

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL

Gargoyle

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Spring 2026



In Howie We 'Trust'

Howard Erlanger '81 has not just taught but inspired students for over 40 years.

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Gargoyle

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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.



Dear Friends, Every time a new issue of the *Gargoyle* comes out, I'm reminded of how fortunate we are to be part of a community with a longstanding tradition of excellence, whose members are always pushing boundaries and exploring new frontiers. You'll find many examples of the positive impact that law students, legal scholars and lawyers can have on our world.

This issue highlights the remarkable scholarly work of Professors Sumudu Atapattu, Alexandra Huneus, Heinz Klug and Mitra Sharafi, four of our leading international and comparative law experts. Their recent and forthcoming books further our Law-in-Action tradition, revealing how law functions across continents and eras. From environmental rights in South Asia, to constitutional transformation

in South Africa, to the interaction between international law and environmental law today, their research exemplifies the global impact of our faculty. We take great pride in their deep and innovative scholarship, which advances knowledge and elevates UW Law's global reputation.

This issue also celebrates the remarkable career of Howard Erlanger '81, whose more than four

decades of inspired teaching have earned him six Teacher of the Year awards, the most by any UW Law professor ever. The heartfelt tributes from students and colleagues demonstrate the lasting imprint he's had on so many people. Thank you, Howie, for your exceptional dedication to our students' learning. You've shaped generations of UW Law students who have gone on to do great things in the world.

We also highlight the exceptional work of our Office of Career and Professional Development (OCPD), which helps our students and recent graduates get their legal careers off to a great start. Their countless hours of advising and programming prepare our students for career success. Our students have made good use of their services, with the Law School consistently ranking among the top schools in the country in the placement of recent graduates.

Within these pages, you'll also find stories that highlight the accomplishments of our alumni, the creativity of our faculty and the promise of our current students. I'm especially proud to highlight the transformative generosity of so many alumni, who are shaping the future of UW Law and the next generation of lawyers and leaders through their philanthropy.

We highlight the contributions of Warren Woessner '81 and Iris Freeman, whose commitment to public service inspired them to create the Warren Woessner and Iris Freeman Fellowship Fund for Public Service. Their generosity opens doors for students who want to serve other people, particularly in family legal advocacy and victim services. Warren and Iris embody the Wisconsin Idea, and we are deeply grateful for their leadership and inspiration.

We are also grateful to Barbara Arnold '76, who made a very special gift in memory of her late husband, Paul Turley '73, a beloved member of our Board of Visitors. During my first few years as dean, Paul became a friend, always there to offer me sage advice and words of encouragement. Barbara's generous gift in Paul's memory will support the pathbreaking work of the State Democracy Research Initiative, led by Professors Miriam Seifter and Robert Yablon. It's a fitting tribute to Paul's career in public service.

Here on Bascom Hill, the future looks brighter than ever. The Law School has been working diligently on our new strategic plan, to which many of you have

contributed ideas. We appreciate the thoughtful engagement from faculty, staff, students and alumni. Your insights have helped us develop a bold and forward-looking vision for UW Law, which we look forward to sharing in the next issue of the *Gargoyle*.

The future is bright not just for the Law School but the university of which we are part. Over the past four years, Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin has provided steadfast leadership through challenging times. As she departs for the presidency of Columbia University, she leaves UW–Madison in a stronger position than ever. All of us at the Law School are grateful for her leadership.

We're also delighted that Eric Wilcots, dean of the College of Letters and Sciences, will serve as interim chancellor in the 2026-27 academic year. Eric is a trusted colleague and dear friend. He embodies the values that define our university. That includes keeping higher education accessible to everyone with the capacity to succeed, advancing knowledge and fulfilling the Wisconsin Idea.

There are, of course, real challenges ahead. Higher education has become more expensive, and some of the financial assistance upon which our students depend will be diminishing. The reduction in federal research funding and the elimination of Grad PLUS Loans are creating uncertainty for some of those who aspire to join our profession, especially students of more limited means. In response, we launched the Support Our Students Initiative, new scholarships to help keep law school affordable to students with the will and drive to become great lawyers. With your support, UW Law will remain a place where opportunity is determined by one's ability and work ethic rather than by financial circumstances. You can learn more about the initiative on page 36 and on the back page of this edition.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the Law School, whether through financial gifts or by making a positive difference in your communities. You reflect our shared commitment to the promise of law and legal education.

On, Wisconsin!



Dean Dan Tokaji

2025 Teachers of the Year Named



Each spring, University of Wisconsin Law School celebrates excellence in teaching through its Teacher of the Year awards. The honorees for outstanding classroom, clinical and adjunct instruction in 2025 include:

EMILY CAUBLE, Classroom Teacher of the Year: Emily Cauble is associate dean for Academic Affairs and Thomas G. Ragatz Professorship in Tax Law. Her research focuses on business taxation, tax administration and other aspects of tax policy.

RYAN POE-GAVLINSKI, Clinical Teacher of the Year: Ryan Poe-

Gavlinski is director of the Economic Justice Institute, clinical associate professor, director of the Restraining Order and Survivor Advocacy Clinic and director of the Lawyering Skills Course at UW Law School.

NICHOLAS J. MCNAMARA, Adjunct Teacher of the Year: Judge Nicholas J. McNamara rejoined the UW Law adjunct faculty in 2020 to teach Evidence and present lectures in criminal procedure, advanced criminal practice seminars and clinical internship programs.

UW Law Receives Recognition at AALS



UW Law faculty and staff were honored during the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) 2026 Annual Meeting: **BONNIE SHUCHA**, Law Libraries and Legal Information Section Award; **ELIZABETH MERTZ**, Judith Welch Wegner Award (Section on Empirical Study of Legal Education and the Legal Profession); and Scholarly Papers Competition finalists **CHRISTOPHER LAU**, for “Shadow Forensics: Uncovering 911 Call Analysis,” and **LISA WASHINGTON**, for “Beyond the Carceral Frame” (forthcoming). **LORI HICKMAN**, **HEIDI JOHNSON** and **ABIGAIL RUBEOR** received the Financial Aid Change Maker Award (Section on Pre-Law Education and Admission to Law School).

Scholarly Roundup

MITRA SHARAFI became president of the American Society for Legal History (ASLH) following the annual awards ceremony at the 2025 ASLH conference in Detroit in November. Sharafi is the first ASLH president from the University of Wisconsin and the first legal historian of South Asia in this role. Her term will be 2025-27.

DESMUND WU was awarded an Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD) Teaching Grant for developing teaching modules for teaching generative AI in first-year legal writing. ALWD funds annual teaching grants that allow legal writing faculty to spend their summers exploring innovative teaching ideas and producing teaching tools, materials and curriculum that will assist others in the field.

ERIN MCBRIDE and **JAY TUCKER** received the 2025 Doug Palm Community Service Award, which recognizes those who demonstrated creativity, resourcefulness, enthusiasm, integrity and outstanding achievement during the Partners in Giving campaign. Tucker also received the 2025 Robert A. Alesch Award for serving in multiple leadership roles over an extended period.

Maryland Adopts Technology from Project Led by BJ Ard

BJ ARD is a principal investigator on a National Science Foundation-funded project that has achieved a major milestone: Maryland has become the first state to publish its regulations online using cryptographically secure technology that protects against cyberattacks and ensures long-term digital preservation.

The state is using The Archive Framework (TAF), first introduced in 2019 by Justin Cappos, a professor in the Computer Science and Engineering Department at New York University's Tandon School of Engineering, in collaboration with the Open Law Library, a nonprofit that helps governments publish laws and regulations online.

In 2023, the NSF awarded a grant to Ard and Cappos — leading a team from University of Wisconsin Law School, NYU Tandon and the Open Law Library — to develop TAF further and expand its applications beyond initial municipal deployments in jurisdictions like the District of Columbia and the city of Baltimore.

As the first state-wide TAF deployment, Maryland put its Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) — the official compilation of all administrative



regulations issued by state agencies — on a dynamic, fully versioned digital platform at regs.maryland.gov.

Previously, because Maryland's regulations were available in difficult-to-use HTML, citizens, lawyers and researchers who needed to know what regulations said at specific points in time — crucial for litigation and legal compliance — had no reliable way to access that information online.

"That kind of historical access is not just a convenience, but critical for ensuring people can rely on the system," said Ard. "People need to be able to verify

exactly what the law said on a given date. The system makes that possible in a way that is newly secure and accessible."

In the print era, official legal publications had a physical permanence that people could trust, said Ard.

"What we're doing here is bringing that same reliability to the digital age so that users can have confidence in the authenticity and availability of the law," he continued.

The system creates a "single source of truth" that is fully versioned and cryptographically authenticated. Every regulation change is tracked, timestamped and secured using advanced cryptographic techniques.

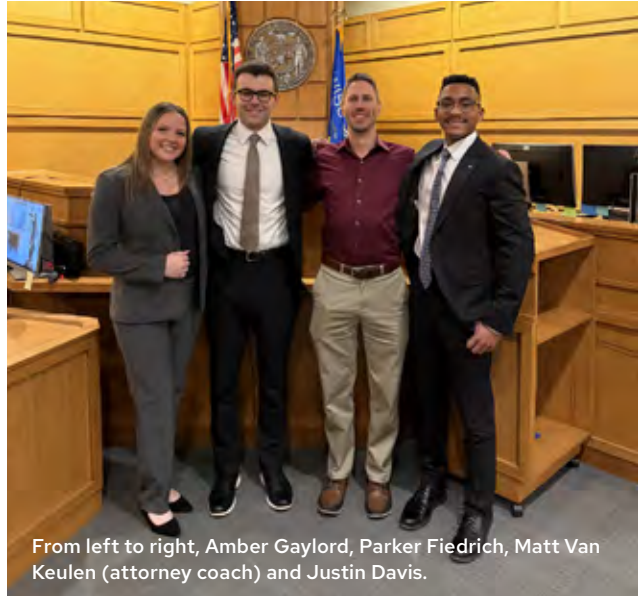
The new system publishes regulations in computer-readable XML and human-readable HTML formats while maintaining PDF versions for printing. The entire code is available on GitHub under a Creative Commons license and accessible via API, making it ready for AI and other emerging technologies.

The successful Maryland implementation paves the way for broader adoption across the United States.



Finding 'Sustainable Solutions' for Migrants

ERIN BARBATO, director of UW Law's Immigrant Justice Center, has been tapped for an extensive three-year global initiative to address the critical challenges faced by migrants and refugees. Last fall, she traveled to Rome to join other academics at an "inspiring" conference to "build sustainable solutions." "Refugees & Migrants in Our Common Home," led by Villanova University and its partners to mobilize academic communities, resulted from a call to action in 2022 by Pope Francis. It has since been carried forward by Pope Leo XIV. With nearly two decades of experience, Barbato is Wisconsin's leading expert in immigration law. Over the past few years, she has been researching and implementing immigration human rights clinics throughout the Americas.



From left to right, Amber Gaylord, Parker Fiedrich, Matt Van Keulen (attorney coach) and Justin Davis.

Where Advocacy Begins

Mock trial gives students an early start on the skills they will use in real courtrooms.

In January, University of Wisconsin Law School hosted the first round of the 2026 Texas Young Lawyers Association (TYLA) Region 12 National Trial Competition, a competitive trial advocacy program.

The event attracted people from all over Madison to serve as witnesses. Additionally, numerous prominent judges and attorneys, including Hon. Frank Remington '84, Hon. William Conley '82, Hon. Brian Blanchard and Hon. Scott Horne '79 joined the competition as judges.

For the student advocates competing, it was the culmination of over a month of preparation, being coached by attorney coaches Morgan Stippel '18 and Matt Van Keulen '11 and spending multiple days each week practicing and memorizing everything for what may have been the most salient and future-shaping experience of their time in law school.

The Competition

The TYLA mock trial competition is open to all law schools in each region, regardless of size, with over 150 participating across the country. Each trial has two teams of three student advocates who perform direct- and cross-examinations, opening and closing arguments, argue motions in limine and make objections.

Teams alternate between plaintiff and defense roles and are evaluated by three judges — one presiding and two scoring — who are practicing attorneys or judges themselves. Each student is scored on their performance using a standardized rubric, and the stakes are high: The top eight teams in the region face off until the top two advance to the national competition in Texas,

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"So much of being a lawyer is making mistakes and learning from them. I'm so glad I was given the space to make mistakes in the mock trial competition, and the memories of those mistakes have been as important to my growth as an attorney as anything."

– Cameron Davies '24

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From left to right, Sara Berman, Holly Krabbe, Cameron Kohlmann (UW Law student advocates and mock trial members) and Morgan Stippel (attorney coach).

where they compete with the top teams from other regions for a \$10,000 prize.

"The competition replicates a real trial as closely as possible, but there are some very real differences," said Kim Peterson, director of UW Law's Mock Trial Program.

Unlike most other mock trials, TYLA competition witnesses are provided by the hosting school rather than the student teams.

"This requires the student advocate to prepare the witness 15 minutes prior to trial," Peterson said. "The witness may not be as prepared as the advocate would like, so the advocate has to be ready to refresh the witness's recollection and rehabilitate the witness if they make a mistake."

Student Experience

Since its inception nearly 20 years ago, the UW Law Mock Trial Program has been an invaluable test drive for students considering a career as trial attorneys. Peterson said that in her 10

years as the program director, she witnessed many students discover their calling through the experience.

"We get a lot of students who feel mediocre or feel like they're not super great at law school, but they turn out to be really good advocates because they're really good with people, really good at speaking and thinking on their feet," Peterson said. "I often tell students, 'You don't have to be a top 10% student to be a magnificent advocate.'"

Cameron Davies '24, assistant district attorney at the Dane County District Attorney's Office, attributes much of his career success to his experience in mock trial.

"I'm in a courtroom, on-the-record every single day of the week," he said. "I need to be able to direct- and cross-examine witnesses. I need to be able to speak clearly to the court. I need to be able to persuade and argue, and I need to know the rules of evidence like the back of my hand. Mock trial, and especially the

TYLA competition, taught me how to do all those things."

