A Window On...

THE STATE OF LEGAL EDUCATION
04 A MESSAGE FROM DEAN CAMINKER
04 The New Heart of the Law School, and the World Beyond

06 BRIEFS
06 Edwards, Fiske, Pogue:
First Distinguished Alumni Awardees
07 Visit Strengthens Ties With China
09 Directors’ College for Global
Business and Law Launched

10 FEATURES

36 FACULTY NEWS
36 Remembering Eric Stein
38 Beny Works for the Good
of South Sudan
44 New Faculty
45 In the News

46 FACULTY VIEWS
46 Book Excerpts from
Miller, Leary, West

50 GIVING

58 CLASS NOTES
58 From Selling Carpets
to Starting Groupon
61 Storytelling
with a Beat
65 In Good Hands
66 Daughter of the
Killing Fields

72 CLOSING
72 From Classroom
to Café
SPECIAL FEATURES

10
A WINDOW ON THE STATE OF LEGAL EDUCATION

20
A WINDOW ON THE NEW BUILDINGS

26
A WINDOW ON THE ZELL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM
Philip Dattilo has been a professional photographer for more than 30 years. His photographs are in the permanent collections of the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington, Michigan; the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit; and the Titanic Historical Society Inc., in Fall River, Massachusetts. He has been documenting the construction of the Robert B. Aikens Commons, the Kirkland & Ellis Café, and South Hall. See www.philipdattilo.com for more information.

Margaret A. Leary became director of the Law Library in 1984 and retired in 2011. From 1973 to 1981, she served as assistant director and from 1982 to 1984, as associate director. Leary worked to build the comprehensive library collection to support current and future research in law and a wide range of disciplines. She also developed strong services to support faculty research. Her new book is a biography of William W. Cook.

William I. Miller, the Thomas G. Long Professor of Law, has been a member of the Law School faculty since 1984. His research and resulting courses and books have focused on saga Iceland, blood feuds, emotions—mostly unpleasant ones involving self-assessment—and select vices and virtues. He has been a visiting professor at Yale, the University of Chicago, the University of Bergen, the University of Tel Aviv, and Harvard, and in 2008 was the Carnegie Centenary Trust Professor at the University of St. Andrews.

Mark D. West, associate dean for academic affairs and Nippon Life Professor of Law, is the director of the Japanese Legal Studies Program at the Law School. He is the author of Lovesick Japan: Sex*Marriage*Romance*Law (Cornell University Press, 2011) and several other books on Japanese law. He has studied and taught at the University of Tokyo and Kyoto University, and has been a Fulbright Research Scholar, an Abe Fellow, and a fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

Submit to Overseas Alumni Notes

Michigan Law alumni overseas are encouraged to submit notes about their professional and private perspectives, announcements of upcoming events, news of recent gatherings of alumni, and photos for the January 2012 issue of Overseas Alumni Notes. The publication is intended to refresh memories of Michigan Law and to reconnect with other alumni living outside of the United States. Please contact Dora-Maria Sonderhoff, assistant director of admissions, at dmsonder@umich.edu with a submission by the end of November.

Story Ideas for the Law Quadrangle?

Do you have story ideas for the Law Quadrangle or for our online sister publication, Amicus? An alum we should profile? A legal trend in which our alumni are prominent? An idea for our old- and new-photos feature in the back of the magazine? Email LQNGeneral@umich.edu.

Correction

Many journalists entered the profession because it meant they wouldn’t have to do much math. With that in mind, a math error occurred in the article “Whither the Law Librarian?” in the spring issue of the Law Quadrangle. Several of our sharp-eyed readers pointed out that 235 million searches a day on Google does not, in fact, break down to more than 35 searches a day for every person on Earth. The actual number would be closer to 0.035 searches a day, per person.
5 Quotes From…

This Issue of the *Law Quadrangle*

1. "We are living increasingly in a flat world, certainly an interconnected set of societies. Almost all business has some sort of international component to it. We used to kid about who’s an international lawyer—who are these people? These days, *every* lawyer is an international lawyer.” (Page 16)

2. “As a series of buildings, I think South Hall is an undeniable extension, though it tends to be simpler and a little more modern than the existing buildings. It isn’t directly derivative of another building, but it speaks in the language of the buildings around it.” (Page 21)

