civil litigation, including courtroom advocacy, that is applicable to many areas of law.”

Intimate Partner Violence

Though statutes often refer to domestic violence and abuse, the preferred terminology has shifted to intimate partner violence (IPV).

IPV involves physical violence, sexual violence, stalking or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse. It can occur among heterosexual or same-sex couples and does not require sexual intimacy.

“Increasingly, violence is being seen in relationships where partners do not live in the same household,” said Ryan Poe-Gavlinski, deputy director of the Economic Justice Institute (EJI), director of the Restraining Order and Survivor Advocacy Clinic (ROSA) and director of the Lawyering Skills program at UW Law.

The prevalence of firearms in IPV is a particular concern in Wisconsin: In 2022, 88.5% of all IPV homicides in the Badger State were committed with a gun.

The state is home to one in every six IPV deaths in the United States, and in November 2023, Wisconsin reached a 22-year high for such deaths. While some legislators are trying to change the law to prevent abusers from having guns, firearm enforcement and prohibition continue to be a challenge as these issues are weighed against the Second Amendment constitutional right, Poe-Gavlinski said.

It is also difficult for survivors to prove that the subject of a restraining injunction does not have access to a gun, she added. And in general, because resources are limited for aiding survivors, it makes it more difficult for them to leave their situation, Poe-Gavlinski said.

“Many survivors pursue restraining orders on their own without legal assistance,” she said. “Navigating the legal system is scary on its own, much less when you are a survivor having to confront your abuser. IPV is still taboo and can cause survivors shame and embarrassment.”

Divorce

To increase control and decrease conflict, some couples are looking more at alternative dispute resolution in divorce, like mediation, arbitration and collaborative divorce.

In mediation, the two parties seek independent assistance to find consensus.

In arbitration, disputed issues are submitted to an arbitrator, who makes a binding decision instead of a judge.

In collaborative divorce, the parties collectively assemble a team to resolve all issues. This goes beyond attorneys to include mental health professionals, child custody specialists, accountants and others. If the process succeeds, the agreement goes to a family court judge, and the legal process proceeds uncontested. If the process fails, each party must hire a new attorney to represent them in a contested divorce process in court.

While this can be more efficient, it can also be more expensive, said Cary Bloodworth, who directs the Family Legal Advocacy and Supports Clinic (FLASC) at UW Law.

Another effort in Wisconsin to make divorce easier is a bill that would allow “divorce by affidavit” in some circumstances, Bloodworth said.

Currently, the court is required to hold a final hearing in all divorce proceedings, even if the parties agree on everything and the court is going to adopt their agreement.

The new proposal would allow the court to grant a divorce without a final hearing if both parties are represented by an attorney, submit a written agreement and submit an affidavit detailing a list of information.

“Generally, I think making the divorce process easier and less stressful is a good thing,” Bloodworth said.

Her concern involves the two-attorney requirement.

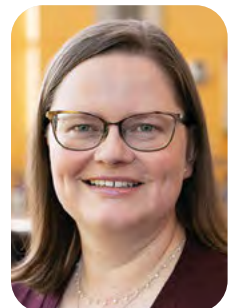
“The reasoning is there should be less concern about the agreement being unfair to one party,” she said. “However, this could create two paths to divorce — a more efficient, expedited path for those who can afford an attorney, and a more complicated and burdensome process for those who can’t.”



Jennifer Binkley



Ryan Poe-Gavlinski



Cary Bloodworth

Kinship Care

Legislation in Wisconsin would expand the definition of “relative” and add a category of “like-kin” in child welfare and juvenile justice statutes.

Currently, a relative is “a parent, stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, half-sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, first cousin, second cousin, nephew, niece, uncle, aunt, step uncle, step aunt, or any person of a preceding generation as denoted by the prefix of grand, great, or great-great, whether by blood, marriage, legal adoption or the spouse of any person named in this subsection.”

The new legislation would add “first cousin once removed” as a relative and define “like kin.” This would be “an individual who has a significant emotional relationship with a child or the child’s family that is similar to a familial relationship and who is not and has not previously been the child’s licensed foster parent. For an Indian child, this includes individuals identified by the child’s tribe according to tribal tradition, custom or resolution, code or law.”

“Removing a child from their home is a traumatic experience,” Bloodworth said. “When children can be placed with people they already know and are comfortable with, it reduces the negative impact. They are less likely to fail out of a placement, more likely to be placed with siblings and more likely to eventually be reunified with their parents.”

In addition to removing the barrier of having to be licensed as foster parents, the change would allow “like-kin” to receive kinship care, financial support to non-parents caring for a child.

Technology

Technology can have both negative and positive impacts on clients.

“From the abuse end, we are seeing a major rise in tracking abilities by abusers that are often very hard for a survivor to detect/find,” Poe-Gavlinski said. “In addition, now that one can use many different numbers to call/text/message that may be unknown to the receiver, it is hard to prove legally that a certain person is causing unwanted contact.”

But from the divorce and co-parenting side, high-tech solutions are changing the way parents communicate, Bloodworth said.

“More and more parents resort to text and email so that everything is documented, and texts and emails are frequently used as evidence at contested hearings,” she said. “Additionally, companies have popped up to try to provide tech solutions for communication problems.”

For example, OurFamilyWizard is frequently ordered by judges in Wisconsin. Parents pay to sign up, and all messaging goes through the app. It has a tone-checker to prevent conflict, a shared calendar and payment functionality.

Student Perspective: *Teresa Kulick, 3L*



Q: Why did you choose the Restraining Order and Survivor Advocacy Clinic (ROSA)?

A: It offered a meaningful opportunity to work directly with clients who are often experiencing trauma. Through ROSA, I can provide survivors with the support and compassion they may otherwise be missing. By representing or advising survivors of harassment or domestic

violence, I can help them regain their own voice and autonomy, which I believe facilitates recovery. I also appreciate that, since restraining orders require a quick turnaround, I am often able to see my clinic clients through the entire process.

Q: What do you want to do upon graduation?

A: I plan to join a law firm in Milwaukee, where I am from. I also plan to continue representing survivors of domestic violence who are seeking restraining orders through pro-bono work.

Q: What have you found most challenging? Most rewarding?

A: It can be really challenging to work with clients who are still

actively experiencing domestic violence and are not truly ready to leave their relationship, which is entirely normal and not uncommon. We spend a lot of time discussing this in clinic, developing strategies to meet clients where they are and offer advice without applying any pressure.

On the other hand, it is so rewarding to be a part of someone’s story as they leave an abusive situation and advocate for themselves and their right to be safe and secure in their own life. I am so grateful for the opportunity to support survivors at any stage of the process and know that my efforts make a difference for them. After my first semester with ROSA, I got a Christmas card from a client thanking me for my work on her case. It was really moving, and I will treasure the card forever.

In Closing

Students are attracted to family law for a number of reasons, like wanting to help children and victims of crime.

But cases often are painful, which can have a secondary trauma effect on practitioners.

“You cannot work in this field and not have it affect you emotionally and physically,” Poe-Gavlinski said. “That’s why all of us, including students, must recognize it, address it, reflect upon it and find ways to heal ourselves through healthy habits. I particularly talk with students about this weekly at our supervision meetings, if not more. Students need to learn healthy habits now because they are building their habits and professional identity.”

Teaching students how to question and work with victims of trauma helps students to be empathetic, she said.

Additionally, because of the complicated nature of family relationships, students have to consider more than just “winning,” Bloodworth added.

“They have to think about things like, ‘If I question this person hard and bring up all these terrible things, will that destroy this person’s relationship with my client? Is that what my client wants?’ Often, the answer to that question is no, and the way you present a case is informed by that.”

U.S. Statistics, At a Glance

The relevance of family law in Americans’ daily lives can be illustrated by how often they are affected.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

About

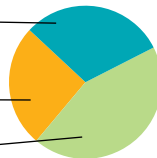
41% of women and **26%** of men

have experienced sexual violence, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner

CHILD SUPPORT

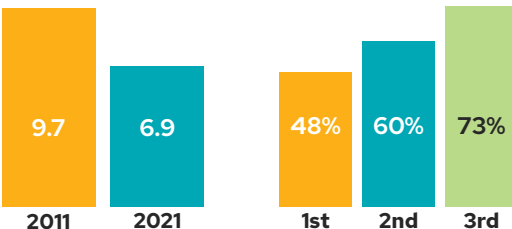
30.7% of custodial parents who were due child support did not receive any payment from noncustodial parents

25.8% received partial
43.5% received full payments



DIVORCE

Divorce rates have been on the decline (as have marriage rates)



Divorce rate per thousand women

Rates are higher for second and third marriages than first marriages

Student Perspective:

Nicholas Bartschat, 3L



Q: Why did you choose the ROSA Clinic?

A: I had no idea what I was doing my 1L year; the closest thing I had to “legal experience” was an embarrassing driving record. Professor Poe-Gavlinski welcomed me with open arms and made me feel validated in the way

that only she can. From our first meeting, I knew ROSA would provide a supportive environment to develop foundational skills.

Q: What do you want to do upon graduation?

A: Spend time with loved ones, become an assistant state public defender and finish reading “Cloud Atlas,” which has been collecting dust on my nightstand since Fall 2021.