Many mock trial students go on to become public defenders or prosecutors, but the skills developed during the competition extend beyond the courtroom.

Students practice effective communication, including being clear, concise and engaging while using inflection and body language to hold attention. These skills will continue to be useful during job interviews, client meetings and everyday interactions in their professional and personal lives. Above all else, the competition helps students develop the confidence they will carry into real courtrooms.

"So much of being a lawyer is making mistakes and learning from them," said Davies. "I'm so glad I was given the space to make mistakes in the mock trial competition, and the memories of those mistakes have been as important to my growth as an attorney as anything."

By Leo Barolo Gargiulo

Where Law Lives

Highlighting the pathbreaking work of UW Law faculty.

Today's unprecedented legal landscape demands innovators and visionaries. University of Wisconsin Law School rises to this challenge through a dynamic faculty dedicated to the uncompromising pursuit of truth.

Carrying forward UW Law's long history of fearless inquiry, our faculty ask the hard questions, expand perspectives and design solutions with staying power. This commitment to leaving nothing unexamined ensures that our work not only speaks to today's most urgent needs but also endures through engagement with the law's most fundamental commitments.

Our faculty are the linchpins of scholarship and dialogue on the major legal issues facing our nation and world. From constitutional law to corporate law, family law and taxation, they bring depth and rigor to important conversations — developing meaningful solutions that advance legal theory and practice. This stellar scholarly tradition makes UW Law the vibrant institution it is today.

UW is where law lives.

That's why, over the last year, we've taken steps to highlight the robust, pathbreaking work of our faculty through website updates and new episodes of the Wisconsin Law in Action podcast.

Our new-and-improved Faculty & Scholarship webpage showcases our rich intellectual environment. Updated weekly, it displays a wide range of activities, achievements, media appearances, events and publications from across the UW Law community. Visitors can explore faculty commentary



We've taken steps to highlight the robust, pathbreaking work of our faculty through website updates and new episodes of the Wisconsin Law in Action podcast.

on emerging legal issues, newly published articles and books, conference presentations and the many ways our scholars are shaping conversations within and beyond the legal academy.

The site serves as a window into the dynamic work happening at UW Law School, reflecting our commitment to research that advances knowledge and addresses real-world challenges. It also highlights the interdisciplinary collaborations and public engagement that define our approach to legal scholarship. For alumni, students and friends of the Law School, the page offers an easy way to stay connected with the ideas and insights coming from our faculty.

Visit law.wisc.edu/faculty/ to see how our faculty are committed to research excellence.

The Wisconsin Law in Action podcast features new or forthcoming scholarship from our faculty, who are sought-after experts, scholars and legal thinkers. The podcast, which publishes regularly, explores a variety of legal topics and examines new developments in the legal academic field.

Each episode offers listeners an accessible entry point into complex legal ideas, allowing faculty to discuss their research in a conversational format and reflect on the broader implications of their work. Topics range widely — from constitutional law and democracy to environmental policy, criminal justice, technology and global legal issues — demonstrating the breadth of scholarship produced at UW Law.

Hosted and produced by the University of Wisconsin Law School Library, the podcast connects listeners with the people behind the research and highlights the ways their work influences public policy, legal practice and academic debate. For alumni, students, practitioners and anyone interested in the law, the series offers a meaningful way to engage with timely legal scholarship and hear directly from the experts shaping the field. Check out the latest episodes at wilawinaction.law.wisc.edu.

Through these platforms, we're making it easier than ever to discover, explore and stay connected to the important work of our faculty.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



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Faculty & Scholarship

The rich intellectual environment at University of Wisconsin Law School is driven by a faculty of renowned legal scholars and innovative thinkers. They are the thought provokers. The idea generators. The pathbreakers who ask tough questions.

This stellar scholarly tradition makes UW Law the vibrant institution it is today.

Read Our 2025 Brochure



Law in Action Podcast



Kathryn Hendley on How Law Functions in the Real World
Kathryn Hendley, Roman C. Lubinski & Theodore W. Skeneau Professor of Law and Politics of Science, joined the *Wisconsin Law in Action* podcast for a wide-ranging conversation on how law actually functions in the real world – from the courts of post-Soviet Russia to the pressures facing legal institutions in the U.S. today. Drawing on decades of fieldwork, Hendley challenges the inscription that authoritarian legal systems are uniformly broken. As she puts it, “one of the myths that we have is that law works perfectly in this country and it doesn’t work at all in authoritarian regimes.” Her research reveals a more complicated truth. Even under repressive governments, ordinary people strategize courts, utilize loopholes and seek legal remedies in ways that look surprisingly familiar. In this episode, Hendley also examines what happens to lawyers and judges when democracy backslides, and what the U.S. can learn by looking abroad. Listen and follow on [SoundCloud](#) or [Apple Podcasts](#).

Faculty News



Amy Davis on the Intersection of Research in Research and Education
The Question



David C. Grogan Commends FBI's Future of 2025 Distance Studies
Continuing Studies



Jennifer J. Gorman: Coauthoring David C. Grogan's Commendation of FBI Distance Studies
Research & Education



David C. Grogan: Coauthoring David C. Grogan's Commendation of FBI Distance Studies
Research & Education

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A Commitment to Research Excellence





A Thriving Community

Our intellectual rigor and commitment to excellence can be seen across the Law School and beyond in our wide range of awards, opportunities, initiatives and collaborative efforts.

Research Centers & Initiatives

Office & Experiential Learning (OPEL)

Wilson H. Moore Fellowship

Visiting Scholars Program

Scholarship Repository

View Faculty & Staff Directory

Wisconsin ICE Shouting UW Law Experts' English Legal Issues

Today's legal landscape demands innovators and visionaries. UW Law School rises to this challenge through a dynamic faculty dedicated to the uncompromising pursuit of truth. We've taken steps to highlight the robust, pathbreaking work of our faculty through a new-and-improved Faculty & Scholarship webpage and new episodes of the Wisconsin Law in Action podcast, making it easier than ever to discover and stay connected to their important work.

LAW.WISC.EDU | Gargoyles 9

'This Work Matters'

UW Law is teaching students and lawyers how to navigate AI.

When ChatGPT launched in November 2022, many law schools were grasping what that meant. At the University of Wisconsin Law School Library, the call to action came swiftly.

Associate Dean and Law Library Director Bonnie Shucha '14 and Associate Director of Public Services Kris Turner '20 began integrating generative artificial intelligence into their Advanced Legal Research course in January 2023. They recognized early that the AI technology would not be just a passing trend.

"GenAI was a game-changer for research in particular and the legal profession in general," Turner said.

What began in a classroom mushroomed into two parallel AI literacy efforts:

1. A coordinated, Law School-wide program that prepares students for AI; and
2. An outreach program that extends into the legal profession across Wisconsin and beyond in the spirit of the Wisconsin Idea.

In just three years, Shucha and Turner have reached more than 3,800 learners through various presentations from "Navigating Ethical and Effective Use of AI" to "Use of AI in Legal Research and Law." UW Law Library's AI literacy efforts recently earned the Excellence in Community Engagement Award from the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). The honor underscores how this program is one of the most comprehensive AI education programs in legal academia.

"To have been chosen out of that tremendous group of colleagues means a lot," Turner said.

Shucha and Turner have written for the State Bar of Wisconsin's Wisconsin Lawyer magazine as part of its AI and the Law Series. Shucha is on the State Bar Communications Committee, which serves as the editorial board for the magazine, as well as the Wisconsin Courts AI Committee.

Individually, Shucha received a 2026 Section on Law Libraries and Legal Information Award from the Association of American Law Schools (AALS), while Turner was named a 2025 Mover and Shaker by Library Journal.

The timing of UW's AI literacy efforts is critical. A recent study by LexisNexis, Aspen Publishing and Themis Bar Review found a widening gap between employer expectations and law school training. For employers, AI literacy is expected, not optional.

One faculty member in the study said, "AI has come upon us quickly ... we as faculty and staff are having a hard time keeping up, much less planning pedagogy."

Turner noted that the widely reported cases of lawyers sanctioned for submitting briefs filled with AI-generated fake citations also fueled the urgency.

"That cemented our feelings about the importance of centering GenAI literacy," he said. "Lawyers may see these tools as shortcuts instead of as tools that can boost efficiency."



Bonnie Shucha and Kris Turner

"In this law school, we've always taught students to think critically. With AI, that lesson is equally important."

– Bonnie Shucha '14, Associate Dean and Law Library Director

Campus-Coordinated Strategy

At UW Law, the impact of generative AI is being addressed across the curriculum. In 2023, the Law School convened an AI Working Group on which both Shucha and Turner served. The group drafted model syllabus language, consulted on the school's AI policy and hosted trainings and discussions with faculty on navigating GenAI in their courses.

Faculty in Legal Analysis, Advocacy, and Writing, Professional Responsibility and clinics began integrating AI ethics and skills into coursework to prepare students for a profession increasingly shaped by AI. Doctrinal faculty, including the new RISE AI faculty, are exploring the law of artificial intelligence. Beyond the classroom, professionals from IT, Career and Professional Development, Student Affairs and External Affairs are also addressing the impact of GenAI on students and the community.

"AI literacy touches every part of legal education," Shucha said. "No single unit has all the expertise or access to all the students and audiences who need this education."

The goal is for every UW Law graduate to have foundational AI literacy skills — not just technical familiarity, but the judgment to make informed decisions about whether and when to use GenAI, and when they do, to use it ethically and effectively.

"In this law school, we've always taught students to think critically," Shucha said. "With AI, that lesson is equally important."

Students are taught to evaluate outputs, recognize hallucinations, understand confidentiality

risks and take responsibility for AI-assisted work.

"You can't blame AI if something goes wrong," Shucha said. "If you put your name on something, you own it completely."

Living the Wisconsin Idea

The second track of the Law Library's AI literacy efforts stretch far beyond Madison.

Turner and Shucha have made AI literacy an example of the Wisconsin Idea principle that university knowledge should extend statewide.

"This program goes to the border of the state in almost a literal sense," Turner said.

They have traveled across Wisconsin and beyond to meet with attorneys, judges, court staff, Tribal judges, librarians and members of the public.

"Ethical and efficient AI use will make for better lawyers and consequently better legal service to the people of Wisconsin," Shucha said.

The demand for this knowledge reflects how quickly AI is transforming practice. Alumni are seeing it in their firms, agencies and courtrooms.

"I've found that people will either be all-in on GenAI and rely on it too much or entirely bury their heads in the sand," Turner said. "I think the right approach is in the middle."

Shucha adds that simple avoidance is not enough.

"You need to understand what these tools can and can't do, what the risks are, and what your ethical obligations are — whether you choose to use AI or not," she said.

That view aligns with the

2024 American Bar Association Formal Opinion on Generative Artificial Intelligence Tools, which concludes that lawyers should become familiar with Gen AI tools to make an informed professional judgment about whether to use them or to accomplish the work by other means.

That balanced approach is central to both literacy programs. Participants are urged to read service agreements, understand confidentiality implications and check court and employer policies. They are asked to consider motivation.

"AI tools can help you surface relevant information quickly, organize complex arguments or draft more efficiently, but your voice and professional judgment are yours alone," Shucha said.

The legal profession has navigated technological change before, from online research to e-discovery. AI is more complex and evolving faster. But the underlying challenge is familiar: ensuring lawyers have the knowledge, skills and judgment to serve clients ethically and effectively.

The question is not whether the profession will adapt. It must. The question is whether adaptation will come through coordinated planning or reactive trial and error.

At UW Law, the answer is deliberate — equipping lawyers to think critically about AI, make informed decisions about when and how to use it and have the skills to do so effectively.

"The demand tells us this work matters," Shucha said. "AI literacy is fundamental to good lawyering."

By Brian Walker

From Classroom to Client Call

Charlie Wied 2L doesn't wait for the phone to ring. He makes the call.

As a student at University of Wisconsin Law School, Wied is already advising real clients through the Law & Entrepreneurship Clinic, a hands-on program that operates like a private law firm.

Students act as business counsel to entrepreneurs across Wisconsin. They interview clients, draft documents, manage engagements and see the impact of their work in real time.

"From day one, we're working with real people and real businesses," Wied said. "That's what makes it special."

Wied serves as a student associate in the clinic, working alongside about 30 classmates under the supervision of licensed attorneys. He leads initial client interviews, handles correspondence, conducts legal research and drafts documents, all under close attorney oversight.

"It feels like a real practice," he said. "We're given responsibility, but we're never on our own."

That balance is what drew him in.

Wied grew up in De Pere, Wis., where his family owned and operated gas stations and convenience stores. It's safe to say that small business was the backdrop of his childhood. The clinic brings that world into the classroom.

"We can make real differences in people's entrepreneurial journeys," he said. "And we do it free of charge. That commitment to the Wisconsin community is huge."



"We can make real differences in people's entrepreneurial journeys. And we do it free of charge. That commitment to the Wisconsin community is huge." – Charlie Wied 2L



Wied's path to law school runs straight through Madison. He earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, double majoring in accounting and finance at the Wisconsin School of Business. During his undergraduate years, his interest shifted from accounting to the intersection of law and business.

"I realized I wanted to help people solve problems," he said. "Law was the best way to do that."

UW Law was a natural fit.

Wied plans to graduate in Spring 2027 and begin his career in Wisconsin. This summer, he will join Foley & Lardner as a summer associate in the firm's Milwaukee office, with a focus on corporate law.

UW Law, he said, has prepared him well. Substantive courses built his foundation. The clinic sharpened his practical skills. And the school's writing program changed his trajectory.

"It felt like learning a new language," he said. "My professors pushed me, and it made all the difference."

Wied is also an associate on the *Wisconsin Law Review* and plans to pursue his CPA license. For him, the goal is clear.

"I want to help businesses succeed," he said. "UW Law is giving me the tools to do exactly that."

By Brian Walker

Finding Her Voice in the Mock Courtroom

Patricia (Patti) Needham 3L was more than halfway through her undergraduate degree in kinesiology and exercise science when she realized she didn't want to become a physical therapist after all.