3. “ONE, TWO, THREE, DOMINATE! BUT BE NICE ABOUT IT.” (Page 29)

4. “Eric taught the first course and wrote the first book on what we would now call European Union law. He also was the first to make people see the constitutional dimension of European integration. And he did all this with a wonderful gift for writing and a compelling spirit of decency.” (Page 36)

5. “I studied at the feet of amazing charlatans. It was a storytelling seminar of the highest order.” (Page 61)
The New Heart of the Law School, and the World Beyond

When we first announced the generous gift from Robert B. and Ann Aikens to fund a new common area at the Law School, I said that the space "is sure to become a new nucleus for the intellectual and social life of the Law School and will help nurture the bonds students form here, both among themselves and with the faculty."

I'm so pleased to report that my prediction came true even faster than I imagined. As we opened the doors to the Robert B. Aikens Commons on September 7, students flooded in. They took in the steel and glass roof, the intricate wood-working, and the Motawi tile in the Kirkland & Ellis Café. After the grand-opening event, they stayed. Now, at nearly any time on nearly any weekday, many of the study nooks, tables, meeting areas, and computer stations are filled with students and faculty.

That is precisely what Bob Aikens, ’54, envisioned: "When I was in law school, there were few places for the off-campus students to have lunch or work other than the Law Library. When I was appointed to the Building Committee, we found that most leading law schools had a gathering place. I am pleased to help our school join other leading law schools with such a wonderful facility," he said.

The Commons builds on Michigan Law's tradition of collegiality, both among students and faculty—just one of many qualities that make it one of the best law schools in the country. Read more about the glorious space, as well as the soon-to-open South Hall, throughout this issue of the Law Quadangle.

The magazine also explores the current state of legal education which, as you know, has been the subject of increased scrutiny by the media, prospective students, and recent graduates of some law schools.

As you will see in the collection of articles that begins on p. 10, Michigan Law continues to provide world-class education to our students with a combination of doctrinal and practical courses, an emphasis on excellent faculty, and opportunities that can take graduates a few miles down the road or to the other side of the world.

Cynics are fond of asking the newly fashionable question, “Is the high price of law school worth it?” Naturally, the answer depends on the quality of the education at the school, as well as students’ goals: That is, do they simply want to become wealthy, or do they want to learn how to think like a lawyer in order to play an important role in society, to create a legacy in the realm of jurisprudence, to fight passionately for the interests of their clients?

My answer is that a Michigan Law education is absolutely worth it, and that our students and alumni earnestly believe they can make the world a better place with the knowledge, reasoning skills, and experience they gain here. Examples of our students’ passion for the law are evident in the story about Future Advocates in Training (p. 26), an organization founded by Brittlynn Hall, ’10, when she was a student. Several of our alumni are featured in the Class Notes section for their business acumen, volunteer work, and changes they are making on a global level.

The facilities in which we teach these students and inspire their greatness have been extraordinary since we opened Hutchins Hall in 1934. Yet something was always missing: a central space where people could gather. Now, thinking of the Commons as a nucleus of law school life, one may wonder about the perimeter of the circle, a student’s life beyond law school.

This is how I see it: If you stand in the Aikens Commons and look skyward at the cathedral towers of the Law Quad through the extraordinary domed glass roof, it appears that no barrier exists between the University of Michigan Law School and the world that surrounds it. That’s exactly what we want our students to see.

Sincerely,

Evan Caminker
Dean and Branch Rickey Collegiate Professor of Law
From a pool of more than 20,000 alumni, Michigan Law has chosen three inaugural recipients of the new Distinguished Alumni Award: the Honorable Harry T. Edwards, ’65; Robert B. Fiske Jr., ’55, HLLD ‘97; and Richard W. Pogue, ’53.

“We are thrilled to name these exemplary alumni as the first honorees of this prestigious new award,” says Dean Evan Caminker. “Their professional achievements are of the highest order, and their dedication to the Law School is unsurpassed.”

The dean presented the awards at a ceremony on September 16 in the new Robert B. Aikens Commons.