Q: What is the most important thing you have learned during your time in the clinic and why?

A: Listen first. It can be tempting to fall into a problem-solving mindset and hyperfocus on the facts – or lack thereof. In class, we learn to read an organized summary, synthesize the law and provide an “answer.” In real life, a client might jump from moment to moment or get stuck on seemingly irrelevant details, and the correct response depends on being able to understand their unique position and goals. There is no one-size-fits-all approach, so we have to sit back and take in the full picture. Besides, everyone deserves to be heard.

UW Family Law Clinics, At a Glance

Family Court Clinic • Restraining Order & Survivor Advocacy Clinic • Family Legal Advocacy & Supports Clinic

Note: The Family Legal Advocacy and Supports Clinic (FLASC) is a new partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, the Sandra Rosenbaum School of Social Work, the Children’s Court Improvement Project and four county child welfare agencies. Its goal is to prevent deeper involvement in the child welfare systems by providing upstream, preventive legal services and social supports to families at risk of more formal child welfare involvement.

NAV THE



IGATING FUTURE

UW Law efforts position students to work alongside rapidly expanding AI.

By **Kassandra Tuten**

At University of Wisconsin Law School, students don't just learn about law as it is in the books. Sure, understanding precedent, legal history and everything else is important to a well-rounded legal education. But equally as important is looking to the present and even the future of law. And right now, dominating that space is AI. Over the last year, the Dean's Office formed an AI Working Group to explore how AI could influence the legal industry and what that impact might be on future generations of lawyers and legal scholars.

Artificial Intelligence, or AI for short, is most visible in the form of "generative AI" and large language models — algorithms that learn from oceans of data to approximate human communication and serve as the engine for chatbots such as ChatGPT — and other AI models that perform similar computing tasks to create images and videos.

From coursework on whether and how to effectively engage with AI software to offering Continuing Legal Education Opportunities (CLE) programs to alumni and others in the legal field, UW Law hopes to prepare audiences for whatever the future may hold. The committee of 11 has been exploring the topic of AI and law and how best to prepare students to succeed in using and working with this rapidly expanding tool by exploring AI's perils, pitfalls and opportunities.

Exploring the Value of AI

"Let's be clear here, we don't know what AI will look like in five or 10 years," said Andrew Turner (referred to as A. Turner for the remainder of this piece), chair of the committee. "We've only been talking about AI for one year and we've already seen how much it has changed and adapted; we can't feign certainty about

"We want to ensure we're teaching our students to use the technology responsibly to advocate for their clients, but also to understand how the technology works, its limitations and how it is evolving."

— Andrew Turner

the sort of progress it's going to make in the next year, let alone into the future."

The value of AI is still a mystery, but its impact is acknowledged throughout the legal community.

According to the 2023 Future Ready Lawyer Report conducted by Wolters Kluwer, 43% of respondents saw AI as an opportunity (25% viewed AI as a threat and 26% viewed it as both an opportunity and a threat). In fact, some U.S. Appeals Courts have recently proposed lawyers certify review of AI use in filings, and a U.S. District Court in the Northern District of Texas stated "all attorneys and pro se litigants appearing before the Court must, together with their notice of appearance, file on the docket a certificate attesting either that no portion of any filing will be drafted by generative artificial intelligence or that any language drafted by generative artificial intelligence will be checked for accuracy, using print reporters or traditional legal databases, by a human being."

"It poses many questions and generates concerns because AI programs are starting to at least simulate things lawyers do, like draft contracts or give us answers to questions," A. Turner said. "How good AI programs may become at these tasks and what that means for law practice and education are issues we're grappling with."

In fact, lawyers the world over have already begun implementing AI in their toolbox, using the programming for:

- research;
- drafting, brainstorming and writing;
- image and voice creation and duplication;
- eDiscovery for sifting through Electronically Stored Information;
- transcription and note-taking analysis;
- summarization of cases, dockets and statutes;
- and more.

And, while it can't replace human legal researchers, it can supplement it, added Kristopher Turner (referred to as K. Turner throughout), associate director of public services, UW Law Library.

Perils and Pitfalls

Though AI companies are working hard to improve their programs and models, as of now, AI still has serious limitations that law students need to understand and manage.

For instance, most large language model AIs have been trained on the universe of the internet, which is full of bias and misinformation. Because of this, it frequently produces outputs that reflect those pre-existing societal biases back to the user. In short, if you feed AI “garbage,” you’ll get interesting results because it doesn’t know what is garbage and what’s not, explained committee member and IT Director Eric Giefer. This can be even more problematic because those biased answers come with a sheen of credibility because they are generated by advanced artificial intelligence models.

“But it’s really just its weakness and limitations on display,” explained Desmond Wu, who’s led some of the committee’s efforts in understanding and educating students on AI’s inherent bias and limitations.

Another issue is that large language models aren’t typically aware of their own limitations. When they lack a good answer to a question, they often simply make up credible sounding information in what’s referred to as “hallucinations.” These are often very convincing, which presents another major challenge to AI use in a legal context.

AI companies are investing heavily trying to solve these problems in various ways, including by training them using law-specific content.

Other perils and pitfalls the committee is highlighting include privacy issues (for example, companies reviewing and using information put into the AI by users), copyright concerns, the potential loss of originality/creativity and the impact on students’ abilities to learn core skills, among others.

Whether and to what extent AI companies can overcome these challenges is still an open question. Even members on the AI committee are split in their predictions about just how far AI is likely to progress in the coming years.

While the climate around AI is ever evolving, the Law School is working diligently on how to position students to work alongside AI in an otherwise unknown future.

AI to Play a Growing Role in Legal Work

Despite these challenges, based on its research and conversations with leaders in the legal community, the committee predicts that AI will continue to play a growing role in legal work.

“In order to properly use AI, users have to understand the pitfalls around using AI so they don’t fall into them,” explained Wu. “Many attorneys have gotten in trouble for using AI to generate briefs that contained made-up case citations. When asked to submit the cases for the made-up citations, the AI then fabricated entire cases.”

As a result, the committee believes it is crucial for law students to learn to use AI responsibly and effectively without undermining the development of core writing, research and analysis skills.

Beginning last spring, 1Ls learned the core concepts of AI through various classes. As 2Ls and 3Ls, they have the opportunity to take those introductory concepts and learn how to use AI ethically and appropriately through courses like Advanced Legal Research, explained Bonnie Shucha, Law Library director.

“Students already know what generative AI is — but that’s just the beginning,” said Shucha. “We’re teaching students to critically engage with the technology — understanding its mechanics, ethical dimensions and its transformative impact on legal practice. Through hands-on exploration with various AI platforms, they learn to scrutinize the data, craft precise prompts, safeguard sensitive information and validate outcomes. This critical assessment of AI is essential in today’s legal landscape.”

Also being discussed is the ethical use of AI.

It was a good “fountain of discussion for the students,” explained K. Turner.

“For example, how do you balance a law office and billable hours with AI? It’s an ethical question that’s still unfolding as we speak,” he said.

Students are very interested in implementing AI in a fair and equitable way, K. Turner continued.

A few areas they’re really interested in exploring are how AI could help with access to legal services, for example, and how the use of AI might lead to a bigger division in the legal field, such as some law firms having access to the tool and others not.

“We’re seeing a lot of interest and demand in this area from our students, and I can only imagine it will continue to grow,” said K. Turner.

It is crucial for law students to learn to use AI responsibly and effectively without undermining the development of core writing, research and analysis skills.

While using AI appropriately does lessen the problem of hallucinations, it doesn’t eliminate it.

“AI is a wonderful tool, but human intervention is still needed at this point,” said K. Turner. “But as we’re talking, it was only introduced in the fall of 2022, and it’s changed dramatically. So, by next fall, we could be seeing huge advancements. It’s exciting but also intimidating maybe for those who aren’t used to being tech reliant.”

The committee has worked with faculty to develop both model and bespoke classroom policies around the use of AI. As of now, each faculty member has the freedom to craft a policy that works best for their subject area. For instance, a clinical program may be more permissive with AI use provided students disclose how they used it, whereas a substantive law professor might choose to prohibit it entirely for graded work or exams.

While the climate around AI is ever evolving, the Law School is working diligently on how to position students to work alongside AI in an otherwise unknown future.

“The only known thing is AI is not going away, but how will things look in five years?” said Giefer. “Think of MySpace. It was so popular, but it’s gone, but the concept is still with us today, just evolved. We don’t know what the future is, but we’re trying to ensure our students are ready to tackle whatever that future might look like.”

AI a Focus of UW–Madison's New RISE Initiative

The new Wisconsin Research, Innovation and Scholarly Excellence (RISE) Initiative is designed to address complex challenges of importance to Wisconsin and the world. The Initiative, which launched in February, will focus first on artificial intelligence.

"UW–Madison has always upheld its responsibility to innovate for the public good, a principle no less central to the university's mission now than it was when the Wisconsin Idea was articulated nearly 120 years ago," said University of Wisconsin–Madison Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin. "As the grand challenges of the 21st century come into focus, so do the opportunities for a university with UW–Madison's breadth and depth to muster interdisciplinary research, education and action to rise and meet them. That is what the RISE Initiative is designed to do."