After shadowing attorneys and finding that work much more appealing, she added minors in political science and legal studies and began prepping for the LSAT. She studied with one of her triplet sisters, Casey, and they both enrolled in University of Wisconsin Law School at the same time.

"UW was calling to us," said Needham. "Our dad went here and played football, and so our family has been Badger fans since we were kids. It just felt natural to come here."

She entered law school with an open mind, eager to explore different facets of the field. Then Needham's peer mentor encouraged her to try out for mock trial, and she was hooked after her first experience in her trial advocacy course.



"It really is an honor to be able to help grow the (mock trial) program and help the newer members in their roles. I'm proud that we are continuing to build on what others have built for us in the past."

– Patricia Needham 3L



"It was a lot of fun, and I loved it," she said. "And so, I knew I wanted to keep competing to gain those oral advocacy skills."

Needham had always seen herself as softspoken. But through mock trial competitions, she found her voice and confidence.

"I was very unsure when I first started public speaking," said Needham, who is now mock trial president. "And now I think I'm louder and more of a presence in the courtroom. I've seen myself grow as an advocate since my very first trial in the trial advocacy class."

That helped during Needham's two summer internships with the Lake County State Attorney's Office north of Chicago, where she litigated cases and won a misdemeanor case.

"I've used those skills I developed from mock trial in the real world, and that has been an invaluable experience," said Needham, who hopes to return to Illinois after graduation to work as a state prosecutor.

In the meantime, Needham has kept busy growing her skill set. She serves as an associate editor of the *Wisconsin Law Review*, and this spring, she joined the UW Vis Moot Team for an international arbitration competition in Vienna, Austria. She is a student of Lanny Glinberg, clinical associate professor, on the Prosecution Project at the Frank J. Remington Center.

But she's most proud of her role as president of mock trial.

"It really is an honor to be able to help grow the program and help the newer members in their roles," she said. "I'm proud that we are continuing to build on what others have built for us in the past."

By Nicole Sweeney Etter



Weaving the Thread

Torey Dolan's scholarship contributes to broad conversations in election law and tribal sovereignty.

“The Wisconsin Idea should be felt on every Reservation.”

It's a commitment Torey Dolan made to herself as a scholar: to not abandon her roots as an advocate and a practitioner. And it's a thread she weaves through her work as an assistant professor at University of Wisconsin Law School. Dolan's scholarship often centers on election law as it intersects with tribal sovereignty.

“I always want my work to have a practical utility to it,” said Dolan, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. “I also want to ensure that my work has continued relevance to Tribal communities I serve and similarly situated Tribal communities. If my work can influence courts, policy makers, tribal governments or Native people toward solutions that are pro-democracy and pro-voter, then I'll be thrilled.”

She was initially drawn to this area as a student in the Arizona State University Indian Legal Clinic working on the Arizona Native Vote Election Protection Project. During the 2018 election, she became frustrated by how often Native people were experiencing barriers to voting. She decided she wanted to commit herself to that work as a Native Vote Fellow in the clinic after graduating in 2019.

“Seeing the 2020 election unfold up close while the COVID-19 pandemic was disproportionately harming Native communities, I saw the gaps between Tribal sovereignty and election law become even more stark,” she said. “My work today is heavily informed by the questions that I saw Tribal leaders and attorneys constantly grappling with.”

Becoming A Hastie Fellow

In 2023, Dolan was named to UW Law's William H. Hastie Fellowship, which has provided aspiring scholars with an opportunity to prepare for a career

"If my work can influence courts, policy makers, tribal governments or Native people toward solutions that are pro-democracy and pro-voter, then I'll be thrilled." – Torey Dolan, Assistant Professor



in teaching law since 1973.

Having an opportunity like the Hastie Fellowship in legal academia demonstrates UW's commitment to challenging stagnant ideas about who can or should be a legal scholar.

Dolan has spoken candidly about her path to the Hastie Fellowship, which began when she was told she "couldn't be a law professor." The moment left her uncertain and almost resulted in her abandoning thoughts of a career in legal academia.

"But Native women I really admire and look up to in Indian law like Kate Rosier, Patty Ferguson-Bohnee and (former Hastie Fellow) Stacey Leeds intervened before I could internalize that idea," she said. "They told me I could be a law professor, and they would help me get there."

Having someone like Leeds believe in her so early in her academic career was priceless, said Dolan.

"To have her give me advice was huge," she said. "She was also very candid about the hardships that I could — and would likely — face in the academy. Knowing that the Hastie helped her get to where she was, there was no question that I was going to go for it. Having that kind of support and belief in

my capabilities was huge!"

As someone who "lacked many of the 'metrics' folks in law look for," having the Hastie Fellowship behind her signaled not only that she had the potential to be a scholar, but that other people like her may be overlooked, said Dolan.

"I'm incredibly proud to be part of the Hastie history," she continued.

Finding An Academic Home

Dolan "found a really great home" at UW Law and accepted a position as assistant professor in 2024. Her decision was grounded in several factors, including the school's commitment to Native students and Indian law, its public-facing legal scholarship and the fact that the faculty is already stacked with election law and law and democracy experts.

"Knowing that I have the support from faculty to pursue practical scholarship as well as theoretical scholarship is incredibly liberating for my research and writing," she said. "I can pursue scholarship that is authentic to my interests and could have an immediate impact, and that will be celebrated here."

Dolan said she's been fortunate to utilize her past

scholarship in recent amicus briefs. She's also worked on this Supreme Court term in *Louisiana v. Callais* on behalf of the Navajo Nation and in *Watson v. Republican National Committee* on behalf of the National Congress of American Indians and local Native organizations in Alaska and Washington. Forthcoming scholarship will focus on county governments that incorporate large reservation populations and the practical governance issues they face.

Dolan sees her work contributing to broader conversations about democracy, representation and tribal self-determination.

"My hope is that my work contributes to these conversations and ensures that Tribal communities — and Tribal sovereignty — are not forgotten," she continued. "I fully believe the law can ensure robust Tribal sovereignty, self-determination and the full spectrum of rights for American Indian citizens. What drives me to do this work are the voters I've served and the communities that I stay in connection with, because they all deserve better. That's what I hope to see."

By Kassandra Tuten



IN FOCUS *Reunion: Back To Where It All Began*

University of Wisconsin Law School Reunions continue to grow! Last fall, more than 300 alumni and friends, traveling from over a dozen states, made the trip back to Madison to kick off Homecoming weekend and celebrate with good food and drink, music, laughter and memories of their Law School days.

Law Badgers from all class years are invited to attend Reunions, but Dean Dan Tokaji gave a special toast to the milestone years ending in 0s and 5s. He warmly welcomed the Class of 1975, celebrating its 50th Reunion with record attendance numbers. Tokaji’s remarks focused on the lifelong ties that alumni have to the school, the strong sense of support for each other’s work and the invaluable relationships formed here.

An emotional moment of the night came when attendees rose to their feet to honor Bill Meyer ’53 (below left). Meyer returned to campus with his

family to attend the Reunion on Friday evening and the Homecoming football game on Saturday. He told the Alumni Relations team that it had been many years since his last trip to Camp Randall.

“In 1944, while in the U.S. Navy, I was billeted in Camp Randall while in radio school at the university,” he said. “While in law school, I lived within a block.”

We are already looking ahead to Reunion 2026, taking place in early October! Make sure to save the date for Friday, Oct. 2. We look forward to toasting the milestone classes ending in 1s and 6s, and celebrating another memorable Reunion weekend.



Learn more
about UW Law
Reunion.

PHOTOS BY NICK WILKES

SAVE THE DATE *Friday, Oct. 2, 2026*





THANKS!

In Howie We 'Trust'

Longtime T & E professor Howard Erlanger '81 has not just taught but inspired thousands of students for over 40 years at UW Law.

BY JENNIE BROECKER

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MIKE BASS



**Howie's
Path at
the UW**



1971

Started teaching
sociology at University
of Wisconsin

1981

Earned his J.D.
at UW Law

1982

Started as review section editor
of *Law and Social Inquiry*; he is
still serving in this role in 2026

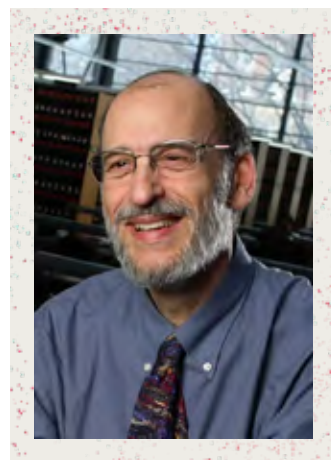
How beloved is Howard (Howie) Erlanger '81 by the University of Wisconsin Law School community?

The Emeritus Voss-Bascom Professor of Law has won the Teacher of the Year Award a record six times, including once after he “retired” in 2013.

On his last day of teaching — Dec. 2, 2025 — his students were drawn back to class after they were released early, just so they could tearfully bid him farewell during a celebration orchestrated by the deans.

As Dean Dan Tokaji put it, “Howie’s exodus from teaching is his idea, not mine.”

And not surprisingly, every faculty member and former student who was emailed for this story responded within minutes in an outpouring of adoration.



Erlanger has taught Trusts & Estates (T & E) to generations of UW Law students for over four decades. He has been teaching at UW even longer, having arrived in the sociology department in 1971 with a Ph.D. from University of California, Berkeley.

The 81-year-old’s career has been remarkable, driven by a commitment to making a difference and solving problems in an engaging way.

His legacy lives on in every student he cared for and invested in. It has been his calling.

Early Influences

Erlanger became interested in law from a fairly young age. His parents, deeply affected by the Holocaust, rebuilt their lives in the United States; his father was a lawyer, so he grew up with a concern for justice and fair treatment. Politics and social justice were frequent topics of dinner table conversation.

“I was 9 years old when *Brown v. Board of Education* was decided, and I remember my father proudly announcing that ‘segregation is over,’ then,

some years later, I realized that it wasn’t,” he said, identifying this as the moment that he became interested in “law in action” — how law operates on the ground.

In high school, Erlanger realized he wanted to teach and had a knack for it.

“I discovered that I was good at taking complex concepts and explaining them to others,” he said. “I found I made a lot of friends by getting them through geometry. That’s where it all started.”

Sociology ended up being Erlanger’s path to both law and teaching.

When he was an undergraduate student at Berkeley dating his now-wife Pam, they took a sociology class together; he learned about “this big new field called the sociology of law” and was invited to stay and get his Ph.D. in sociology to pursue it.

In 1971, he moved with Pam and their two young children to Wisconsin because UW, like Berkeley, was considered a leader in this emerging area.

After he earned tenure in UW’s sociology

1989

Chosen for Teacher of the Year Award at UW Law for the first time

1993

Received the Emil Steiger Award for Distinguished Teaching from UW–Madison

1993

Became an academic fellow at the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel

1995

Chosen for Teacher of the Year Award at UW Law for the second time

department, Erlanger got permission to go to law school part-time because he wanted to “complete the cycle.” He joked that “in those days I didn’t need much sleep.”

He graduated first in his J.D. class in 1981 and was recruited to teach at UW Law that year. Fun fact: He took Trusts & Estates pass/fail.

“They said, ‘There’s only one way we add you to the faculty. Nobody wants to teach Trusts & Estates, but it’s essentially a required course.’ So would I agree to teach it for my entire career? They wanted a promise. I said, ‘I think Trusts & Estates is really interesting and has a strong law in action component; both are things that students need to know about. I’ll take the deal.’”

Practical Yet Inspiring

Erlanger’s approach to T & E comes from being “very practical.” Teaching a framework about how to practice law with regard to what lawyers actually do.

“Legal education is very litigation-focused,” he said. “Everything that is taught via the case method is correct and important, but it’s overweighted. Most lawyers don’t litigate; they solve problems. Traditionally, law is taught top-down; you start with the rules and work from there. I try to teach bottom-up; you identify the problem and then plan and draft to solve it, in the context of the rules.”

He explained why the subject matter of his course has been so important.

“I like to say that, other than parking and speeding tickets, it’s people’s most frequent encounter with the law,” he said. “I tell them the first day, maybe you’re young enough that you don’t think about dying, and that’s great. But you’ve got parents, you’ve got grandparents; as you get on in life, you’ll see that everybody is impacted by this. And people assume that a lawyer knows something about it. People will ask you questions, so you’re going to be ‘practicing trusts and estates’ whether you think you are or not.”

Of course, some students found their careers in this kind of work.

Greg Monday ’93, an attorney at Reinhart in Madison helping middle-market family businesses with succession and other matters, said Erlanger taught him very specific things to help him early in his career.

“But his most important influence on me was his optimism and his natural instinct to help everyone around him,” Monday said. “Howie inspired me to think that there may be a place for peace, love and understanding in the practice of law. And I think I found that. Howie is a truly good person. He inspired me by being thoughtful and cheerful and funny and kind.”

Monday, who has taken on Business Organizations as an adjunct professor in the past, said, “When I’m preparing to teach, I always think, ‘How would Howie teach this?’”

Wes Taylor ’09, an attorney at Foley & Lardner LLP in Madison and also an adjunct professor at UW Law,



1998-2013

Served as director of the Institute for Legal Studies at the Law School

1999

Wisconsin Probate Code revisions led by Erlanger took effect

2000

Chosen for Teacher of the Year Award at UW Law for the third time

2001

First J. Willard Hurst Summer Institute in Legal History, which he helped found



Professor Erlanger -
Thank you for
bringing the human
element to the
learning of law.
Hope retirement brings
many new & joyful
adventures.
-A ~~great~~ grateful student



From top left in clockwise order, around a note from a student on Howard Erlanger's last day of teaching in 2025: Erlanger with Stewart Macaulay in 2001; UW Law Teacher of the Year Award winners together, from left: Erlanger (2000), Frank Tuerkheimer (1999) and Larry Church (1998); Erlanger with Jane Larson in 1999; Erlanger holding a gargoyle statue alongside Dean Dan Tokaji on his last day of teaching last semester; students, faculty and staff celebrating Erlanger in the classroom after his final class; UW Law Teacher of the Year Award winners together, from left: Erlanger (1989) and Bill Whitford (1990).