Edwards, of Washington, D.C., was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in 1980 and served as chief judge from 1994–2001. He began his legal career with Seyfarth, Shaw, Fairweather & Geraldson in Chicago. He was a tenured member of the Michigan Law and Harvard Law faculties, and also taught at the Harvard Institute for Educational Management. Edwards has served as a member and chairman of the Board of Directors of Amtrak. In 2006, he was appointed co-chair of the Forensics Science Committee at the National Academy of Sciences, which issued a seminal report in 2009 calling for major reform. He is the coauthor of five books and author of scores of law review articles.

Fiske, of Darien, Connecticut, began his legal career at Davis Polk & Wardwell in 1955 and currently is a senior counsel in the firm’s litigation department. His extensive experience as a government prosecutor includes service as assistant U.S. attorney and U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York and as independent counsel in the Whitewater investigation. He serves on the Judicial Compensation Commission established by the New York Legislature to determine the compensation of New York State judges. At Michigan Law, Fiske is the benefactor of the Fiske Fellowship Program for Government Service, now 10 years old (see story, p. 54). He serves on President Mary Sue Coleman’s Advisory Group, the Dean’s Advisory Council, and the Development and Alumni Relations Committee.

Pogue, of Shaker Heights, Ohio, became managing partner of Jones Day in 1985, guiding the firm in significant growth and entrance into international markets. He specialized in antitrust and corporate takeover defense and currently is a senior advisor at Jones Day. Pogue, a past chair of the Antitrust Law Section of the American Bar Association, also has been active in many civic leadership roles in Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. At Michigan Law, he created and taught a course in “The Business of Law” and endowed a fund to sponsor programming in this area. The inaugural chair (since 2006) of the Dean’s Advisory Council, Pogue is a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Service Award from the U-M Alumni Association, its highest award.—BF

To submit a nomination for the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award, please visit www.law.umich.edu/alumniandfriends/Pages/DistinguishedAlumniAward.aspx.

Improved Loan Repayment Program Launched

Michigan Law has rolled out an improved Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP), carefully tailored to mesh with newly revised federal guidelines, for public-service graduates and others whose legal careers provide lower salaries.

The plan is designed to help ensure that Michigan Law graduates aren’t deterred by student debt from using their top-tier legal educations to pursue their dreams.

Among the plan’s key provisions: loan repayment assistance for graduates working full time in a law-related job earning up to $88,000, with no out-of-pocket contributions toward federal loans for those earning less than $50,000; availability to students working in both the public and private sectors; and federal loan forgiveness for graduates working in the public sector after 10 years (graduates must be enrolled in the government’s income-based repayment plan in order to be considered for Michigan’s program).

Michigan’s new program was designed to enhance the federal loan program, the Income Based Repayment (IBR) Plan. Under both programs, income—not career type—is the key factor. Michigan makes the entire required IBR payment if the graduate’s salary is $50,000 or less—and continues to make payments on a decreasing basis until the graduate’s salary reaches $88,000.

Under the federal program, if the salary is low enough, the required payments don’t cover the interest on the original loan, so the principal increases. Michigan’s program is designed to avoid that problem by creating a reserve account for those who qualify. The Law School deposits money to cover unpaid interest accruing on the debt into these reserve accounts, and graduates who leave the LRAP program after two or more years can ask that the funds be applied toward the unpaid interest.

For more information, visit www.law.umich.edu/LRAP or contact the Financial Aid Office at lawfinaid@umich.edu or 734.764.5289.—JM
Visit Strengthens Michigan Law’s Ties With China

Dean Evan Caminker says a recent U.S.-China law deans’ summit in Beijing and a lecture at one of China’s strongest law schools helped to reinforce ties between Michigan Law and the world’s most populous country.

“This is a vital time for Michigan Law—and all U.S. law schools—to focus on global issues. China is particularly important right now because of its influence on the world stage, and because of its rapidly changing legal landscape,” Caminker says. “Michigan Law has had strong ties with China for more than a century, and I am pleased that we are continuing to build on that relationship.”