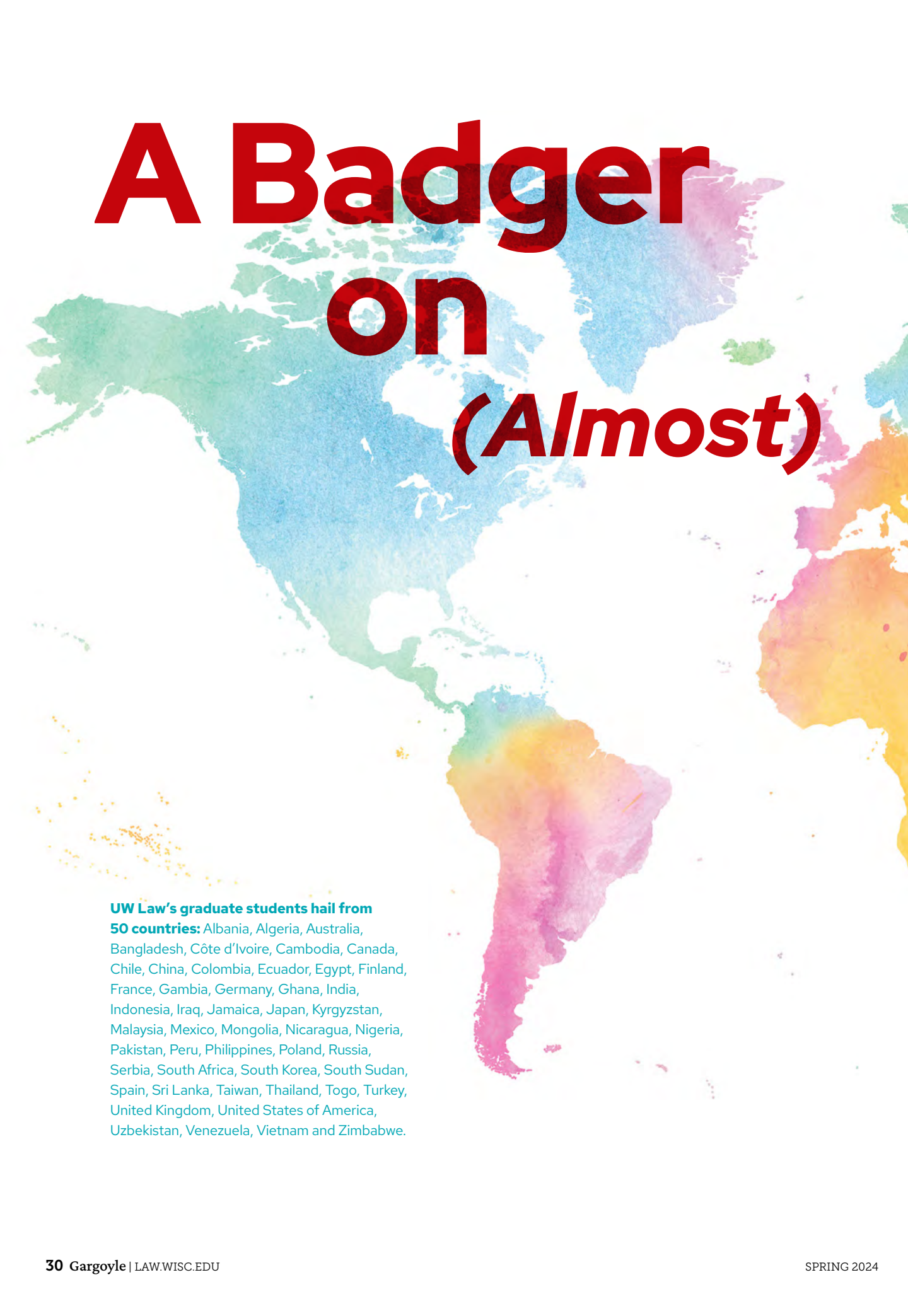
At a research institution like UW–Madison, AI is opening new frontiers for scholars working across various disciplines. Advancing AI with RISE Initiative support will put UW–Madison in a leadership position in a field that is rapidly expanding.

According to a UW-Madison news release, through strategic additions of people and resources, "RISE will build collaborative networks of faculty to tap high-priority research and development funding, make transformative discoveries with real-world impact and equip students with the knowledge and skills to extend that impact into their careers."

The university expects to recruit between 120 and 150 faculty through the RISE Initiative over the next three to five years. According to Provost Charles Isbell, the strategically focused commitment of RISE will allow UW–Madison to accelerate the hiring of promising faculty and build on its existing strengths.

"Some of today's students will become tomorrow's leading AI innovators, and all of today's students need to learn to use AI-powered tools creatively, effectively and ethically," said Isbell. "RISE AI is not just about research. By adding resources and focusing on this major challenge, we will naturally be able to carry the energy into the classroom."

Visit rise.wisc.edu for more information on the Wisconsin RISE Initiative.



A Badger on (Almost)

UW Law's graduate students hail from

50 countries: Albania, Algeria, Australia, Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Serbia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam and Zimbabwe.



Every Continent

UW Law's graduate programs are a destination for students from a growing number of countries.

By Nicole Sweeney Etter

Roberto Cordova '20 worked as a litigator in Monterrey, Mexico, before he landed a job with the Consulate of Mexico's Milwaukee office. He spent the next few years advocating for the rights of Mexican nationals in the Wisconsin prison system, but he missed practicing law.

Then he heard about the Master of Laws (LL.M.) program at University of Wisconsin Law School. Soon after, he moved to Madison for a year to learn about how the American legal system differs from his native Mexico.

"It felt really inclusive that as a foreign attorney I would be exposed to that experience of sitting in the classic American classroom, studying with the J.D.s who grew up in the U.S. and are immersed in the

system already," said Cordova, who now works for a Milwaukee firm focused on immigration law. "It was a great experience to have multicultural discussions about laws and principles of law and how they're different from country to country."

Cordova is one of hundreds of international students, from Australia to Zimbabwe, who have come to the Law School for graduate studies over the decades. UW Law's graduate programs typically draw between 25-50 students a year.

"Given our increasingly globalized society and world, particularly in law, it's critical that we have these diverse perspectives in the classroom," said Rebecca Scheller '07, associate dean for admissions and financial aid. "These different perspectives further

enrich the overall experience for all students, as well as our faculty and staff.”

The course-based LL.M. program, which is UW Law’s largest graduate program, is a 24-credit program for graduates of international law schools. It gives students an overview of the American legal system and may help them meet the requirements to take the bar exam in several states, including Wisconsin. The Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.) prepares law school graduates — from the U.S. or other countries — for a career as a legal scholar.

For some like Cordova, a graduate degree from UW Law is an essential ticket to practicing law in the U.S. But most take their American legal training back to their home countries, either to practice international law or to become law school faculty themselves.

“The main drivers of enrollment early on were more focused on people in academia,” said Jason Smith, the Law School’s assistant dean of graduate programs. “We still have that as a subset of the program, but over the last 25 years or so, it has become much more focused on people who are planning to be practitioners. They’re planning to work at international law firms doing corporate work, such as mergers and acquisitions, intellectual property compliance, international trade and other areas.”

Taking the Wisconsin Idea Global

LL.M. programs have proliferated over the past 10 to 15 years, but UW Law has a long and rich history of offering graduate degrees since 1934. While the LL.M. program’s name changed a few times over the years and the program shifted its administrative home from the UW Graduate School to the Law School in 2008, one thing remained the same: an international appetite for a UW legal education.

The graduate programs have also been shaped by UW Law faculty over the decades.

“Wisconsin has a long history of law and development scholars and faculty who are particularly internationally focused,” Smith noted.

Professor Emeritus Joseph Thome specialized in legal issues in Latin America and Africa, and during his tenure, the program educated judges and attorneys from Chile, Peru and other South American countries. Then in 1990, Charles Irish, Volkman-Bascom Professor of Law (emeritus) and an expert in international trade policies and tax reform, founded the East Asian Legal Studies Center. As Irish forged new partnerships and raised UW Law’s profile in that region, the graduate programs grew from a handful of students to 30-35 students a year, primarily from East Asia and Southeast Asia.



Charles Irish and John Ohnesorge (2006)

“Professor Irish’s insight strengthened and expanded the graduate programs at the Law School, building on the foundation that Professor Thome had established earlier,” said Susan (Schulak) Katcher ’90, who was then associate director of the East Asian Legal Studies Center. “The Law School was fortunate to have Professor Irish, not only as a formidable tax professor but also for the multitude of positive contributions he made to the Law School, in support of its graduate programs, students and faculty and staff, as well as contributing to the Law School’s growing reputation in international legal education.”

In 2010, UW Law launched the Executive Master’s Program with partner universities in China, Thailand and Japan. That program brings University of Wisconsin faculty to partner universities to teach accelerated courses, and participating students do the rest of their coursework in Madison.

“UW–Madison is well known and highly regarded throughout the world,” Irish noted. “Many people in Wisconsin were surprised to learn that the Financial Times’ annual publication of the best universities in the world put Wisconsin in the top 20, and that reputation made persuading parents to send their children to Wisconsin or encouraging foreign institutions to partner with us an easy sell.”