2003-05

Served as president of the
Law & Society Association



2004

Received the Underkofler
Excellence in Teaching
Award from UW System

2006

Chosen for Teacher of the
Year Award at UW Law for
the fourth time

2007-13

Served as director of the
Center for Law, Society,
and Justice in the College
of Letters and Science

called Erlanger “custom-made” to be his teacher.

“I found my best professors were role models,” Taylor said. “When I found someone I respected, I was like ‘I want to be like that. If this is the kind of person who works in this area, this is the area I want to work in.’ He showed me a path to being the kind of lawyer I wanted to be.”

Repairing the World

Erlanger said he is guided by a foundational Jewish principle: Tikkun Olam, Hebrew for “repair the world.”

“You’re here with an obligation to leave it a better place, and that’s been a guiding principle for me,” he said. “It’s important for me to make a difference.”

This is another reason UW Law has been a great fit for Erlanger. The Wisconsin Idea has always meant a lot to him.

Recently, Erlanger helped his friend and fellow emeritus professor, Stewart Macaulay, create the Jackie Macaulay Fellowship Fund to support law students pursuing public interest summer internships and associate unpaid positions. And Erlanger has started a matching effort to further support this important work.

And in the 1990s, he helped lead a revamp of the Wisconsin Probate Code.

“At that point I had taught T & E for 10 to 15 years and could see issues where the code could be modernized,” he said.

Essentially, the “nonprobate revolution” was a shift away from court-supervised probate for passing assets at death in favor of faster, cheaper, private alternatives like beneficiary designations, trusts and joint accounts. But so many of the rules were just for probate.

“It was a problem to solve,” he said. “Can’t we have one set of rules for passing property at death?”

He said he, too, benefited from the revision process by learning from practitioners and consumers.

“It was valuable for me to see their perspective of these rules and how things are working in the real world,” he said.

Teaching the Teachers

Many students fondly remember Erlanger’s playful approach to teaching because of the cartoons and other clips he included in his course materials.

His fellow faculty appreciated “the Aardvarks.” (Because teaching is aard-vark (hard work)!)

Erlanger wanted to mentor and collaborate with other professors but found that “people won’t come to a study group on teaching” unless you have a fun name.

These gatherings tackled everything from navigating controversial topics to dealing with negative teaching evaluations.

Evjue-Bascom Professor of Law Mitra Sharafi called Erlanger an amazing teacher and mentor who has had a profound influence on the faculty’s culture.

“When I was a brand new professor in 2007, he emphasized the importance of showing up for job talks and faculty workshops —

that I should always read the pre-circulated paper and try to ask a question, and that it was possible to be rigorous and generous at the same time,” Sharafi said. “This was what it meant to be a part of our scholarly community. That has stuck with me ever since, at UW and at scholarly events I am part of elsewhere, too.”

Asifa Quraishi-Landes, a professor who specializes in comparative Islamic and U.S. constitutional law, chose Erlanger to be her mentor when she arrived at UW Law in 2000 because he was also from California

“You’re here with an obligation to leave it a better place, and that’s been a guiding principle for me. It’s important for me to make a difference.”

- Howard Erlanger ’81

2008

Chosen as faculty speaker for UW Law Hooding Ceremony

2010

Received the Stan Wheeler Mentorship Award from the Law & Society Association

2011

Chosen for Teacher of the Year Award at UW Law for the fifth time

2013

“Retired” but continued to teach classes

and “of course he was his charming self” when he ran into her parents when they were visiting.

“I knew Howie was the guy. I don’t do T & E, so I knew nothing about his field, but I knew he had the kind of connectivity with people that I could rely on,” Quraishi-Landes said. “I could be real with him.”

She became closer to Erlanger and his wife when she learned her daughter had some serious special needs. Pam, then an occupational therapist specializing in pediatrics, ended up as her daughter’s therapist.

“I owe Howie and Pam both so much,” Quraishi-Landes said. “Howie has been my first person to go to for career advice, teaching advice, tenure advice and just life advice — like how to balance a career with raising a special needs child.”

The Erlangers’ son, Jeff, became a quadriplegic shortly after birth; he lived a rich life until his passing in 2007. Among other accomplishments, many people know of him because of his iconic appearance on “Mr. Roger’s Neighborhood” in 1981, memorialized in the documentary “Won’t You Be My Neighbor?.” Their other child, Lisa, is a clinical professor of medicine and social activist.

Quraishi-Landes said being featured in a 2009 *Gargoyle* magazine along with Erlanger was the honor of her career.

“It’s centered on my office wall,” she said.

“I’m so grateful to know you and to have learned from you,” she told him on his last day of teaching.

Next Chapter

While he is no longer in the classroom, Erlanger said he will miss the students but plans to stay involved in the Law School community as well as in associations like Law & Society, where he has been active for many years.

“I have strived to be a teacher and mentor,” he said. “I feel very good that people think it worked.”

Now he is turning more to his involvement with community organizations, to help them with operations and fundraising.

“My work is my hobby,” he said. “That is what has been so great about being a faculty member here. I don’t think I could have done what I did anywhere else. Now I get the pleasure of working with these nonprofits.” 🍷

WOO!

CONGRATS,
HOWIE!



2019

Chosen for Teacher of the Year Award at UW Law for the sixth time

2020

Chosen as faculty speaker for Law School’s virtual Hooding Ceremony

2020

Received the Ronald Pipkin Service Award from Law & Society Association

2025

Taught his last class





Behind the Success

Office of Career and Professional Development shapes student careers.

BY LEO BAROLO GARGIULO

The Class of 2024

entered the professional world with remarkable momentum: 90.1% of students were already employed at graduation, and 10 months out, 96.6% were employed in full-time, long-term bar admission required or J.D. advantage jobs. This is the highest employment rate in those sought-after jobs in the last five years, with numbers growing each year since 2020.

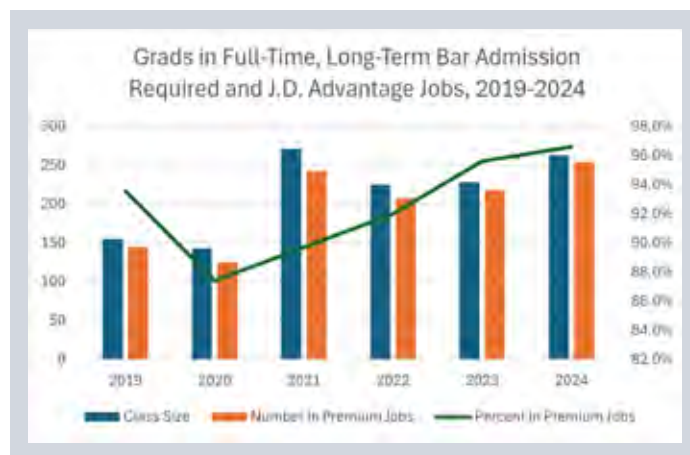
These results are closely tied to the efforts of University of Wisconsin Law School's Office of Career and Professional Development (OCPD), where advisers work closely with students to cultivate professional skills and connect them to meaningful opportunities.

Previously known as the Career Services Office, the team has

assisted students in their careers for decades and has evolved alongside their needs, with the name change in 2013 reflecting the broadening of its mission.

"We do much more than just connecting students with job opportunities," explained Associate Dean of Career & Professional Development Emily Kite, who directs the office. "As the name implies, we're focused on the professional development of students, which entails exposure to various practice areas students might pursue, hosting networking opportunities and helping students develop skills essential in the job search."

To advance these goals, OCPD combines a variety of strategies to help students determine their career goals and how to achieve them.



Building Connections

“The best way to expand students’ understanding of what the practice of law can look like is to meet people who practice law in various settings,” said Kite.

Alumni are an essential part of that mission; they serve as panelists, attend tabling events on behalf of their employers and participate in networking events with students.

While these opportunities provide students with an understanding of the practice of law, at the same time, they offer them an easy ramp into networking — an important skill in both searching for a job and practicing as an attorney, Kite explained.

“We want to make some low-stakes opportunities available to students where they can practice their networking skills, but then also truly build connections that might help them in their job search later,” she continued.

Alumni also help OCPD monitor market changes and prepare students for them.

“We want to know, what are they seeing from graduates? What are the challenges they’re running into?” Kite explained.

Additionally, OCPD also

engages with legal recruiters, working groups and committees to gain insight into law firms’ needs and priorities, as well as what other schools are doing. These takeaways are then adapted and applied to each student by their assigned career adviser, who listens to the student’s career needs and helps them progress toward their goals.

Individualized Advising

Each student has different goals, needs and degrees of familiarity with the law profession. In addition to Kite, OCPD directors and associate directors advise students while taking on a variety of additional roles.

“As someone without lawyers in my family, I often felt clueless about what a career in law actually looks like in practice and felt as if I was running to catch up with my peers, who sometimes had more familiarity or experience,” said Teresa Kulick ’24. “It was overwhelming to learn how to be a law student and focus on my curriculum while also trying to understand what I wanted my career to look like and how I could get there.”

Meeting with a career adviser helped her slow down and see

career planning as part of her education, something she could study and learn.

“My adviser gave me the language and tools I needed to understand, articulate and accomplish my goals,” she said.

Those conversations helped her understand her own abilities, goals and potential.

“I was able to move away from what I previously thought I ‘could’ or ‘should’ do and toward what I actually wanted to do,” Kulick said. “Individualized advising provided a much-needed space

“My adviser gave me the language and tools I needed to understand, articulate and accomplish my goals.”

– Teresa Kulick ’24

to ask ‘stupid’ questions and familiarize myself with different legal career paths.”

While OCPD has always offered one-on-one advising, it’s become an increasing priority in recent years.

“Realizing how important these one-on-one meetings are, and with Dean Dan Tokaji’s support, in the 2023-24 academic year, we were able to require a meeting with OCPD before 1Ls could register for 2L classes, ensuring that every 1L had at least one touch with our office,” explained Kite.

The following year, OCPD introduced the 1L Pathways program, which guides first-year law students through the job search process one step at a time.

“Instead of throwing everything at them at once like legal resumes, cover letters, application timelines and interviewing strategies, the

pathways program breaks that information down and delivers it in a more manageable, timely way throughout their first year,” explained Director of Career Counseling Megan K.S. Zurbriggen, who manages the program, which is designed with built-in flexibility.

“We offer a bit of a ‘choose your own adventure’ approach, especially in the fall with our Careers in Focus panels,” said Zurbriggen. “These sessions break down different paths — like private practice, public interest and government — so students can explore what interests them most.”

These panels provide students with foundational information on different legal career paths, which helps set the stage for their one-on-one intake meeting with their adviser. As the adviser learns more about each student’s interests, they can suggest additional programming tailored to the students’ specific needs.

“If a student shares that they’re interested in labor and employment work in Michigan, we can point them toward relevant opportunities like our Labor and Employment Pizza with Professionals event, an upcoming out-of-state job search call focused on Michigan and alumni connections in that market,” Zurbriggen said. “It’s all about giving students meaningful ways to network, gather information and connect with attorneys in their areas of interest.”

The intense early focus on individualizing their job search enables OCPD to help students even as recruitment cycles shift. With earlier recruitment times every year, it is more important than ever that students start planning their career strategies soon after they begin their studies.

Recruitment Today

The recruitment process for law students has changed dramatically in the last decade.

Before 2018, members of the National Association of Law Placement (NALP) adhered to guidelines that limited when career advisers and employers could first engage with students, when recruitment could begin and set deadlines by which students had to respond.

In 2018, those guidelines ceased to be binding, and after a brief pushback in recruiting times during the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a growing recruitment creep, particularly with big law firms.

With the guidelines, 1Ls couldn’t seek advice on their career search from career development professionals until Oct. 15, and employers couldn’t accept applications until Dec. 1. Last year, 1Ls applied to the biggest law firms for both their first and second summers as early as October, going to interviews before even receiving their first-semester grades.

“They were applying with no knowledge of what their grades were going to be, and for some of them, without even a certainty that big law was what they wanted to do, because they felt, and possibly rightly, that if they didn’t pursue it now, it might be an opportunity that was missed,” explained Kite.

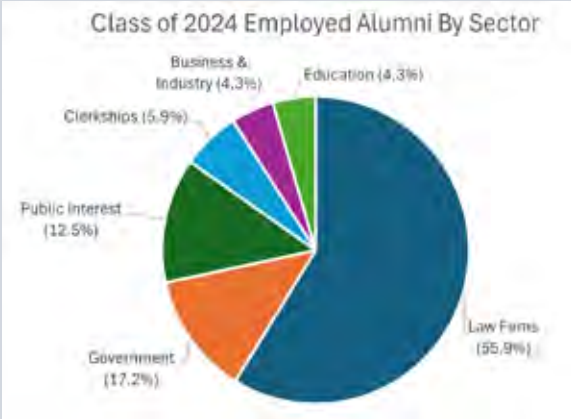
In response, OCPD adapted its pathways program, incorporating into the fall semester processes that would normally come much later in the academic year.

“OCPD started training incoming students on legal resumes and cover letters before classes even began,” explained Zurbriggen. “We really try to



“OCPD started training incoming students on legal resumes and cover letters before classes even began. We really try to stay flexible and make sure we’re giving students the most relevant, timely guidance each year.”

**– Megan K.S. Zurbriggen,
Director of Career Counseling**



stay flexible and make sure we’re giving students the most relevant, timely guidance each year.”

And while tailoring resumes and applications can be a challenge when students have barely started law school, it is not one they face without support.

Summer Jobs and Externships

Students have less time to decide what they want to do before applying for summer jobs, but the jobs themselves are a great opportunity for career exploration.

“We often tell students that for their first summer, we want them to work somewhere where they are getting legal experience,” Kite said. “It doesn’t have to be what they’ll be doing forever. In fact, sometimes figuring out what you don’t want to do is as important as figuring out what you do want to do.”

Career exploration was a big part of Kulick’s experience working as a summer associate at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c., where she is now an associate attorney in the firm’s Employee Benefits and Institutional Investor

Services practices. During her 2L summer at the firm, she met attorneys at all levels across all practice groups.