Participants in the Sino-U.S. Deans’ Summit, in addition to Dean Caminker, included the deans of Berkeley, Chicago, Georgetown, Penn, Stanford, Virginia, and Yale, and the major Chinese law schools, including Peking University, China People’s University, China University of Politics and Law, and Tsinghua Law School, all in Beijing, and national powerhouses like East China University of Politics and Law in Shanghai, Southwest University of Politics and Law in Chongqing, and Xiamen University in the Fujian Province. At the end of the Summit, the Chinese and U.S. law deans issued a joint statement in which they outlined shared principles. Those included recognition of and support for the rule of law, and the objective of establishing ongoing two-way collaboration between top U.S. and Chinese law schools. Dean Caminker was joined at the summit by Professor of Law Nicholas C. Howson, a specialist in Chinese law, and Virginia Gordan, assistant dean for international affairs at Michigan Law, who has been involved with China-U.S. legal exchange for more than two decades.

At the conclusion of the summit, Caminker visited China People’s University and its law school to give a lecture to a large group of Chinese scholars and students. Entitled “Behind the Burgundy Curtain: How the Supreme Court Really Works,” the lecture detailed the dean’s behind-the-scenes insights on how the U.S. Supreme Court operates.

During the visit, Caminker, Howson, and Gordan met with the dean and leadership of the China People’s University Law School—ranked as the number-one law school in the PRC—to continue discussions on increased cooperation and exchange between the two schools. After returning to Ann Arbor, Howson commented, “The Deans’ Summit was very useful—an unprecedented opportunity to get many of the most prominent U.S. and Chinese law deans in one room, talking about shared problems in the most concrete and honest way possible. The follow-up visit to Renda Law School, formerly led by Dean Wang Liming (a research scholar at Michigan Law in 1989–90), made even stronger the ties between Michigan Law School and China’s most impressive law teaching institution.”
Designed for Success: New Office of Career Planning

A beefed-up and retooled Office of Career Planning debuted this summer with the aim of helping Michigan Law grads become even more marketable to employers than they already are—which, based on the office’s existing strengths, is no easy task.

The most dramatic change in the new office—which will be known formally as the Office of Career Planning for the Public, Private, and Nonprofit Sectors—is the merging of the Office of Public Service and Office of Career Services. The new entity is led by Assistant Dean Susan Guindi, ’90, who began her career at the Law School in 1995 as the first associate director in the Office of Public Service, before being selected to lead the Office of Career Services in 1998. Her own path, which includes two clerkships and private practice at a large D.C. firm, equips her well for carrying out one of the missions of the new office: allowing students to explore opportunities in a variety of practice areas more seamlessly.

But the key motive for reorganizing the office, Guindi said, was the actual course of most students’ and graduates’ professional lives.

“In studying the careers of our students and alumni, we’ve learned that most enjoy a combination of opportunities across public, private, and nonprofit sectors,” Guindi says. “It makes sense to structure the office to mirror that fact.”

The reorganization brings with it additional counseling staff, more programming for career planning and networking, postgraduate and summer funding opportunities to allow students to explore different practice options, and more outreach to employers outside the school’s traditional network. It will help Michigan Law continue developing the strong, well-rounded academic and clinical programs for which it is recognized globally.

Alyson Robbins joined the office as the new public interest director. Previously, she was a staff attorney at the Family Law Project. In addition, the office has hired Gary McGinnis from Sidley Austin as an attorney counselor. Finally, two part-time employees also joined the staff: Erin Dougherty, ’08, will help students with the Skadden Fellowship application process, and Sarah DeYoung, ’01, will help students who are interested in exploring criminal prosecution or criminal defense positions.

“We are committed to beginning the career counseling relationship with our students, literally, before they’re even students,” says Sarah Zearfoss, ’92, senior assistant dean for admissions, financial aid, and career planning. “And we continue long after they graduate and leave Ann Arbor. These organizational improvements will allow us not merely to continue helping them find top-tier opportunities, but to improve our efforts—whether the opportunities they seek are in the public, private, or nonprofit sectors, or some combination of all.”—JM
MLaw Launching Bold New Directors’ College

First stop for invitation-only education opportunity for corporate directors and officers: India and China

Michigan Law’s inaugural Directors’ College for Global Business and Law, featuring experts from academia, think tanks, and international business and practice, is being designed with business in India and China in mind.