Carrying on the Legacy

John Ohnesorge, George Young-Bascom Professor of Law and director for the East Asian Legal Studies Center, continues to build on that proud tradition. Ohnesorge is the senior advisor to the graduate programs, a position he’s particularly well-suited for because he has LL.M. and S.J.D. degrees himself.

“Part of my mission is to have a globally relevant law school where J.D.s can come and learn about the rest of the world and make connections,” said



Rebecca Scheller



Joseph Thome



John Ohnesorge

Ohnesorge, who previously practiced corporate law in Korea. “And without the graduate programs, it’d be impossible to do that.”

Last year, Ohnesorge returned to South Korea as a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar. In addition to teaching in the spring and fall semesters, he researched Korea as a case study of democratization and the role of law in the region. He also presented his research at several institutions in Taiwan and Hong Kong and visited Vietnam and Japan for relationship-building with Law School contacts.

For UW Law, those types of faculty connections have always been the most powerful recruiting tool, and it’s a more personalized approach than the aggressive marketing campaigns some other law schools use to promote their graduate programs.

“Professor Ohnesorge has many strong and valuable connections across Asia, which are instrumental in encouraging collaboration and student and scholar mobility between UW Law School and schools in Korea, for example,” explained Scheller.

S.J.D. alumni help with recruitment, too.

“They’re very important for feeding the pipeline of LL.M. students because we have this network of professors at universities throughout the world, especially in Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and China,” Ohnesorge said.

Ohnesorge is just one of the stellar faculty at UW Law with an international focus. The list includes Heinz Klug, the John and Rylla Bosshard Professor of Law and an expert on South Africa; Asifa Quraishi-Landes, a professor of law who specializes

in comparative Islamic and U.S. constitutional law; Alexandra Huneus, Evjue-Bascom Professor of Law and director of the Center for Law, Society and Justice who focuses on international law and human rights in Latin America; Sumudu Atapattu, a teaching professor and director of the Global Legal Studies Center; Mitra Sharafi, Evjue-Bascom Professor of Law and a legal historian of modern South Asia; Jason Yackee, Foley & Lardner-Bascom Professor of Law, whose research includes international investment law and international economic relations; Mark Sidel, Doyle-Bascom Professor of Law and Public Affairs, whose research and writing focus on the nonprofit sector and philanthropy (with a focus on Asia and the United States), modern secessionary movements, and constitutional law in China and Vietnam; and Kathryn Hendley, Theodore W. Brazeau Professor of Law, whose research focuses on legal and economic reform in the former Soviet Union.

Expanding the Map

Over the past decade, the geographic diversity of UW Law’s graduate programs has grown even more. While LL.M. admissions nationwide dipped in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic as international students chose to stay closer to home, interest is beginning to tick up again. In 2023, UW Law’s admissions team visited 15 countries to recruit new students and connect with alumni. Dean Dan Tokaji, the Fred W. & Vi Miller Dean and professor of law, joined Ohnesorge, Smith and Scheller on a trip to South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand.



Jason Smith and Monique Lu

Scheller, who is used to working primarily with students from the U.S., was delighted to discover the robust and tightly linked alumni networks abroad.

“When I arrived in Taipei, Taiwan, I was blown away at the enthusiasm and the loyalty and the love that many of these alumni have for the Law School and the university and Bucky Badger more broadly,” she said. “The power of the University of Wisconsin brand is quite remarkable. It goes beyond Madison, beyond the Midwest, beyond the U.S. From Seoul to Taipei to Bangkok, the sense of family that I feel with our J.D. alumni felt just as strong among our international students who completed the LL.M. and S.J.D. programs.”

On recent trips abroad, the admissions team highlighted UW’s Visiting International Student Program (VISP) Law thematic track.

“We now have an option for undergraduates at foreign universities to come in as undergrads to take courses that they can then transfer to their bachelor’s degree back home, and then receive credit for those courses toward their LL.M. if they decide to come back later for our LL.M. degree,” Smith explained.

UW Law is one of only a handful of law schools in the nation to offer an option like VISP. The Law School is also working on new agreements with partner universities and institutions in Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, China, Indonesia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Uzbekistan.

Growing Careers and Connections

The LL.M. curriculum is flexible. In addition to two required courses, Introduction to American Law and Legal Sources, students choose courses from the regular J.D. curriculum to explore their interests. It’s a marked contrast from some other law schools, where LL.M. students might take all of their classes with only fellow LL.M. classmates. Graduate students also meet for weekly discussion groups to explore American law concepts more in depth.

The program was a transformative experience for Daniela Fachiano Nakano ’20, who began her law career in her native Brazil.

While in Madison, she studied international and human rights law, participated in the Immigrant Justice Clinic and made lasting friends in the Indigenous Law Students Association.

“The LL.M. supported me to build abilities in many aspects of life — not only academically, but as a human being. And that meant the most,” she said. “When you’re outside your comfort zone, everything is put into perspective.”

UW Law’s approach was different from her education in Brazil, and she learned how to communicate in a simple and effective way instead of relying on overly complicated terms. Today, she puts those lessons to use as an environmental and Indigenous rights lawyer working with the Yanomami people in the Brazilian Amazon. She eventually hopes to become a law professor after gaining more experience in the field.

“The LL.M. has just opened a whirlwind of opportunities here in the United States.”

— Roberto Cordova ’20

For Cordova, the LL.M. degree led to new opportunities in Wisconsin. After passing the Wisconsin Bar, he worked in eviction defense for the Legal Aid Society of Milwaukee before moving to Oasis Legal Group, where he defends immigrants who are facing deportation and seeking asylum.

“It’s a tremendous privilege to do what I love, helping people,” he said. “The LL.M. has just opened a whirlwind of opportunities here in the United States. I’ve been able to learn a lot and advance my career, and it comes with a lot of satisfaction to be able to say that now I can defend people in the country where I live and help people to try to make their lives a little bit better.”

Even after graduation, Cordova stayed in touch with the Graduate Programs Office, which Smith runs alongside Monique Lu, assistant director of graduate programs. The office helped him navigate various aspects of his time on campus.

“They were really instrumental,” he said.

And just as valuable as the degree he earned were the friendships he made. He recently traveled to Chile for the wedding of a UW Law friend.

“It changes your life,” he said.



Where Great Legal Minds Gather

Inaugural faculty investiture ceremony shines spotlight on how faculty boost UW Law's national reputation.

University of Wisconsin Law School recently hosted its inaugural faculty investiture ceremony to honor its distinguished faculty holding named professorships, chairs and other honors. This ceremony is part of a more significant effort tied to the Law School's strategic plan to elevate faculty scholarship and visibility and shed light on how faculty boost UW Law's national reputation.

A named professorship is one of the highest honors a school or university can bestow on a faculty member. It is an honor to the faculty member who holds the position and a long-lasting act of admiration to the donor who established the opportunity.

"I'm thrilled we could take an opportunity to honor UW Law faculty for their influential scholarship and research," said Dean Dan Tokaji. "Our faculty is the largest factor in our reputation and prestige. Ensuring this group is supported so they continue to have an impact is critical to ensure UW Law School remains a national leader in legal education."

This year's honorees highlight the depth and breadth of our exceptional faculty. Among them are esteemed scholars whose names have been synonymous with UW Law School for years, alongside emerging thought leaders who are reshaping legal scholarship with their innovative teaching and fresh ideas. Regardless of their tenure at the Law School, it is clear UW Law is where great legal minds gather.

Visit our Directory at law.wisc.edu/directory for detailed profiles on all of our faculty.

This year's honorees are:



Tonya Brito
**George H. Young Chair;
Vilas Mid-Career
Investigator Award**

An award-winning scholar, Professor Brito's scholarship critically examines the role of

the civil justice system in exacerbating social inequality and the intersection of family law and poverty law. Professor Brito is a national expert in child support law and policy. Additionally, she is the principal investigator of a multi-year, multidisciplinary empirical study examining the experiences of low-income civil litigants in family court.



Emily Cauble
**Thomas G. Ragatz
Professorship in Tax Law**

Professor Cauble's research focuses on business taxation, tax administration and other aspects of tax policy. She has

received numerous awards for her teaching and scholarship. Before becoming a law professor, Professor Cauble worked at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve in Washington, D.C., and practiced in the tax transaction group at Mayer Brown in Chicago.



Anuj Desai
**Volkman-Bascom
Professorship in Law**

In addition to being a sought-after legal scholar, Professor Desai served as an administrative appellate judge on the Admin-

istrative Review Board of the U.S. Department of Labor; as a Senate-confirmed member of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission; as a member of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine's panel; and as counsel to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the General Counsel's Office of Management and Budget, part of the Executive Office of the President.



Kathryn Hendley
**Theodore W. Brazeau
Professor of Law**

Professor Hendley's research focuses on legal and economic reform in the former Soviet Union.

Following the Wisconsin Law-in-Action tradition, her research explores how ordinary Russians experience law. She formerly served as a consultant to the U.S. Agency for International Development and the World Bank in their work on legal reform in Russia.