“That gave me hands-on experience and new familiarity with areas of law I had never even heard of, let alone seriously considered as a career path,” she said. “It was a random assignment from an employee benefits shareholder and subsequent conversations with other members of that group that brought me to my current role.”

It is common for summer *continued to page 41*

How UW Law Can Help Your Job Search

OCPD does not just serve students; staff continue to help UW Law alumni post-graduation. Recent alumni can use the OCPD job board to find entry-level positions, and those who have been out of school for a while and are considering a career pivot or just want help updating a resume can email career@law.wisc.edu.



**Visit the OCPD
job board.**

How You Can Help Today’s Students

There are many opportunities for alumni to get involved with OCPD’s efforts — both in person and virtually — such as listing job postings, participating in on-campus interview programs, attending panels and networking events, serving as a resource for students seeking guidance on their job search and more. Additionally, OCPD welcomes alumni to reach out with ideas for engaging in the student experience.

Last semester, Kite said, people from the Marathon County Bar Association provided pizza and discussed the benefits of living in Wausau.

“We were happy to host that and facilitate those conversations, but it was really their brainchild,” Kite said.

Alumni interested in engaging with OCPD can get in touch with the employer relations coordinator by contacting career@law.wisc.edu.



Examining Law in Action

UW Law faculty publish works exploring how law operates in the real world.

Across different geographies, time periods and legal fields, the work of Sumudu Atapattu, Alexandra Huneeus, Heinz Klug and Mitra Sharafi shares a common goal: to examine law in action.

From environmental rights in South Asia to constitutional transformation in South Africa, from international law in Latin America to forensic practices of colonial India, the authors seek to understand how law operates not as an abstract system of rules, but as a lived, evolving force shaped by institutions, politics and people.

We spoke with all four faculty about their recently published or forthcoming works, exploring the impetus for their projects, the timeliness of the topics, what separates their research from others in the field and more.

Interviews by *Kassandra Tuten*
and *Leo Barolo Gargiulo*

Sumudu Atapattu

A leading scholar at the intersection of human rights and environmental law, Sumudu Atapattu, teaching professor at University of Wisconsin Law School,



director of the Global Legal Studies Center and executive director of the Human Rights Program, has built a career on examining how global legal frameworks respond to the lived realities of climate change and environmental harm. In her new edited volume, “Routledge Handbook on Environmental

Law and Sustainable Development in South Asia,” Atapattu examines how legal principles are not only articulated but actively applied across the region. The book, which will be available in the fall, adopts a law and society approach with sustainable development, environmental justice and environmental rights as the main frameworks.

Q: How would you describe the central argument of your new book?

A: The core questions we were keen on answering were: 1. What are the main developments relating to environmental law and sustainable developments

in each country in the region, and what are the main obstacles? We used the definition of South Asia adopted by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and examined eight countries — Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. 2. What are the regional (mostly environmental) challenges that South Asia is facing? 3. How is the region addressing regional/global challenges such as climate change? 4. What are the lessons we can learn from South Asia, especially in relation to its remarkable jurisprudence relating to environmental rights?

Q: What drew you to this project, and how does it reflect or build upon your broader body of scholarship?

A: A few years ago, a friend asked me to recommend a book on environmental law in South Asia, and I couldn't find one. So I decided to fill that void! While individual countries in the region have received scholarly attention, the region as a whole had not. At the same time, there are many jurisprudential developments in the region that are unknown to other parts of the world. This is the first book that looks at environmental challenges and jurisprudential developments in South Asia from a regional perspective.

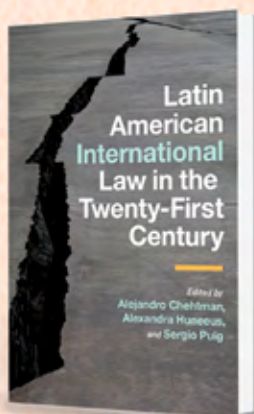
Q: Why is this book particularly timely?

A: In 2022, the U.N. General Assembly recognized, for the first time, the right to live in a safe, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right. Given this monumental and long-awaited development, this book is timely as it provides an excellent example of this right being used in practice long before the U.N. recognized this right. Judiciaries in South Asia interpreted existing rights such as rights to life, equality and dignity expansively to include a right to a healthy environment, and this book provides examples of state practice in the region.

Q: What distinguishes this book from other scholarship in this area?

A: There are no books that look at environmental jurisprudential developments in the region as a whole. Thus, our book fills an important void in literature. It also adopts a law and society approach to see how law is actually applied on the ground and how law shapes society and vice versa. Another unique feature of the book is interviews with pioneers in the field. Environmental law in South Asia was born out of the work of a few dedicated individual lawyers/

activists in the region, and we wanted to capture their experience in the book both to memorialize their experience and to encourage the younger generation to follow their lead.



Alexandra Huneus

An internationally recognized scholar of public international law and human rights, Alexandra Huneus, Evjue-Bascom Professor of Law and director of the Center for Law, Society and Justice, focuses her work on how legal norms are shaped, contested and implemented across Latin America. In her recent co-edited volume “Latin American International Law in the Twenty-First Century,” Huneus examines the region not as a passive

recipient of legal norms, but as an active site of legal innovation and debate, revealing Latin America as a dynamic laboratory where the meaning and future of international law are actively being shaped.

Q: How would you describe the central argument of your new book?

A: At its core, the book asks a deceptively simple question: What does international law look like when we take Latin America seriously as a site of legal thought, institutional experimentation and norm production? Much of the traditional literature treats Latin America primarily as a recipient of international law — rules developed elsewhere and implemented locally. Our contributors challenge that view.

Q: Why is this book particularly timely?

A: We are living through a moment of significant transformation in the international legal order. Power is shifting globally, and many of the assumptions that shaped international law during the late 20th century are being reexamined. Latin America is deeply implicated in those changes. The region has been at the forefront of debates about human rights adjudication, environmental protection, Indigenous rights and the interaction between domestic and international law. In that context, we felt it was important to take stock: How is international law evolving in Latin America, and how might those developments shape the global field going forward?

Q: How does this book advance or reshape conversations within your field?

A: Latin American jurists have historically developed

important doctrines — from ideas about non-intervention to early contributions to human rights law. Yet those contributions are often treated as historical curiosities rather than as part of a continuing intellectual tradition. The book argues that there is now a renewed and more self-conscious body of scholarship that is rethinking the region's role in the discipline. This scholarship is also increasingly interdisciplinary, engaging with sociology, anthropology, political science and history to understand how international law actually operates in practice. By bringing these perspectives together, the volume aims to show that Latin America is not just a site where international law is applied — it is also a place where the meaning and future of international law are being debated and reshaped.

Q: What distinguishes this book from other scholarship in this area?

A: First, its scope. The volume includes more than 30 essays that span both historical and contemporary topics — from colonial-era jurisdictional disputes to contemporary debates about internet governance and public health regulation. Second, its methodological diversity. Rather than presenting a single theoretical framework, the book brings together scholars using different approaches. Finally, the book tries to capture the plurality of voices within the region. Latin America is not a monolith. Different countries, legal traditions and political histories shape how international law is understood and mobilized. By assembling scholars from across the region, we hoped to reflect that diversity.

Heinz Klug

A comparative constitutional scholar whose work is deeply shaped by lived political transformation, Heinz Klug, John and Rylla Bosshard Professor of Law, has spent decades examining how constitutions function in practice — particularly in the context of South Africa's transition from apartheid. Klug participated in the anti-apartheid struggle, spent years in exile and later contributed to post-apartheid reform efforts, including work with the African National Congress and South African government ministries. In his newly revised edition of "The Constitution of South Africa: A Contextual Analysis," Klug examines how a transformative constitution has operated over

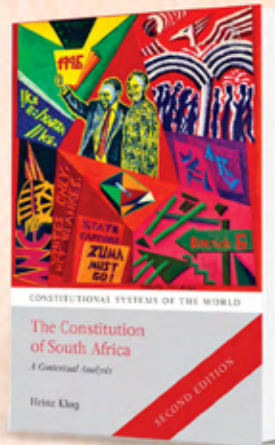
30 years, asking how constitutional principles have been interpreted, institutionalized and at times constrained by persistent inequality.

Q: How would you describe the central argument of your new book?

A: My new book is a second edition of an original book that I wrote entitled "The Constitution of South Africa: A Contextual Analysis." I originally published the first edition in 2010, which was only 16 years after South Africa moved away from apartheid. The constitution that this book covers is the 1996 constitution, so this year is the 30th anniversary of the constitution. I was asked to do a new version of the book, and usually, with a second edition, you add just a little bit to update. But 30 years later, it is a different world, so this second edition essentially is a rewrite of the book.

Q: What drew you to this project, and how does it reflect or build upon your broader body of scholarship?

A: I've worked on constitutionalism in South Africa and Africa for a long time. My first book explored the political transition in South Africa and the construction of this constitution. When I wrote the first edition in 2010, I looked at how this constitution was being implemented and what was happening to it. And now is an opportunity to look back 30 years and ask what's become of it, what's going on in the jurisprudence, in the institutions and in the society.



Q: Why is this book particularly timely?

A: First, it's been 16 years since that first book came out, so things have changed and it's worth updating. But it isn't just simply an update. The underlying deeper issue is that this constitution was constructed to try and address the legacies of apartheid. The fact that South Africa remains one of the most unequal countries in the world means that the constitution clearly hasn't achieved that. So, what is it about a constitution that can or cannot achieve major socioeconomic and political changes?

Q: What makes this book unique?

A: I think the uniqueness of the book is that it is

still the only book that covers the constitution as a whole. There are enormous amounts of scholarship on rights in South Africa, on socio-economic rights and on specific constitutional issues. This is the only book that tries to explore what has happened to this constitution as a whole and tries to provide that kind of overview. The first edition of the book was picked up by a lot of people, and it was used to teach constitutional law in South Africa. It gets picked up by others in debates, and that's the contribution in my opinion.

Mitra Sharafi

A legal historian whose work bridges law, science and empire, Mitra Sharafi, Evjue-Bascom Professor of Law, focuses on how legal systems operate in practice within the complex social worlds of colonial South Asia. In her new book, "Fear of the False: Forensic Science and the Law of Crime in Colonial South Asia," Sharafi offers a grounded account of law in action, revealing how legal rules and scientific expertise were negotiated, applied and at times distorted in colonial legal systems.



Q: How would you describe the central argument of your new book?

A: My book reveals colonial India's critical role in the development of forensic science. Colonial officials believed in "native mendacity," and their suspicion that fake evidence was being planted led to advances in forensic testing relating to bloodstains, poisons and sperm cells. But in trying to detect falsity from without, namely evidence planted by colonized tricksters to frame rivals and subvert the colonial legal system, the new forensic institutions enabled falsity from within through their treatment of government lab experts, who were excused from cross-examination in court. This feature of Indian criminal procedure, which differed from the rule in England and which lives on across South Asia today, made wrongful convictions more likely as it provided cover for expert misconduct. In the book, I ask: What was colonial about colonial forensics? My book examines how the colonial context affected the interaction of law and science through the quest to root out falsity.

Q: What drew you to this project, and how does it reflect or build upon your broader body of scholarship?

A: While doing archival research for my first book at the Bombay High Court, I came across a case from the Parsi Chief Matrimonial Court that featured medical experts locked in a "battle of the experts" in a 1927 case on abortion. I ended up using this case to write an article on abortion in colonial India, now the subject of a recent symposium on comparative histories of abortion. But my interest in experts in the courtroom grew, and then I discovered the annual reports of the chemical examiners, who were military physicians running regional toxicology labs across colonial India and Burma. I spent several summers going through these reports, initially at the British Library and then (more closely) on my front porch here in Madison. My first book is about law and religion; my second is about law and science. Both are explorations of knowledge production systems in a colonial setting. Both explore how a diversity of value systems — whether religious, cultural, scientific or medical — interacted with the colonial legal system.

Q: Why is this book particularly timely?

A: In India, a new version of the criminal procedure statute recently became law, and the colonial-era rule excusing government lab experts from appearing in court has been expanded to include more groups of experts than ever before. I hope that my book will provide the longer history of this rule — how it came to be, how it has persisted and grown and why it erodes defendants' due process rights. Fortunately, judges could start calling these experts to court under the existing legislation; a change in the legislation is not technically required. I hope that my work will convince more judges in India to start calling these experts to court.

Q: What distinguishes this book from other scholarship in this area?

A: This book is the first book-length study of false evidence, and the fear of false evidence, in colonial India. It will make an original contribution to South Asian legal history through its portrait of forensic institutions and testing, as well as criminal procedure, in the late 19th and early 20th century. Most of the material I found at the National Archives of India and the British Library has not been used by scholars. These archives house vast collections of primary sources from British India. 🍷

Celebrating the Legacy of Paul Turley '73

Barbara Arnold '76 makes gift to SDRI in honor of late husband.



It's a story about Paul Turley '73 and the State Democracy Research Initiative (SDRI).

That's what Barbara Arnold '76 said when asked what prompted her recent gift to University of Wisconsin Law School.

Barbara and Paul were attending law school in the early-to mid-1970s. It was a time "when the rule of law was the vehicle for addressing the corruption of the Nixon administration," she explained.

"In that context, law school taught us how important the rule of law is as a foundation for

our national values," Barbara continued. "There were a lot of things going on at that time."

Barbara and Paul met in 1971 when they were both working part time in the Wisconsin Department of Justice's Office of Consumer Protection. Paul was a law clerk, and Barbara provided clerical support to the group of law clerks. After graduating from UW Law, Paul joined the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Shortly after graduating, Barbara also joined the FTC. By 1982, they were both in management positions and both divorced.

"We were frequently in meetings together," Barbara recalled. "Over time, we became good friends, and, by the spring of 1983, it was more."

They married in July 1983 in Barbara's backyard in Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Their honeymoon was moving to Los Angeles, Calif.

By the late 1980s, Paul had left the FTC for the LA County District Attorney's Office, and Barbara had

left a major commercial law firm to go inhouse with Toyota. Paul loved his career with the DA's office, Barbara said.