**Alexandra Huneus
Evjue-Bascom Professorship
in Law**

Professor Huneus' scholarship focuses on international law and human rights, with an emphasis on Latin America. She is currently

serving a 10-year term as a Foreign Expert Jurist in the Colombian Jurisdicción Especial para la Paz, a court created as part of the Colombian peace process.



**Heinz Klug
John and Rylla Bosshard
Professorship**

Growing up in Durban, South Africa, Professor Klug participated in the anti-apartheid struggle, spent 11 years in exile and returned

to South Africa in 1990 as a member of the ANC Land Commission and researcher for Zola Skweyiya, chairperson of the ANC Constitutional Committee. He was also a team member on the World Bank mission to South Africa on Land Reform and Rural Restructuring. Professor Klug's research interests include constitutional transitions, constitution-building, human rights and international regimes.



**Yaron Nili
S. Kinnie Smith Jr. and John
W. Rowe Faculty Fellowship in
Business Law**

Professor Nili's scholarly interests include corporate law, securities law and corporate governance,

with a particular focus on the role and function of the board of directors, shareholder activism, hedge funds and private equity. Four of his law review articles have been voted by business law professors as among the top 10 corporate and securities law articles of the year.



**John Ohnesorge
George Young-Bascom
Professorship in Business Law**

Professor Ohnesorge is the director of the Law School's East Asian Legal Studies Center, senior advisor to the

Graduate Program and founder and director of the Law School's Compliance Initiative.

Professor Ohnesorge just returned from South Korea, where he served as a Fulbright Scholar focusing on the renewed importance of the Korean experience in the areas of law, economic development and political change.



**Margaret Raymond
Warren P. Knowles Chair;
Dean Emeritus**

Professor Raymond's scholarship focuses on the professional responsibility of lawyers, constitutional criminal procedure

and substantive criminal law. She participates regularly in providing ethics CLE programming to Wisconsin lawyers and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company.



**David Schwartz
Frederick W. and Vi
Miller Chair in Law; Vilas
Distinguished Achievement
Professor**

Professor Schwartz teaches and publishes on constitutional law,

evidence and civil procedure. He recently created and serves as the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of American Constitutional History*, a peer-reviewed, web-based journal publishing high-quality scholarship on U.S. constitutional history. The journal features work from law faculty, historians and political scientists that focuses on historical questions touching on the American Constitution or that contain a substantial element of historical analysis in addressing contemporary issues of U.S. constitutional law.



**Miriam Seifter
John W. Rowe Faculty
Fellowship in Regulatory Law**

Professor Seifter currently serves as the faculty co-director of the State Democracy Research Initiative, which seeks to

advance research and dialogue on state-level democracy, government institutions and public law nationwide. Focusing on the states, which traditionally receive less attention than the federal government in legal circles, the Initiative serves as a much-needed resource for academics, courts, policymakers, advocates

and the public. Professor Seifter's research addresses questions of state and federal public law, focusing on challenges affecting democracy at the state level.



Mitra Sharafi
Evjue-Bascom Professorship in Law

Professor Sharafi is a legal historian of modern South Asia. Professor Sharafi's research has been funded by the American

Council of Learned Societies, Institute for Advanced Study, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Science Foundation and Social Science Research Council. Most recently, she was a recipient of an ACLS Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship, a Davis Center Fellowship and an H. I. Romnes Faculty Fellowship.



Mark Sidel
James E. and Ruth B. Doyle-Bascom Professorship

In addition to Professor Sidel's extensive scholarly work, he has served for many years as a consultant for Asia at the

Washington-based International Center for Not-for-Profit Law, focusing on China, India and Vietnam. Advising and consulting assignments have included the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Danish Development Cooperation; the Ford Foundation; the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights; the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; and many other international and donor organizations. Over the past several years, Professor Sidel has assisted a wide range of U.S. and other organizations with issues related to Chinese overseas NGO laws.



Nina Varsava
Vilas Mid-Career Investigator Award

Professor Varsava's research focuses on procedure, courts, judicial administration, legal ethics and jurisprudence. She

is especially interested in issues of precedent, interpretation and intersystemic adjudication.

Professor Varsava was recently awarded the Association of American Law Schools' Jurisprudence Future Promise Award, which is given annually to recognize research accomplishments of junior scholars working in the area of jurisprudence and philosophy of law. Her recent scholarship on precedent in relation to the *Dobbs* decision received national attention.



Ahmed White
James E. Jones Jr. Chair

Professor White's research focuses on the fate of rule of law norms and the rule of law concept in capitalist society, and on the role of criminal law and

punishment as mechanisms of social control of the working class. More recently, Professor White's scholarship has taken a more historical turn. Much of his work concerns the history of law and labor relations from the early 20th century through the New Deal period, as well as the viability of a functional system of labor rights in liberal society. He is one of the country's leading experts on the history of labor repression.



Robert Yablon
John W. Rowe Faculty Fellowship

Professor Yablon currently serves as the faculty co-director of the State Democracy Research Initiative, which seeks to advance

research and dialogue on state-level democracy, government institutions and public law nationwide. His research interests include political and election law, constitutional law, federal and state courts and statutory interpretation.



Jason Yackee
Foley and Lardner Bascom Professorship

Professor Yackee's research centers on international investment law, international economic relations, foreign

arbitration and administrative law and politics. Professor Yackee is currently working on a major historical project that uses archival research to analyze the French government's use of diplomatic and legal means to protect its foreign investors in Africa.

‘Spoiler’ Alert

Nathan Atkinson looks into effect on outcomes of ranked-choice voting.



Spoiler Effect: Can Ranked Choice Voting Solve the Problem of Political Polarization?”

In reviewing anonymized ballots in Alaska’s 2022 elections, the authors found candidates in the middle, not the fringe, were eliminated. And in one race out of three, a candidate who was not the most representative won. Both of those outcomes are counter to common RCV goals.

The paper will be published this fall in the *University of Illinois Law Review*.

Ranked-choice voting is used for statewide elections in Alaska and Maine but a little more widely in local-level elections — like Seattle and more than 40 other cities. The approach is under consideration in Nevada and more than a dozen other states, according to an NBC News review in 2023.

With the shift of America’s political landscape and loss of middle ground, Nathan Atkinson wants to investigate more on how ranked-choice voting performs in polarized environments.

When many of us think about the 2000 U.S. presidential election of George W. Bush vs. Al Gore, we recall *Bush v. Gore*, the U.S. Supreme Court case that ultimately decided the close race.

But over the past two decades, that election inspired a growing interest in ranked-choice voting (RCV), where voters identify their first choice and then rank the other candidates in order of preference. Some folks thought the third-party candidate, Ralph Nader, took support away from Gore, a candidate who might have otherwise won.

Nathan Atkinson, assistant professor at University of Wisconsin Law School, who has always been interested in elections, started wondering more about ranked-choice voting after Alaska adopted it in 2020: What was the goal, and did the outcomes meet it?

“What struck me was that the advocates were making claims that were not just unsubstantiated by the empirical and theoretical evidence but were often quite contrary to things we have known in the voting literature for decades or even longer,” Atkinson said.

This apparent conflict led Atkinson to join co-authors Ned Foley and Scott C. Ganz on “Beyond the

On the flip side, because RCV can be seen as confusing and complicated, five states have banned it.

In the most well-known version of RCV, instant runoff voting, the candidate with the fewest votes gets eliminated, and ballots cast for that candidate are recast for voters’ second choices. The process repeats itself until a candidate reaches a majority.

With the shift of America’s political landscape and loss of middle ground, Atkinson wants to investigate more on how ranked-choice voting performs in polarized environments.

“A small change in voter behavior can have a big impact in instant-runoff voting in a way that’s not true in other systems,” he said. “And moderates are not going to get enough support even though they might be a consensus candidate. This is a flaw of instant-runoff voting that other forms of ranked choice voting don’t share.”

By Jennie Broecker

Q AND A

University of Wisconsin Law School would like to welcome Margaret Miller, who serves as the new alumni relations officer. Miller works closely with the dean, faculty, staff, students and the Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association to foster close connections and generate engagement between the school and its alumni community. Learn more about Miller in the Q&A below:

Question: Can you tell us a little about yourself?

Answer: I was fortunate to grow up surrounded by lots of family in Connecticut. I will always be grateful to my parents who worked hard and sacrificed to send me to excellent schools and exposed me to lots of sports and activities. I was an English and communications double major at Fairfield University, and I graduated in 2011. I moved to Boston in the spring of 2013 — memorably, the week of the Marathon Bombing — and lived there while working at Harvard Kennedy School for just over 10 years.

Q: What brought you to Madison? And what brought you to UW Law School?

Welcome Margaret Miller, Alumni Relations Officer

A: My partner relocated from Boston to Wisconsin first for his job at TREK Bicycle Co. After visiting him in Madison a few times, and enjoying some summer nights on the Terrace, I quickly realized that Madison also had my heart. I made the decision to seek out opportunities at UW–Madison, and this position at the Law School seemed to beautifully blend all of my previous experiences. It was the perfect opportunity for me to join a smart and talented team and hit the ground running!