"He felt that he did more for doing justice in the role of being a prosecutor than being either a defense lawyer or judge," she explained.

Paul was instrumental in several high-visibility cases in the DA's office in the late '80s and early '90s.

"During the Savings & Loan crisis, he was instrumental in convicting Charles Keating of criminal fraud with respect to the

"Law School taught us how important the rule of law is as a foundation for our national values."

– Barbara Arnold '76



S&L that his company owned, Lincoln Savings and Loan,” she explained.

The trial and conviction were covered in the national press.

Two years later, Paul tried a murder case that relied on 30-year-old fingerprints and the use of a computer to identify a murder suspect decades after the crime.

“This was new territory in those days,” Barbara said. “‘60 Minutes’ filmed the trial and did a segment on it. Paul got the conviction. He was certain the

reason ‘60 Minutes’ was there was because they thought the defendant was innocent and the technology was faulty.”

When Paul passed away in March 2024, Barbara sought ways to pay tribute to his memory.

“Paul was a minister for a few years before attending UW Law,” Barbara explained. “He held very strong beliefs about right and wrong as well as a commitment to the law. Paul was proud to be a strong advocate for what he thought was right.”

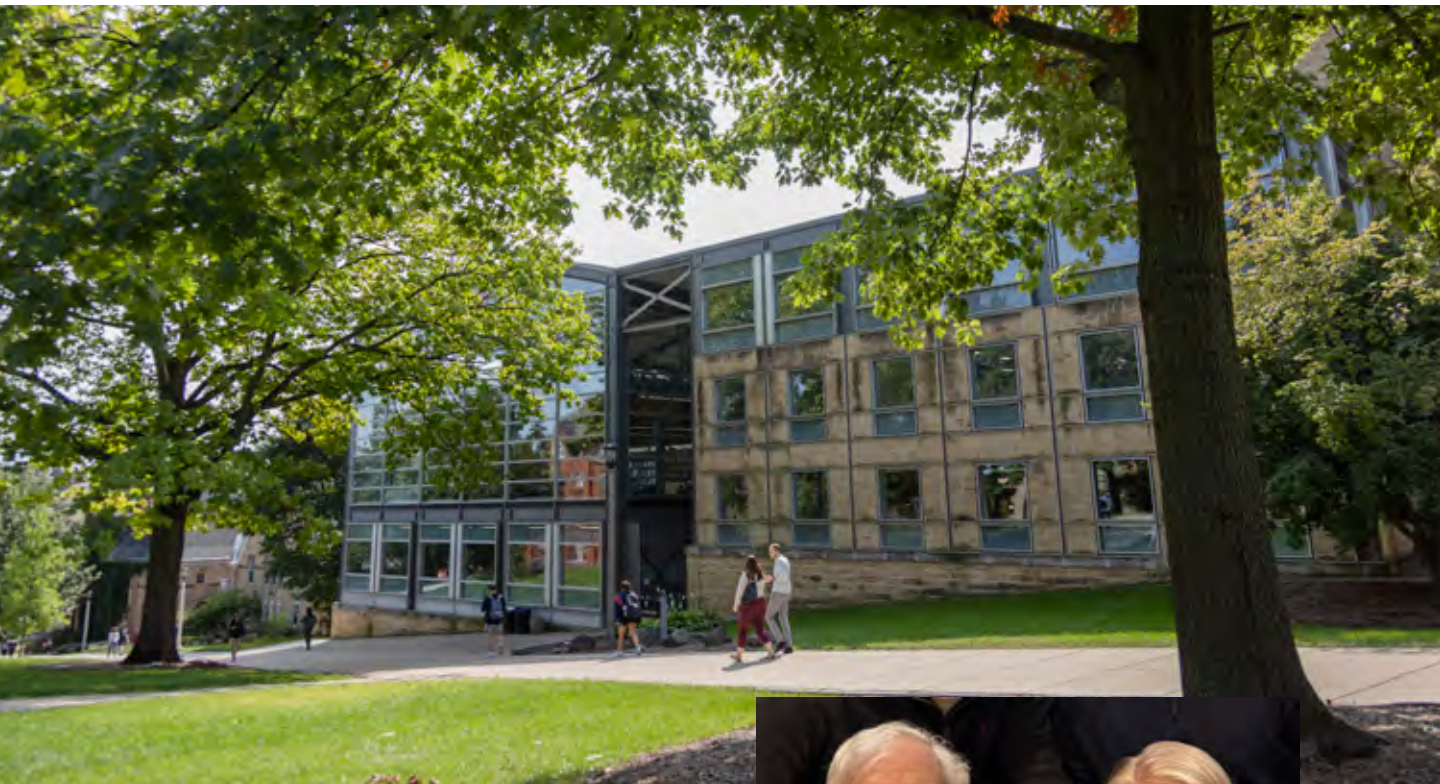
When exploring opportunities,

Barbara came across an article about SDRI in an edition of the *Gargoyle*.

“It resonated with me,” she said. “SDRI is action-oriented, and that was important to me. And Paul always saw himself as fighting for good. I see SDRI as also fighting the good fight. This was a passion area for Paul, not his practice area, so when he passed, it felt right.”

Founded by faculty co-directors Miriam Seifter and Robert Yablon, SDRI seeks to advance research and dialogue on state-level

continued to page 41



Clinical Experience Changes Lives

Warren Woessner '81 and Iris Freeman create fund for students to seize transformative experiences.



Warren Woessner '81 and Iris Freeman

hold a shared belief that clinical experience can change lives and professional paths.

Freeman's own field placements as a social work graduate student "hooked" her and shaped 50 years of work. And Woessner's path — from an uncertain chemistry student to biotech patent pioneer and law firm founder — was shaped by opportunity, mentorship and the freedom to reinvent himself. Their respective journeys inspired them to create the Warren Woessner and Iris Freeman Fellowship Fund for Public Service, which opens similar doors for students, ensuring they have the support to seize transformative experiences of their own.

The fund supports students pursuing public interest law, with a focus on family legal advocacy and victim services across the lifespan.

"We want to encourage students who may not see public interest law as a career objective to experience the rewards with a summer internship," said Freeman. "We recognize that jobs in legal aid and the public sector are notably lower paid, and for students who are carrying a good deal of debt from their education, the problem is real. The summer internship provides an opportunity to become familiar and committed to careers in public service."

One summer, one placement, one chance can alter a student's entire career trajectory.

At least, that's how it was for Freeman, whose background has been in elder care and elder abuse protection.

During her first year, Freeman had a front-line placement in a busy county hospital, giving her insight into areas like elder abandonment and

exploitation, compounded by dementia. The second year, she was at the state health department with a field placement director wholly engaged in issues of family violence.

“She generously shared with me absolutely invaluable opportunities and experiences to work on issues affecting older clients and adults with disabilities,” Freeman said. “Those two field placements have had as much influence on my career as living with my grandparents growing up. We hope the fellowships we support are open doors and horizons. Certainly, for me, clinical and policy experience had an incalculable effect on my own career passions. I got hooked.”

Woessner’s path is a unique one.

He was a self-proclaimed “less than average student” who received a Ph.D. in chemistry from University of Wisconsin–Madison; he followed that with a postdoctoral fellowship in the School of Pharmacy and then work at a laboratory. When corporate changes at the office threatened his future in Madison, he made a pragmatic decision: enroll at University of Wisconsin Law School and pair his science degree with a J.D., focusing on patent law.

For Woessner, enrolling in law school marked a turning point.

The second oldest in his class, he developed the discipline he hadn’t cultivated earlier.

“I got better study habits and became the research and writing editor of the *Wisconsin Law Review*, which gave me experience in proofing and editing, both good disciplines for me to have,” he explained. “When I started law school, I knew it was time to get down to business.”

He became even more inspired to succeed after he received the highest grade in small group contracts.

“That was a bit inspirational,” he recalled. “I had never gotten anything like that before, so it made me want to work harder.”

The faculty at UW Law made it easy for students like Woessner to want to succeed, he said.

“Some of the professors certainly deserve shoutouts for being good with their students; getting to know them and helping them work on opportunities,” he said. “Many of my professors were great, and the few times I went back after graduation, I visited them.”

After graduation, Woessner went on to help build a biotechnology-focused intellectual property practice. He secured groundbreaking agricultural biotech patents and co-founded what became one of the largest non-litigation intellectual property firms in the country.

As his career flourished, Woessner never forgot the second chance and momentum he discovered at UW Law — a transformation that ultimately inspired him and Freeman to give back to his alma mater.

“My heart is with UW Law School,” he said. “I’m a double Badger, and both my parents graduated from UW, so it was an easy decision.”

Both Woessner and Freeman have dedicated

much of their lives to service. Their generosity, which extends to other opportunities at Freeman’s own alma maters, is driven by many factors, including the reward of seeing younger generations pick up the mantle.

“We’re very dedicated to our schools and to enabling students in a tough economy to have the opportunities we had,” said Freeman. “Both Warren and I are in fields that are on the newer ends of the spectrum of law and policy. Young people entering the field have the opportunity to shape their

professional fields of practice and build history. It is beyond clear that these problems won’t be solved in our lifetimes. So, there is both great reward and promise in whatever we can do to introduce students to these fields and to the feeling of purpose we have each had in our careers.”

UW Law is grateful to Woessner and Freeman for their investment in future generations of Badger lawyers.

“Their commitment to supporting the next generation of public service lawyers is inspirational, and we couldn’t be more appreciative for their support,” said Olivia Staruck, associate director of development.

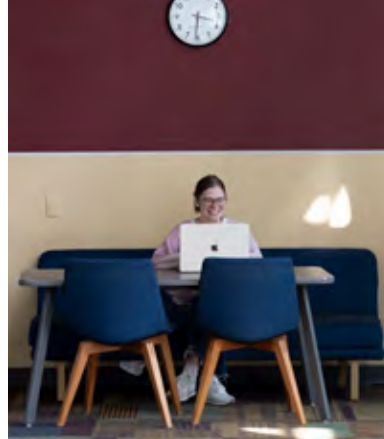
By Cassandra Tuten

Find out how you can support students through the Summer Public Service Fellowship Fund or by creating a named, endowed fellowship.



Transforming Tuition Into Access

A new giving pathway for UW Law scholarships.



As the state's only public law school, University of Wisconsin Law School has always placed a strong emphasis on access to legal education as a core value.

Ensuring we attract and retain the most competitive students, regardless of their personal and family financial resources, is embedded in our admissions philosophy. UW Law has stayed true to this priority by keeping our cost of attendance as low as possible and by providing need- and merit-based scholarships.

This wouldn't be possible without you. Our alumni understand what a transformative impact a legal education can have on a student's life because they have experienced it themselves. They have seen the ripple effects of how our graduates change the lives of those they assist in their communities.

History of UW Law Tuition and Scholarships

UW Law School keeps tuition affordable by keeping increases minimal whenever possible. However, such increases are not always within complete control of the school, so when larger ones have occurred, we have successfully advocated that a part of the revenue produced by a tuition increase be earmarked for need-based scholarships. This has allowed us to provide scholarship assistance to students impacted the most.

To keep legal education within reach, we've also increased the number and amount of our scholarships. In 2012, UW Law provided scholarship awards for over 50% of the incoming 1L class, with the average scholarship amount being just over \$12,000. For this year's 1L class (Class of 2028), 90% are receiving a scholarship, with the average award amount being \$38,297.

This increase in scholarship support would not have been possible without our alumni's help. Annual contributions during Fill the Hill, year-end and Day of the Badger campaigns all contribute greatly to our mission to produce attorneys who excel

and align with the excellence we're known for.

Debt Load — Another Barrier to Accessibility and Affordability

Managing tuition costs and increasing the number and amount of scholarships can deeply impact the debt load our students face after graduation. Our 2025 graduates' average debt from their legal studies was \$44,994. This is less than half the national average of \$108,000.

"We are very proud that we can keep this number below that of our peers and the national average," said Dean Dan Tokaji. "This allows our recent graduates to follow



their passions without the burden of financial constraints.”

UW Law staff in the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid have worked hard to mentor our students to be more mindful about their expenses. They have created a “thrifty” budget that provides students with a snapshot of how some personal choices could lower their cost of attendance. For over a decade, UW Law has also hosted a national expert on student educational debt to provide programming about student loan repayment and offer one-on-one financial counseling.

Threats to UW Law’s Affordability

Despite all these great strides, we are facing a new challenge that will threaten access and affordability of a UW Law education.

Grad PLUS loans have long been a quiet but powerful force in assisting our students in attending law school regardless of personal financial resources. For years, these federal loans allowed students to borrow up to the full cost of attendance — tuition, fees and living expenses — on top of standard federal unsubsidized loans. That flexibility meant students could choose schools and career paths based on fit and mission.

That landscape is about to change.

Beginning July 1, the Grad PLUS program will be phased out and replaced with lower, fixed federal borrowing caps for graduate and professional students. These new caps will fall short of the total cost of attendance for law school. The result is that future students will need to assemble more complex financial packages that may include

Students from low income, first generation and nontraditional backgrounds will find it harder to bridge the gap between federal borrowing limits and the real cost of a legal education.

increased reliance on scholarships, savings, family support or private loans that do not offer the same federal protections and are not available to many students.

The implications are significant. Students from low income, first generation and nontraditional backgrounds will find it harder to bridge the gap between federal borrowing limits and the real cost of a legal education. We know that many may not be able to bridge that gap and, as a result, will not be able to continue their education at UW Law.

SOS Initiative

Rather than sit back and let these shifts in federal loans negatively impact access to legal education, UW Law has launched the Support Our Students (SOS) Initiative. This allows naming rights for a scholarship fund established with a pledge of \$30,000. This generous contribution can be paid in three annual installments of \$10,000 and will support one law student during their entire educational experience.

This is new because naming rights were previously granted

only to gifts large enough to endow a scholarship, \$100,000. Donors can receive recognition and stewardship at a lower financial entry point and still determine whether the award is need- or merit-based.

Individuals do not have to do this on their own.