Q: You joined UW Law School late last year as the new alumni officer, filling a brand-new position. What has been the most exciting part of your work so far? What's been the most challenging?

A: I actually think I have one answer that applies to both, which is meeting everyone in the Law School community — the staff, faculty, students and alumni. Every single person I have crossed paths with has been so kind and thoughtful and welcoming. Each smile I come across and new hand I shake has reaffirmed that coming here was the right decision. At the same time, there's a lot of people to meet and relationships to build! It's been a little daunting to acclimate to a brand-new community, especially one as tightly knit as this one.

Q: What should alumni reach out to you for? And how should they do that?

A: I am excited to meet and hear from Law alumni! Did you get a new job? Make partner at your firm? Get

married or have a baby? I hope you will submit a class note at go.wisc.edu/class-notes. Outside of class notes, I want to hear feedback from alumni on the programming that the Law School currently offers, and source ideas for new engagement opportunities I can work to provide.

You can email me directly at margaret.miller@wisc.edu. Please also let me know if you are passing through Madison and would like to meet for lunch or coffee!

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



A Dream Deferred

Emily Ott always envisioned going after her J.D. But after she earned her bachelor's degree in philosophy, she found herself immersed in politics and government work. Her early career years took her from Congressional offices to a lobbying firm on Capitol Hill to Illinois's largest regulatory agency.

"I planned to spend a couple of years in the workforce before going to law school, but I ended up creating a career that I really enjoyed," she said. "And then I had my daughter when I was 27 — life just kept happening."

Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

As the world paused, Ott looked at her 2-year-old daughter and decided there was no better time to start studying for the LSAT.

After applying to 30 law schools across the country, she chose University of Wisconsin Law School, a choice influenced by her boss at the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, Bryan Schneider '92, who spoke highly of his alma mater.

"What really cemented my decision was the financial package that UW Law afforded me," said Ott, who is now a 3L. "I received a lot of assistance that makes it possible for me to go here. I am so grateful to our alumni donors and to anyone who gives to the school. I definitely do not take it for granted."

Ott had other vital support as she pursued her dream. Her parents even relocated from Illinois to the Madison area to help with her daughter.

"I have so much gratitude for my parents," she said. "I have excellent support from my family."

Because of Ott's time in the workforce, she knew she wanted to tailor her academic experience to her interest in business law.

"What I love about corporate — and tax — law is that it allows you to intellectually engage with the actual law," she said. "I've always been a very rules-oriented person. I really enjoy law that is very heavily reliant on statutory interpretation. So, the tax code just makes sense to me."

Outside of class, Ott is co-president of the University of Wisconsin Business & Tax Law Association, treasurer of the campus chapter of the Federalist Society and treasurer of the St. Thomas More Society. She also works as a research assistant to Professor Yaron Nili, Smith-Rowe Faculty Fellow in Business Law.

"We do both qualitative and quantitative work," Ott said of her research assistant experience. "Our team assists with the whole life cycle of research, from coding to writing things in

narrative form and editing them for final submission to journals, which is my primary focus. That's been a really great opportunity that I'm incredibly thankful to have had."

As a parent, Ott couldn't go just anywhere for a summer experience. Instead, she made the most of her time in Madison by taking extra credits and focusing on her research work. After her first year of law school, she worked for the Law and Entrepreneurship Clinic — a challenging but rewarding experience that affirmed that UW Law was the right place for her.

Being a student parent has also helped her keep the demands of law school in balance.

"I often tell people: Having a child in law school comes with built-in boundaries," Ott said. "One-hundred percent of my time during my day simply does not belong to me. And that is sometimes an inconvenience, but often it's something that I really appreciate because I see people who overextend themselves on everything that law school throws at us. I know that when I read to my daughter at night, I will never feel guilty about that as opposed to reading a law book."

After graduation, Ott plans to practice transactional law and has considered obtaining an LL.M. in tax law after gaining more experience as a practicing attorney.

"Going on to more education is obviously something that I'm not afraid of," she said. "It always excites me."

By Nicole Sweeney Etter



A Family Legacy of Helping Others

Public service is in University of Wisconsin Law School student Joshua Topel's blood.

Topel's parents taught public school in his hometown of Racine — his mother, third grade, and his father, high school sociology.

"They spent their entire day providing education for the people in our community," Topel, a 3L, said. "From a young age, I was constantly reminded how important it is to use your knowledge to help others."

Law came into the picture because his grandmother, Dorothy Topel '47, was an attorney in Marinette. Though the tax, probate and estate lawyer died when Topel was young, her legacy made an impact on him.

"I was just fascinated with her doing that," Topel said.

He followed his heart and double majored at University of Wisconsin–Madison in political science and legal studies with a certificate in criminal justice, interning at UW Law School's Consumer Law Clinic under clinical professor and clinic director Sara Orr during his senior year in 2019.

"I got a lot of exposure to a lot of different areas of the law, issues like ethics — and working with people who don't have as many resources," he said.

Inspired by that experience, Topel started at UW Law School in Fall 2021. During the 2022–23 school year, he found himself again at the Consumer Law Clinic — this time as a clinical law student.

"We focused a lot on wage garnishment issues for clients, making sure they have enough livable wages and that these long debts they may not even remember aren't hanging over them and taking their money away when they really need it," Topel explained.

In Summer 2023, Topel began as a fellow at the Coalition for Property Tax Justice, a Detroit-based nonprofit funded by the Institute for Law and Organizing.

Among the group's projects are challenging inequitable and illegal property tax assessment practices of low-income, minority homeowners and helping Detroit residents file appeals — a project the coalition hopes to launch nationally.

Recently, Topel helped the group pass a reform to regulate property assessments in Detroit by requiring more transparency and ensuring the city is following state law.

Topel hopes to continue his family legacy of community-centered work after he graduates in Spring 2024.

"What drives me to be so passionate about this is that there's such a potential for great change," Topel said. "I'm working with people, and I can see the changes that I'm creating."

By Holly Marley-Henschen



The Relationship Manager

Charles Hoslet '89 has covered a lot of ground over the course of his career, from chief counsel to Gov. Tommy Thompson to vice chancellor for university relations at University of Wisconsin–Madison. But Hoslet, who is retiring after 27 years at the university, sees a common thread running through it all.

“It’s all about what I call relationship management,” he said. “All of the roles that I’ve been in have been about building relationships with stakeholders, whether it’s policymakers in the legislature, local government or members of the business community.”

Thanks to his father’s involvement in business and politics in Green Bay, Hoslet recognized early on that a law degree could be useful in all kinds of careers. He landed a clerkship in the Governor’s Office of Legal Counsel his first summer at University of Wisconsin Law School and graduated straight into the position of Deputy Legal Counsel.

“It was a really nice mix of policy, politics and the law,” said Hoslet, who worked on everything from contracts and gubernatorial pardons to criminal justice reform.

At Thompson’s suggestion, Hoslet also joined the Judge Advocate General’s Corps in the Wisconsin Army National Guard, signing on just two months before Iraq invaded Kuwait.

“The next thing I knew, I was working with Wisconsin National Guard soldiers who were being deployed to Saudi Arabia,” said Hoslet, who assumed responsibility for military affairs in the governor’s office.

Those experiences prepared Hoslet to step into the role of government liaison for the Department of Veterans Affairs, where he cultivated relationships with state legislators on both sides of the aisle. That, in turn, teed him up to become director of state government relations at UW–Madison. Immediately upon taking the job in 1997, Hoslet began leveraging his political connections to secure pay raises for UW faculty and staff.

By the early 2000s, Hoslet was ready for a break from politics. When Chancellor John D. Wiley asked him to establish an Office of Corporate Relations (now the Office of Business Engagement) to help businesses across the state take advantage of the university’s resources and expertise, he gladly accepted.

“I called it my sabbatical,” he said, laughing. “I had a great team, and we built something that made a difference.”



A high point was receiving a \$5 million grant from the Kauffman Foundation to develop entrepreneurship programming across the UW system — including the Law and Entrepreneurship Clinic at UW Law.

By 2013, the sabbatical was over, and Hoslet was back handling political affairs as associate vice chancellor and then vice chancellor of government and corporate relations. He launched the Office of Federal Relations in Washington, D.C., to strengthen the university’s relationships with lawmakers, federal agencies and UW alumni in the region; and created the South Madison Partnership Office (SMPO) to bring the benefits of UW–Madison to the predominantly low-income communities of color south of campus. (The SMPO now partners with 22 community organizations and offers programs in areas ranging from health and nutrition to education and legal services.)

After retiring at the end of this academic year, Hoslet plans to spend more time with his family and to pursue other interests — including, perhaps, teaching.

“I feel like I actually have some things to offer through my experience all these years,” he said.

By Alexander Gelfand

In the Public Interest

When Paul Bley '80 graduated from University of Wisconsin–Madison in 1977 with a bachelor's in business administration and a looming ROTC military obligation, he figured that having a law degree in hand would improve the flexibility and variety of his assignments in the U.S. Army.

As it turns out, flexibility and variety have been hallmarks of his career ever since.

After serving for five years as a commissioned officer with the Judge Advocate General's Corps in the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, Bley satisfied his urge to travel by spending two years in Frankfurt, Germany, as a civilian lawyer for the Army. He began by providing legal assistance to service members and their families, but soon took up administrative and labor law as well.