Firms, employers, multi-generational alumni/families and reunion classes are all examples of how people can band together to create an SOS scholarship.

“I’m excited about this new initiative and thrilled we have had alumni willing to partner with us,” said Dean Tokaji. “However, every gift matters regardless of the size. We are at a critical time where every gift will go to great use. Our Badger community is strong. I’m confident they will band together to help us keep UW Law School accessible and affordable.”

Learn how you can invest in the future of UW Law School.





'Pursuing Justice'

"At the DOJ I learned how to be a better lawyer; I'm thrilled to bring those skills and expertise to the State of California to protect consumers from fraud and abuse and help foster innovation in the financial sector."

– Claudia Quiroz '07

Claudia Quiroz '07 spent much of her career in the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) prosecuting cyber and white-collar crime, often in the darkest corners of the Internet. In November 2025, California Gov. Gavin Newsom appointed Quiroz as general counsel at the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation (DFPI).

Quiroz said the University of Wisconsin Law School's commitment to law in action influenced her path after graduation.

"I didn't know where my Law School education would take me, but I feel extremely fortunate that I have been able to dedicate such a large part of my career to public service," she said. "UW and my professors contributed to this path by emphasizing the importance of the law and pursuing justice. After graduation, I simply followed my passion and love for the law and have had an incredibly satisfying career."

After law school, Quiroz clerked for the Hon. Micaela Alvarez in the Southern District of Texas, later spending six years as an associate in the San Francisco office of K&L Gates, where she focused on commercial litigation, white-collar crime and government enforcement. She then joined the DOJ, serving as a federal prosecutor for 11 years. As an assistant U.S. attorney in the Northern District of California, Quiroz prosecuted organized crime and violent gangs, eventually focusing on complex financial investigations, corporate fraud, digital assets and blockchain technology, and cybercrime.

In 2020, she led an investigation resulting in the DOJ's largest cryptocurrency seizure at the time. Two years later, she was the lead attorney in the investigation

and takedown of the Russian Hydra Market, the world's largest and longest running darknet marketplace.

"We worked very closely with German law enforcement on that matter," Quiroz noted, emphasizing the importance of international collaboration. "I worked with incredible prosecutors, agents and law enforcement partners on a case that had a significant impact."

Quiroz later became the director of the DOJ's National Cryptocurrency Enforcement Team, overseeing some of the most sophisticated matters involving cybercrime and digital assets before serving as deputy chief of the DOJ's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section in Washington, D.C.

Now she's eager to apply her skills to her new role with the DFPI.

"At the DOJ I learned how to be a better lawyer; I'm thrilled to bring those skills and expertise to the State of California to protect consumers from fraud and abuse and help foster innovation in the financial sector," she said. "At DFPI, I am tackling complex issues involving sophisticated technologies in FinTech and financial services. This is a unique opportunity to work with a fantastic and growing team to help consumers in the world's fourth largest economy."

While a law degree can take one's career in many directions, Quiroz is grateful to have remained an active practitioner and focused on serving the public.

"Those of us with legal degrees have a responsibility to our communities and to society," she said. "Now more than ever, we need dedicated lawyers committed to upholding the rule of law and safeguarding the integrity of our legal systems."



The Fast Rise of Kyle Williams '25

On any given day in Milwaukee, Kyle Williams '25 might be structuring a public finance deal, reviewing a real estate agreement or mentoring the next generation of leaders. The University of Wisconsin Law School graduate is already leaving fingerprints across the city's legal and civic landscape.

Williams, recently named associate attorney at MWH Law Group, credits his momentum to a foundation built in Madison. UW Law, he said, sharpened both his mindset and mission.

"Law school reminded me that I am mentally strong," Williams said. "I had to decide if I had the fortitude to stay the course until the race was finished."

That mindset carried him through one of the nation's most rigorous legal environments. It also

prepared him for a fast transition into high-level legal work.

At MWH, Williams works across corporate law sectors including commercial real estate, public finance and business transactions. His work ranges from drafting purchase agreements to reviewing municipal bond documents that fund some of the city and state's public infrastructure.

He thrives on solving complex problems. But mentorship remains the backbone of his growth.

At UW Law, Williams said mentorship was not limited to one professor. Instead, he points to a collective network of faculty and administrators who pushed him academically and personally. Professors and deans helped him master course material, find

competitive opportunities and navigate law school demands.

"Their commitment to ensuring students left each class more knowledgeable was unmistakable," he said.

Outside the classroom, Williams' leadership roots were reinforced by earlier mentorship experiences, including the W.E.B. Du Bois Club and the MKE Fellows program. Those networks introduced him to local influential legal and civic leaders and taught him how relationships drive community progress.

Williams honors his venerable parents, Roy and Joyce Williams, and Dr. John Ridley III and Dr. William Finlayson — two pivotal trailblazers whose wisdom helped polish his potential and orient his trajectory as a young man.

Today, that mentorship comes full circle. As an MKE Fellows alumnus, Williams now mentors young Black men navigating college and career decisions. The work is deeply personal.

"The most fulfilling part is helping people who want to be helped," he said. "Seeing that investment come back in real time is powerful."

At MWH, distinguished attorneys Emery Harlan '89 and Warren Buliox continue shaping his career behind the scenes. He calls their guidance "invaluable," noting they challenge him to grow while trusting him with meaningful work.

For Williams, success is bigger than titles. It is about impact.

"I am a member of a profession that directly shapes our society," he said. "I take pride in using my role to advance the well-being of my community."

For Milwaukee, his influence is only beginning.

By Brian Walker

Meet the Lead Behind the NextGen Bar

Judy Gundersen '87 named among the most influential people in legal education.

Judy Gundersen '87 has spent her career shaping how lawyers enter the profession. Now, she is being recognized for it.

Gundersen, president and chief executive officer of the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE), was recently named one of the top 25 most influential people in legal education by National Jurist magazine. The honor places her among deans, scholars and national leaders helping steer the future of law schools and licensure at a time of sweeping change.

"It was a big surprise and, of course, an honor," Gundersen said. "Especially considering the caliber of the other honorees."

Under her leadership, the NCBE will roll out the NextGen Uniform Bar Examination in 10 U.S. jurisdictions in July. More states are expected to adopt the exam in the coming years. By July 2028, the current, or legacy, bar exam will be retired. The shift represents one of the most significant changes to lawyer licensing in decades.

Under Gundersen, the NCBE spent years studying how newly licensed lawyers actually practice. The result is a digitally delivered exam emphasizing lawyering skills within nine foundational doctrinal areas. The changes affect virtually all law students and law schools in the country, she said.

Gundersen is leading the NCBE through a demanding transition period, working closely with state bar admissions offices, overseeing new technology infrastructure and ensuring both exams operate smoothly during the overlap.

In January, NCBE completed a successful end-to-end test of NextGen systems and content, administering multiple exam forms to 1,500 people. Participants also sat for the July 2025 bar exam, allowing performance comparisons across

both exams.

She credits a broad network of contributors, including about 150 volunteer test writers and reviewers, many of them law faculty members.

"They have done the heavy lifting," she said.

Gundersen first considered law as a teenager in Wisconsin, drawn by the profession's flexibility. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee in 1984, double majoring in economics and Spanish, before attending University of Wisconsin Law School.

"The 'Wisconsin Idea' infused the teaching and the learning there," she said.

Before joining NCBE in 2000, Gundersen served as an assistant district attorney in Madison. She later became director of test operations and eventually CEO, developing a reputation for transparency and steady leadership.

That reputation was tested during the COVID-19 pandemic, when NCBE coordinated the first remote bar exam administrations while also supporting multiple in-person exams under intense time pressure.

"Making it through the pandemic and ensuring lawyers were able to test and become licensed was important," she said.

Now, as the NextGen bar exam launches, Gundersen sees the work as the culmination of decades of

experience.

"It has been fulfilling to see constituencies learn about the NextGen exam and get excited about it," she said.

In a profession re-examining access, skills and equity, Gundersen is helping write the next chapter — one exam at a time.

Read the full story online at gargoyle.law.wisc.edu.

By Brian Walker



//////
 "It was a big surprise and, of course, an honor. Especially considering the caliber of the other honorees."
 //

– Judy Gundersen '87



internships to lead to a postgraduate offer, but depending on the field and company, students can continue working before graduating.

Students working for smaller local firms sometimes work part-time throughout the school year, but many other types of jobs can also continue as externships, in which students work for course credit while receiving mentoring and supervision from an in-house Law School faculty member. OCPD manages two of the Law School's externship programs.

"For example, I have a student who spent the summer at the federal defender's office here in Madison, and they are now working with me for class credit to continue to do work for that organization," said Kite.

Jobs available for externships include public interest and government (fields in which traditionally about one-third of UW Law students pursue, higher than the national average), the judiciary, Native nations and more.

Impact

For students, the impact of OCPD's work is felt long before they accept a job offer. It shows up in the early conversations where they sort through interests, in the confidence that builds from practicing networking and in the sense of direction that begins to take shape as they talk through each option with an adviser who understands their career path.

OCPD's work continues to shift in response to what students need now, as timelines and markets change. Students experience this evolution through clearer guidance, stronger preparation and support that meets them where they are in the process, from their first semester to the start of their career. By the time they become graduates, they have already spent years developing the skills and self-knowledge that will guide their professional lives.

The success of the Class of 2024 shows how these ongoing improvements help students navigate the fast-moving legal landscape and enter the profession with confidence in their next steps. 🍷

Celebrating the Legacy of Paul Turley '73 continued from page 33

democracy, government institutions and public law across the nation. By 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.

"After learning more about SDRI, I realized the roles state courts and state constitutions can play and how much they have been underutilized over the years," said Barbara. "State laws and constitutions give us important tools in the fight against the various forces attacking our democracy and its most important pillar, the rule of law."

Barbara said Paul would be "honored and proud" to be affiliated with an organization of SDRI's caliber.

"We are so grateful to Barbara for her gift in memory of her husband, Paul," said Bree Grossi Wilde, SDRI executive director. "We endeavor for this gift to serve as a meaningful tribute to him."

The gift, said Wilde, supports SDRI's efforts to build bridges between academics and practitioners working on democracy issues and to offer a scholarly perspective to state courts through amicus briefs in democracy-related cases.

Barbara hopes her gift will encourage others to learn more about SDRI and its work.

"The more you know, the more you understand why protecting our rights through state laws and the state courts is so important," she said.

UW Law is profoundly grateful to Barbara for her generous support, said Elizabeth Feist, managing senior director of development at the Law School.

"Her gift honors the legacy of her late husband, Paul, whose wisdom and dedication as a Board of Visitors member continue to inspire us all," she continued.

Barbara said her gift is "entirely consistent with the values by which Paul lived his life."

"I think he would be proud to know that his advocacy will continue in some small way," she said.

By Cassandra Tuten

To find out how you can support the Law School, visit:
law.wisc.edu/alumni/gifts.html.



Learn more
about SDRI.

1970s

Bob Giolito '74 is a labor lawyer with a national practice representing local and international unions and their members in a wide variety of industries, particularly entertainment, hospitality, logistics and related services. He's been active since 1974 and has represented both individual and institutional clients in many federal and state courts and before government agencies. He has represented labor unions and is assisting in numerous organizing campaigns, including Starbucks.

Harold A. Laufer '74 is an experienced, highly rated corporate business attorney practicing in California. He focuses on mergers and acquisitions and significant contract negotiations for established closely held businesses. He has professional relationships with experts in every area of the law and can provide full service legal assistance.

Peter Weil '74 is the managing partner of Glaser Weil in California. Weil is widely recognized for driving large-scale and innovative real estate and corporate transactions and for his leadership in the firm and community. His extensive experience encompasses envelope-pushing matters ranging from the acquisition and disposition of businesses to real estate development, construction, leasing, financing and restructuring. His list of clients has included Fortune 500 companies, significant real estate investors and developers, major studios and successful entrepreneurs. He also served as lead outside counsel for MGM Mirage in connection with all legal aspects of the largest privately funded construction project in U.S. history, CityCenter, a \$9 billion, 20 million-square-foot mixed-use project in Las Vegas.

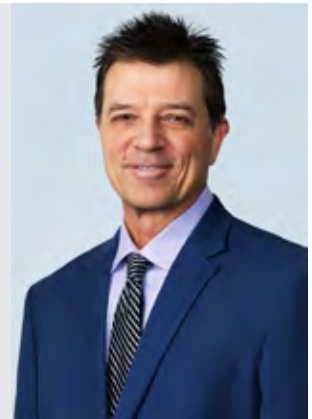
1980s



Cheryl Daniels '85 was honored with the 2025 Charles L. Goldberg Distinguished Service Award from the Wisconsin Law Foundation, the charitable arm of the State Bar of Wisconsin. The award recognizes a lifetime of professional achievement and dedication to the law.

Judge **Gregory H. Bigler '88** (and former Hastie Fellow) was inducted into the American Indian Circle of Honor March 7 by the Tulsa City-County Library's American Indian Resource Center. Bigler, Euchee, enrolled with the Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma, is a tribal judge and lawyer who exclusively represents Native American tribes. He currently serves as the chief district judge at the Sac and Fox Nation, chief district judge at the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, chief justice for the Supreme Court of the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, appellate judge at the Mashantucket Pequot Nation, Quapaw Nation Supreme Court justice and Supreme Court justice for the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma.

Tom Kuzmanovic '88, partner in charge of Hinshaw's Milwaukee office, was selected by BizTimes Milwaukee for its 2025 Notable Litigators & Trial Attorneys award. The award recognizes attorneys for their exceptional leadership, mentoring and history of successfully managing high-profile litigation matters. He has a long track record of successfully representing clients in high-stakes litigation nationwide and internationally. He represents clients across a wide array of industries, including insurance, transportation, construction, financial services and manufacturing.