Returning to the U.S. in 1987, Bley became an assistant general counsel at the Defense Contract Audit Agency, which audits defense contractors and other government agencies like NASA to ensure their contract costs are fair and reasonable. (The agency's motto: "Supporting the warfighter. Protecting the taxpayer.") The agency's emphasis on accounting was a major draw: Bley double-majored in accounting and information systems analysis and design as an undergraduate and had originally intended to become a CPA.

In 2001, Bley switched gears yet again and became an associate general counsel at the Defense Health Agency (DHA), which manages the delivery of health services to all branches of the military. At the time, the agency had 12 attorneys on staff, and Bley found himself handling almost everything but contract law and questions regarding benefits. Now the agency employs hundreds of lawyers, and Bley is a principal keeper of its institutional memory — so much so that his boss even had the word "legend" inscribed on Bley's office door nameplate.

Bley's initial task at the DHA was to draft regulations for the agency's implementation of the HHS HIPAA Privacy Rule, which established the first national standards to protect patient health information. The project took two years.

"It was scary at times," Bley recalled. "I had written regulations before, but fairly short ones. And now I was being called upon to write a regulation over 100 pages in length, and working with representatives from the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and the Coast Guard."

Currently, Bley focuses on supporting qui tam or false claims actions. Under the qui tam provision of

the False Claims Act, private citizens can file suit on behalf of the federal government against people who have committed fraud against it. Bley has helped U.S. attorneys across the country pursue qui tam actions against medical providers who have defrauded the DHA through various schemes, like taking kickbacks for prescribing drugs and medical devices to patients they have never even seen. The amounts recovered range from thousands of dollars to more than a billion, and the money goes to provide care for the DHA's 9.6 million beneficiaries.

"Our budgets are tight, and we use the recoveries to do things we could not otherwise do," Bley said.

The work allows Bley to collaborate with — and learn from — colleagues in the DHA's Office of the Inspector General and its Program Integrity Division, as well as the Departments of Justice and Labor and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service. He's constantly being asked questions he's never heard before — which is precisely how he likes it.

"I don't know how I could continue if I was working on the same issue every day," he said.

By Alexander Gelfand



1970s

Robert Buesing '77 retired from the practice of law after a 46-year career in Tampa, Florida. He spent his career at Trenam Law, co-founded in 1970 by Les Sizations and foundations.

1990s

Judge Pedro Colón '94 was named to Wisconsin Business Journal's 40 Under 40 Hall of Fame. Colón served on the Milwaukee County Circuit Court and was elected three more times before being appointed to the District 1 Court of Appeals by Governor Tony Evers in 2023.

Ana Berrios-Schroeder '95 was named among Wisconsin's 40 most influential Latino leaders for 2023 by Madison365.

Kevin Grossman '96 was appointed deputy chief of the University of Washington Police Department (UWPD) in September 2023. Before coming to the UWPD, Deputy Chief Grossman worked as a Seattle police officer for over 25 years; his last assignment with the Seattle Police Department was as the North Precinct captain. Deputy Chief Grossman has fond memories of his courses in policing taught by Professor Herman Goldstein, which greatly influenced him throughout his career.

Michelle Greendeer-Rave '98, the associate justice of the Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Court, was featured as one of Wisconsin's Most Influential Native American leaders for 2024 by Madison365.

2000s

Ruben J. Garcia, William H. Hastie Fellow '02, spent Spring 2024 as a visiting professor at University of California, Berkeley School of Law, teaching constitutional law and a seminar on race, equity and workplace law.

What's new?

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



Judge Mario White '08 was named one of Wisconsin's most influential Black leaders for 2023 by Madison365. Judge White was appointed to the Dane County Circuit Court bench in 2020 by Governor Tony Evers. He handles both criminal and civil cases.

2010s

William "Will" Bratcher '10 won a contested election to serve as judge of the newly created Clark County Circuit Court Branch II. His six-year term began Aug. 1, 2023.

Michael D. O. Rusco '10 made full professor with tenure at Southern University Law Center.

Sarah Raisch '11 was part of a team at Romanucci & Blandin, LLC, which obtained a \$1.5 million settlement on behalf of a mother in a case alleging the wrongful death of her daughter against a renal disease treatment center. The settlement was agreed by all parties on Oct. 18, 2023, in Cook County Circuit Court.

Ronnie Murray '12 was appointed by Governor Tony Evers to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court. The appointment filled the vacancy created by Judge Pedro Colón's appointment to the Court of Appeals — District I. Murray will complete a term ending July 31, 2024.



Andrew Bassan '13 appeared on an episode of “Wheel of Fortune,” which aired Jan. 15, 2024. He solved the most puzzles and placed second, winning \$10,200.

Blake Knickelbein '13 (Corporate Law), **Katherine Kratcha '16** (Employee Benefits), **Christopher Schuele '16** (Labor and Employment) and **Heidi Thole '15** (Intellectual Property) were named firm shareholders at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c.

Lisa Holl Chang '14 was promoted to partner at Mayer Brown for demonstrating an unwavering commitment to client service, teamwork and innovation.



Mary Hoynacki '14 wrote and published her first children’s book, “The Groovy Blube.” The tale unfolds around Gerry, a spirited blueberry with an aspiration to play the saxophone at a New York City jazz club. “The Groovy Blube” teaches kids about the joy of music, the power of determination and the importance of chasing their dreams. Complementing the book, Hoynacki also created an animated short on YouTube that brings Gerry’s journey to life on screen.

Bo Ebeling '15 was named head of strategy and corporate development at TCGplayer (an eBay company).

David P. Hollander '17 was promoted to partner in the Madison office of Stafford Rosenbaum LLP.

2020s



Ankita Bharadwaj '20 was recognized among Wisconsin’s most influential Asian American leaders for 2023 by Madison365.

Sunyoung “Sunny” Cho '21 joined Nyhan, Bambrick, Kinzie & Lowry, P.C. as an associate.

Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c. announced the addition of eight new attorneys who have joined its Milwaukee office, including: **Autumn Ruleau '23** (Health Care), **Jennifer Lien '23** (Tax) and **Mary Margaret Evans '23** (Litigation).

Remembering UW Law Emeritus Professor Frank Tuerkheimer

Frank Tuerkheimer, University of Wisconsin Law School emeritus professor who served as an associate special prosecutor for the Watergate scandal, died Sept. 16, 2023, in Madison; he was 84.

Tuerkheimer, who graduated from New York University School of Law, was highly regarded for his wide-reaching experience.

Prior to joining the Law School faculty in 1970, Tuerkheimer served as a law clerk to the Honorable Edward Weinfeld, U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York; and as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York. His prosecutions against process servers for failure to serve complaints as alleged in affidavits of service were the first cases brought under the Civil Rights Act for deprivations of property without due process of law.

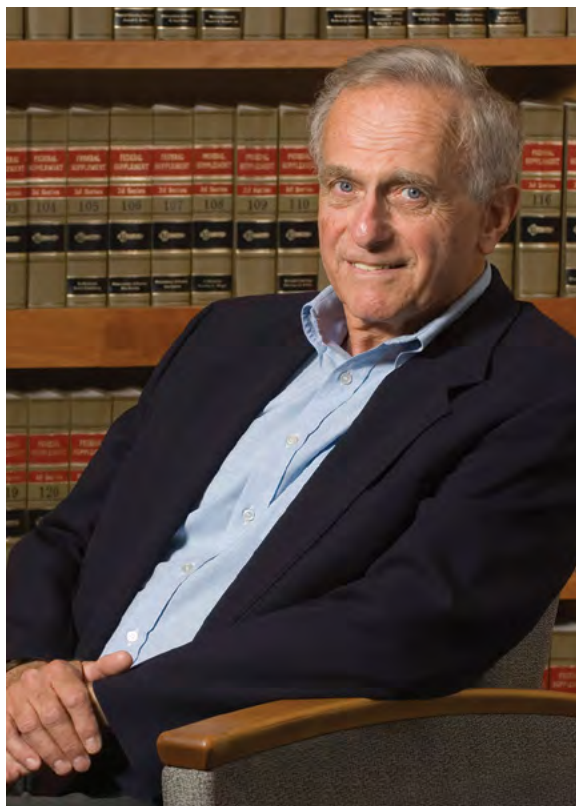
Tuerkheimer also worked on the Watergate Prosecution staff, where he investigated illegal dairy industry contributions and was chief trial counsel in the case against former Secretary of the Treasury John Connally. He later served as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin under the Carter administration, where, among other things, he initiated a model Clean Water Act enforcement program.

Notably, one of his first professional experiences was as a legal assistant to the attorney general of newly independent Swaziland (now known as Eswatini), helping to write the country's first constitution.

In 2014, Tuerkheimer co-authored the book "Forgotten Trials of the Holocaust" with Michael J. Bazyler. It showcases how the perpetrators were dealt with in courtrooms around the world, revealing how various legal systems responded to the atrocities. He also taught a course on the subject, important to him because he was born months after his family fled Nazi Germany.