1990s



Chief Judge **Guy Dutcher '90** of the Fourth Judicial Administrative District was selected to serve as chair of the Wisconsin Chief Judges Committee. He was selected for the statewide leadership post by his fellow

chief judges effective August 2025. Dutcher has served as a circuit court judge in Waushara County since 2005. He was elected chief judge of the Fourth District by the Wisconsin Supreme Court in 2022. In his new statewide leadership role, Dutcher will help guide the work of the Chief Judges Committee, which advises the director of state courts and collaborates on administrative issues affecting circuit courts across the state.

Susan Kaplan's '91 "A Healthy Union: How States Can Lead on Environmental Health" was published by Island Press in November 2025. The book describes how and why environmental health protections eroded at the federal level, explores groundbreaking state environmental health policies across the country and political spectrum. It identifies key elements shared by successful policies and best practices that policymakers and advocates in any state can make use of to protect their community from pollution and toxic chemicals.



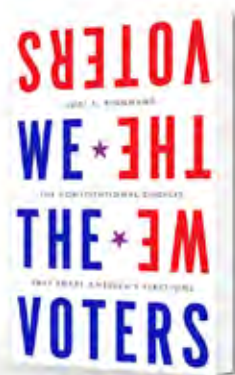
Jennifer Nutt Carleton '96 was appointed chief of licensing and investigations for the UAE's General Commercial Gaming Regulatory Authority.

Judi Williams-Killackey '97, a partner at Quarles & Brady, was named national chair of the firm's labor and employment practice group. In her new role, she oversees 80 attorneys and staff in Quarles' labor and employment group, providing mentorship and serving as a guide.

Lori Ringhand '97 is the author of "We the Voters," published this spring by Stanford University Press. The J. Alton Hosch professor of law and Josiah Meigs distinguished teaching professor at University of Georgia School of Law uses straightforward and accessible language to help the American public better understand how elections work and why. The book explains how the constitutional choices made in the past structure our system today, what the alternatives are and how we might change things if we wanted to.



Jennifer Mirus '93 was named to Wisconsin Law Journal's "Power List: Employment Law Attorney" in October 2025. Mirus is an attorney at Boardman Clark, where she's spent three decades specializing in employment relation matters like wage and hour issues, discrimination claims, FMLA and ADA, hiring and terminations, harassment claims and disciplinary actions. She is the co-chairperson of the firm's Labor and Employment Law Group and chairperson of the Executive Committee.





Jessica Palmer-Denig '99 was appointed chief administrative law judge at the Court of Administrative Hearings (formerly known as the Office of Administrative Hearings) by Gov. Tim Walz in December 2025. Palmer-Denig will begin serving upon the completion of Tim O'Malley's term as temporary chief judge, for a term expiring on June 30, 2031.

Diane Meulemans '00 was appointed to the Waupaca County Circuit Court – Branch 3 by Gov. Tony Evers in February. Meulemans will complete a term ending July 31, 2027.



Meghan Elliott '02 was named senior vice president and general counsel of Marvin, a manufacturer of premium windows and doors. In this role, Elliott will lead Marvin's legal and risk department and serve as a key advisor to senior leadership on a wide range of legal, governance, compliance and business matters. Elliott brings more than 20 years of legal experience to Marvin, most

recently having served as executive vice president and chief legal officer at Apogee Enterprises. She also previously held the role of general counsel for Viracon, Apogee's second-largest subsidiary, and began her career as a litigation partner at Minneapolis law firm Lindquist & Vennum (now Ballard Spahr).

2000s

Stacy Leeds '00, former Hastie Fellow, was named University of Tulsa's next president. Effective July 1, Leeds will become the first woman to permanently hold the position of president at the university. Currently the dean of the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University and a former vice chancellor at the University of Arkansas, Leeds brings more than 25 years of experience as a professor and administrator at national research institutions.



Latrice Knighton (formerly Latrice Pinson) '02 launched Valor Divorce Firm PLLC, a family law firm based in North Carolina. Knighton focuses her practice on divorce, custody and financial matters, and is licensed to practice law in North Carolina and Wisconsin.

Benjamin S. Wagner '03 of Habush Habush & Rottier S.C. was named the 2025 Robert L. Habush Trial Lawyer of the Year by the Wisconsin Association for Justice for his precedent-setting work in the landmark Helen Ende elder care case.

Nathan J. Rice '04 was promoted to executive director in the Legal and Compliance Division of Morgan Stanley in New York.



John W. Miller '06 was appointed by Gov. Tony Evers to serve as the secretary and chief executive officer of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) in December 2025. Miller began his career in public service in Washington, D.C., as a congressional staffer and later, deputy chief of staff, serving Wisconsin's 4th Congressional

District. Following his graduation from law school, Miller joined Miller-St. Nazianz Inc., his family's agricultural equipment manufacturing business. He was later named president and CEO of the company, becoming the fifth generation of his family to lead the business. In 2015, Miller founded Arenberg Holdings LLC., a venture capital fund in Milwaukee, which works to mentor and invest in early-stage companies in the Midwest.

"It is a privilege to accept this position as WEDC secretary and CEO, and I am honored to have been tapped by the governor for this opportunity to serve the people of Wisconsin," Miller said in a press release. "WEDC celebrated a record year of investments in 2025, and I have every intention of using my experience in the business community to continue that success into 2026 and beyond."

2010s



Erica López '11 was named among Wisconsin's 31 most influential Latino leaders for 2025 by Madison 365. López is assistant corporation counsel for Dane County. She spent the previous three years running Centro de Derecho de la Gente (People's Law Center), a nonprofit legal aid organization she founded in 2021.

Angela L. Wellsmith '07 was promoted to vice president, deputy general counsel and assistant secretary of The Manitowoc Company Inc. Wellsmith joined Manitowoc in 2022, leading America's transactional matters, including mergers and acquisitions, real estate, sales and distribution networks and information technology/cybersecurity. Her new role will expand to global responsibilities and additional public company matters. Wellsmith returns regularly to UW Law School to interview 1Ls for Manitowoc's summer legal intern program.



David Hughes '12 was appointed to the Kenosha County Circuit Court — Branch 4 by Gov. Tony Evers in December 2025. The appointment filled the vacancy created by Judge Anthony Milisauskas' resignation. Hughes will complete a term ending July 31, 2027.

Yadira J. Rein '08 was named among Wisconsin's 31 most influential Latino leaders for 2025 by Madison 365. Rein is a judge on the Outagamie County Circuit Court. Her legal background includes extensive work in family law, dealing with divorce, custody and placement, child support, paternity, guardianships and guardian ad litem appointments. She also has experience in personal injury law. Before her appointment, she practiced as an attorney with McCarty Law LLP in Appleton.





Jon Fischer '13, partner at McCarty Law LLP, was named president-elect of the State Bar of Wisconsin's Elder and Special Needs Law Section in January. He will begin his term in

July. This appointment highlights Fischer's leadership in protecting the elderly and special needs population and promoting excellence among elder law attorneys.

"I'm incredibly honored to receive this appointment," said Fischer in a press release. "My goal as president is to demonstrate to my fellow attorneys that elder law is both a fulfilling and deeply impactful career path. With the demographics of the Bar itself aging, it's crucial that we inspire and encourage younger attorneys to join the Elder Law and Special Needs Section and dedicate their practice to this vital area of the law."

Fischer specializes in estate planning, probate, Medicaid and elder law, as well as special needs planning.

In March, Fischer was also named to the Insight on Business 40 Under 40 list. This award honors young professionals across Northeast Wisconsin who have made a significant impact on their communities and industry.

Michael Weigel '13 was appointed co-leader of Mayer Brown LLP's Chicago Corporate & Securities group.

Owen Piotrowski '14 was appointed to the Milwaukee County Circuit Court – Branch 38 by Gov. Tony Evers in December 2025. Piotrowski will complete the term ending July 31, 2027. Piotrowski had previously served as an assistant district attorney in the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office.

Cory Fish '16 was named policy director for the Office of Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas in December 2025. Fish previously served as a budget and policy advisor to Governor Abbott and was later promoted to deputy policy director. Prior to joining the Office of the Governor, he was a fellow at the Cicero Institute in Austin and has also held various roles at a trade association and nonprofit law firm.

Tomás Clasen '18 and **Joia Wodarczyk '18** were elected shareholders of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c. Clasen is a shareholder in Reinhart's Real Estate Practice, assisting with transactions that alter the landscape in positive ways. He counsels clients on complex commercial real estate matters, including purchasing and sales, leasing, entitlements, construction law, tax incremental financing and conventional financing. He has extensive experience working with municipalities on land use entitlements and zoning issues. He also handles licensing work in the food and beverage arena, helping businesses secure beer and liquor licenses through state and local agencies. Wodarczyk is also a shareholder in Reinhart's Real Estate Practice, assisting clients in all aspects of commercial real estate development. She is experienced in acquisitions and dispositions, land use, zoning and entitlements issues, public and private financing, leasing and in collaborating with opposing counsel and municipalities to move deals forward efficiently. She also serves on the board of directors for Downtown Madison Inc., an organization focused on making downtown Madison a great place to work, live and play.



Olga (Tymouch) Rogne '18 was elevated to shareholder at Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis, Minn.



What's new?

Share your updates at

gargoyle.law.wisc.edu/class-notes.

2020s

Sunyoung "Sunny" Cho '21 was elevated to partner at Nyhan, Bambrick, Kinzie & Lowry, P.C. She joined the firm in 2023 as an associate, concentrating her practice in workers' compensation and leveraging previous employment law and civil litigation experience to her clients' advantage.



Julie (Seungyeon) Kim '25 joined Winthrop & Weinstine in Minneapolis, Minn., as an associate in their Tax Practice.

IN MEMORIAM

1940s

John H. Hoff '49

1950s

Roger L. Boerner '52
Rolland R. Roggensack '53
Donald S. Eisenberg '56
Andrew J. Nosacek '57
William T. Rieser '57
Thomas C. Pearson '59

1960s

John P. Arakelian '62
Walter G. Wefel '63
David R. Williamson '64
George J. Devine '66
Joseph J. Jochman '66
Ellen M. Kozak '69
Richard J. Podell '69

1970s

Daniel D. Crean '70
Raymond E. Schrank '70
Maris Rushevics '71
Stuart A. Schwartz '71
George E. Meyer '72
John C. Albert '73
Sheldon B. Bankier '73
John M. Bjelajac '73
Alvin E. Whitaker '73
Robert H. Zilske '73
James W. Harris '74
Leonard F. Schnabl '74
Leon Simson '75
Donna G. Taube '75
Margaret J. Vergeront '75
Harry H. Glasspiegel '76
Jeffrey A. Hertz '78

1980s

William R. Tehan '81

Raymond S. Huber '82
Jonathan F. Wagner '82
Thomas P. Walz '82
Rustam A. Barbee '84
Mark D. Schuman '85
Eric W. Anderson '86
Charles G. Carpenter '88
Amy J. Gentz '88
Yolanda I. Lehner '89

1990s

Lisa M. Pardon '99

2000s

Timothy F. Lloyd '05

2010s

Lucas C. Gaeckle '13



**Camille
Townsend
Granville '06** is

chief ethics officer and associate general counsel at Airbnb. A lawyer for more than 20 years, she previously served as assistant county counsel for Los Angeles County, overseeing a 17-attorney labor and employment division. She is a nationally recognized

leader and community advocate, honored as a Vanguard Award recipient and National Bar Association 40 Under 40 awardee, among others. She also received the Bruce F. Beilfuss Memorial Award for service to the University of Wisconsin Law School community. She has held numerous bar and nonprofit leadership roles and currently serves on boards focused on advancing inclusion in the legal profession. Read the full interview online at gargoyle.law.wisc.edu.

Interview by Kassandra Tuten

Question: What experiences at UW Law have continued to influence how you approach your work today?

Answer: The school's broad and flexible curriculum gave me a strong foundation, teaching me to think critically across different areas of law — a skill that is invaluable when navigating the novel challenges of a complex, global environment like Airbnb. But honestly, what has stayed with me most are the deep connections and powerful support system I found there. Whether it was the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) or my professors, I always felt there were people genuinely rooting for me. Professors like Bill

Whitford and Jim Jones made a lasting impression, not just with their legal expertise, but with their heartfelt encouragement. I still vividly recall Professor Whitford, hands in his front jean pockets, offering me life advice in the hallway about confidence and living on my own terms, and always making me laugh. And Professor Jones with his powerful words: "Go after it and don't you stop until you get it!" Those quiet moments of support and belief have stuck with me across the decades. In my work today, I consciously try to carry that same spirit of support, whether I'm leading a team, mentoring or collaborating with stakeholders. Those soft skills and quiet acts of

kindness are the true guides for how I lead and live, no matter how complex the work gets.

Q: During your time at UW Law, were there courses, clinics, professors or experiences that shaped your interests — or that you now see as foreshadowing your later career focus?

A: I credit Professor David Schwartz, who taught labor and employment while I was at UW Law, with igniting my passion for employment law. His teaching style was so engaging and relatable; he truly brought the material to life in a way that made me want to dive deeper. The cases and assignments he chose weren't merely academic exercises — they laid the crucial groundwork for the real-world issues I would dedicate my career to. What really stood out was his teaching style, which was always rooted in kindness, coupled with practical advice. I remember Professor Schwartz reminding us that, in the real world, so much of our work comes down to the basics of writing briefs and points and authorities, just like his assignments. He encouraged us to stay calm and steady, which has been a valuable anchor for me ever since.

Q: If you could give your younger self — or a current student — one piece of career advice, what would it be?

A: Have profound confidence in yourself, but anchor it with humility. The legal profession can be challenging and sometimes intimidating, but you truly never know when your breakthrough is just on the other side of that wall. Never give up. You must live bravely and keep pushing forward, especially when things get tough.

Support Our Students Initiative

Scholarships do more than ease financial strain — they empower students to focus on their studies, seize meaningful opportunities and achieve their academic dreams. Your gift directly supports future legal professionals while strengthening our commitment to excellence and opportunity.

The Support Our Students Initiative is a limited-time opportunity to create a term-named scholarship. Commitments start with a pledge of \$30,000, which can be paid in increments of \$10,000 per year. Funds will support students who have demonstrated financial need or exemplary merit. To enable student support as early as Fall 2026, the first installment would be needed by July 1.



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