Tuerkheimer also wrote numerous articles on evidence and litigation as well as briefs in a large number of trial and appellate cases. In 1996, he wrote an electronic evidence book, which contains a textual explanation of the rules of evidence, the rules, selected cases and the complete transcript of a trial. It was a first in legal education.

Tuerkheimer was a member of the advisory



"Frank combined practical wisdom with a passion for justice in a way that few other law professors can match."

— Dean Dan Tokaji

board to EPIC, the Electronic Privacy Information Center, and testified before Congress on proposed legislation affecting the internet. Beginning in 1985, he was of counsel to the Madison law firm of LaFollette & Sinykin, now Godfrey and Kahn, where, in addition to representing private clients, he pursued pro bono representation. He received an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Giessen Law School in Giessen, Germany, in 2010.

Leisure pursuits included reading in the sciences, biking, sailing and travel.

"Frank combined practical wisdom with a passion for justice in a way that few other law professors can match," said Dean Dan Tokaji.



In Memory of Ralph Cagle

Ralph Cagle, who spent 25 years of his four-decade legal career at University of Wisconsin Law School, died Dec. 1, 2023, at age 78.

Cagle was also well-known for serving in 2015-16 as the 60th president of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Cagle came to Wisconsin from the East Coast in 1968 at age 23 to work for state Senator Fred Risser. Cagle later worked as assistant to then-Assembly Speaker Norman Anderson. Upon graduating from UW Law School in 1974, he practiced insurance defense in Racine before moving to Madison for civil litigation and lobbying.

Cagle was in private practice for 17 years, doing civil trial work, mostly representing attorneys in malpractice and disciplinary matters.

In 1990, he joined the faculty at UW Law School. He served as director of what is now the Lawyering Skills Program and taught professional responsibility courses. After retirement in 2015, he was a mediator and of counsel with Hurley, Burish & Stanton in Madison. Cagle ran for state bar president-elect in 2014 and was sworn in as state bar president on June 24, 2015.

As state bar president, Cagle championed new initiatives in leadership development that boost the future of the legal profession — and spoke of the importance of working with the next generation of lawyers. He was instrumental in creating the State Bar’s G. Lane Ware Leadership Academy. Begun in 2016, the ongoing academy has provided more than 120 lawyers with the leadership skills, strategies and resources necessary for them to become effective leaders in their communities and the legal profession.

An endowed fund at UW Law School was created in Cagle’s memory. The Ralph M. Cagle Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to students enrolled at UW Law who have demonstrated academic merit or financial need, with a preference to support a student who is in the first generation of their family to attend a four-year college or university.

To contribute to the Ralph M. Cagle Memorial Scholarship fund, visit secure.supportuw.org/give/. Then simply search “Cagle.”



Walter Raushenbush, 'University Citizen'

Walter Brandeis Raushenbush died Nov. 12, 2023, in McLean, Virginia; he was 95.

Raushenbush was born June 13, 1928, to parents

Elizabeth Brandeis, daughter of Louis D. Brandeis, the U.S. Supreme Court Justice, and Paul A. Raushenbush, son of Walter Rauschenbusch, the pastor known for the Social Gospel. Walter was raised in Madison, where his parents were both esteemed economists responsible for the creation of the nation's first Unemployment Compensation Bill.

Raushenbush returned to the University of Wisconsin to attend Law School, where he graduated first in his class with highest honors. Following his graduation in 1953, he joined the U.S. Air Force as a judge advocate, rising to the rank of colonel.

In 1958, Raushenbush joined the University of Wisconsin Law School faculty, where he taught for four decades until retiring in 1998. In addition to teaching, he authored four books on property law and became involved in law school admissions. He served as president of the Law School Admissions Council, where he helped develop the Law School Aptitude Test (LSAT) as well as served on the Real Property question drafting committee for the Multistate Bar Examination.

Like his parents, he used his expertise to improve social realities, including helping to write and lobby for fair housing legislation aimed at ending discrimination against Black home buyers in Wisconsin. He also chaired the university's Human Rights Committee and addressed discrimination in campus housing as well as the Greek fraternity system, which had only recently lifted its "whites only" policies.

At his retirement, Raushenbush was described by the Law School as "a master teacher, a good colleague and a valued university citizen carrying on the tradition of his parents."



In Memoriam of Alan Weisbard

Alan Jay Weisbard, University of Wisconsin–Madison emeritus professor of law, bioethics, Jewish studies and religious studies, died Sept. 11, 2023; he was 72.

Weisbard crafted a professional career applying the disciplines of law, ethics and religious studies to the worlds of scholarly research, public policy development and public service.

Following assignments working at both federal and state levels to develop law and public policy on a wide range of bioethical issues, he came to the University of Wisconsin's Schools of Law and Medicine in 1990. In addition to teaching traditional parts of the curriculum, including first-year torts, he created innovative new courses on bioethics and the law; law, science and technology; children, parents and the state; caring for the dying patient; Jewish law and ethics in comparative perspective; and religion and medicine in historical, ethical and legal perspective. He also founded, chaired and taught at the Madison Lehrhaus, a community-wide institute for adult Jewish learning.

Prior to coming to UW–Madison, Weisbard held many positions. He spent a term as visiting lecturer in public and international affairs at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, where he led a policy task force exploring legal, ethical and policy issues posed by new reproductive technologies. From 1987 until early 1990, he served as executive director of the New Jersey Bioethics Commission. From 1980-82, he was assistant director for legal studies with the President's Commission for the Study of Ethical Problems in Medicine and Biomedical and Behavioral Research in Washington, D.C. Weisbard taught at Yeshiva University's Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and Albert Einstein College of Medicine from 1982-87, was an elected fellow, former adjunct associate and participant in study groups at the Hastings Center, and served as senior fellow of the Park Ridge Center in Chicago. He consulted with the National Institutes of Health, the former Congressional Office of Technology Assessment and numerous other governmental and public interest groups at local, state and national levels. Early in his career, he served as a law clerk to Judge Irving L. Goldberg of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

1950s

Corliss Jensen '52
Eldon Husted '58

1960s

Donald Stone '63
Bruce Ehlke '68
David Anderson '69
Donald Zillman '69

1970s

James Sugar '71
Dee Harris '72
Edward Lloyd '73
Ralph Cagle '74
Daniel Dunn '78

1980s

Kathleen Irwin '80
Judith Stern '82
Janelle Raupp '83
Gregory Jansen '84
John Heinen '85
Steven Thompson '87
George Goyke '88

1990s

Diane Williams '95
Eric Pollex '99

2000s

Dawn Baum '01



Laureen Seeger '86 has enjoyed a 38-year career full of rewards and challenges.

Since July 2014, Seeger has served as chief legal officer of American Express Company. In this capacity, she oversees the Law, Government Affairs, Global Security and Corporate Secretarial functions for the American Express Company and its subsidiaries.

We sat down with Seeger to discuss her experience at University of Wisconsin Law School, her career and her generous support of future Law School Badgers.

Interview by Cassandra Tuten

Question: What were some of your early career lessons?

Answer: One of my earliest lessons was that the more I worked, the more I learned, and the more I learned, the better prepared I was for the next challenge or opportunity to come my way. Hard work is important, particularly when it leads to intellectual growth, learning and doing better next time. My second lesson was that at some point you will hit a roadblock unless you bring others along with you, help them grow and let them shine. And finally, I learned that it is critical to listen to others, particularly colleagues with different perspectives.

Q: How did your Law School education and experience shape your career?

A: The law constantly evolves, and UW Law School taught me how to think broadly about a legal problem and to move the law forward. That has made a huge difference in my career because it has enabled me to consider not only where the law is, but where it may be going and how I can help my clients prepare for the future. Going to UW Law School also meant that I benefited from

incredible athletic experiences, the broader community at the university and lifelong friends.

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

A: I took an aptitude test in high school that indicated I would enjoy a career either in the arts or in the law. Since I have no apparent artistic talent, I decided to work at the Quarles & Brady law firm in Milwaukee during high school. The aptitude test was right, and I loved working in that environment. I picked UW Law because I grew up in Wisconsin and, for me, it provided the most balanced, affordable and practical legal education I could imagine. It was literally the only law school to which I applied, which is unheard of today.

Q: UW Law School has raised over \$1 million for the Faculty Recruitment and Retention Fund, thanks to a generous matching gift from you. Why was this area of giving important to you?

A: The UW Law faculty had a tremendous impact on me and I'm grateful for that. I worked during the summer for my torts professor, Thomas Palay, and I

learned a lot from him. UW Law faculty inspired me to participate in Moot Court competitions and coached me to a regional Moot Court championship victory and a semifinalist victory in the national competition. That experience gave me the confidence to become a trial lawyer at a major national firm as soon as I graduated. Perhaps as a consequence, I believe that the faculty is crucial to the university's strength and the quality of the students it attracts. It therefore became one of my core philanthropic goals to help the Law School recruit the best available legal talent nationwide.

Q: What does it mean to you that these funds were raised, and what would you like to say to everyone who helped reach that goal?

A: I want to thank everybody who matched my gift for honoring their own law school professors. They likely had a similar experience to mine with a professor or professors at UW who challenged them, encouraged them and helped make them better lawyers.

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



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