The inaugural College is an exclusive, invitation-only gathering for corporate directors and senior business leaders and will be held April 18–20, 2012, at the Ritz-Carlton in Washington, D.C. The gathering will feature sophisticated analysis and advice regarding issues that face directors and officers of leading international companies engaging with business and finance around the globe, especially in Asia.

Foremost on the list of topics at the event, said Directors’ College organizer Professor Vikramaditya Khanna, is directors’ and officers’ exposure to liability in China and India, and corporate liability for U.S. multinationals investing in those Asian powerhouse economies. Other key topics will include: corporate law and governance in Asia, domestic and cross-border capital markets, specific issues arising on investment (e.g., environmental, labor, land acquisition), specific issues on selling products and services in India and China, the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act; and political, economic, and legal and regulatory risk evaluation and amelioration.

“There is a tremendous amount of growth in markets outside the United States, especially in China and India,” said Khanna, who is an expert on corporate and securities laws, the law in India, corporate crime, corporate governance in emerging markets, and law and economics. “With Michigan Law School’s unique and long-standing strength in international corporate law and cross-border securities regulation, we are in a strong position to help senior corporate officials maximize their companies’ potential globally, and address challenges which can determine the success or failure of their global business.”

The discussion won’t be limited to business in India and China. Corporate governance, insider trading, corporate executive liability, Dodd-Frank, and recent enforcement activities within the United States also will be covered.

“A shrinking world calls for business leaders and lawyers who are accustomed to working across national borders,” said Dean Evan Caminker. “Our rich international law tradition stretches back to our founding, and our history of producing some of the top minds in business goes back just as far. The Directors’ College is a natural outgrowth of our history, and we’re eager to greet the business leaders of today and tomorrow this April.”

A few of the leading Michigan Law academics participating in the College along with Khanna include Professor Nicholas C. Howson, who is an expert in Chinese law and legal institutions, corporate law, and securities regulation; Professor Michael Barr, who recently returned from a stint as assistant Treasury secretary for financial institutions, who is an expert on international finance, transnational law, and financial institutions; Professor and Associate Dean Mark West, an expert on Japan; Professor Dan Crane, an expert on both domestic and international antitrust; Professor David Uhlmann, the Justice Department’s former top environmental crimes prosecutor; and Professor Alicia Davis, a mergers and acquisitions expert.

Experts from private practice and the corporate world will include global business leaders, renowned judges and jurists, former and current enforcement officials, and many more. The list of invited and confirmed speakers who will present at the inaugural Directors’ College is available at the Directors’ College for Global Business and Law website: www.law.umich.edu/directorscollege.—JM
A Window On ...
THE STATE OF LEGAL EDUCATION

By Katie Vloet
Photography by Leisa Thompson
In Michigan Law’s first year, 1859–60, students could choose from a total of 13 courses, including Criminal Law, Easements, Domestic Relations, and Contracts. The Law Department, as it was called then, did not have its own building. Three part-time faculty members taught 90 students who pursued the two-year degree. A college degree was not required for admission.

A century and a half later, the state of legal education at Michigan Law and at institutions around the country has changed in nearly every way: a far greater variety of classes, many more faculty, the requirement of a degree for admission, three years to earn a JD rather than two.

Beyond that, what can be said about the state of legal education, both at Michigan Law and at law schools around the country, from the top tier on down? What is a degree worth? Are students well prepared to practice law when they leave the safe confines of the classroom? What are schools doing well, and what could they do better? Here, we explore these questions, with insights from experts on legal education.
That’s the question asked on nearly every law-related online forum and blog, in *The New York Times*, and even in the corridors of law schools in recent months. With the downturn in the economy and less certainty about high-paying jobs, is it worth it for students to accumulate huge law school debt?

The answer for many observers depends on whether the law school in question is a top-tier law school or not. Of the 200 ABA-approved law schools in the United States, not all are equal in quality and value.

“Different schools have different missions,” Dean Evan Caminker points out. “Some, like ours, have fairly broad and general educational goals, such as analytical thinking and leadership, in addition to vocational goals. Other schools, with primarily a local or regional clientele and focus, are more like purely vocational schools in that nearly everyone there is simply trying to get a better job.

“For the latter schools, the negative impact on earning potential of the economic downturn might give students considering attending those schools some pause. I could imagine an appreciable number of law applicants determining, upon careful reflection, that the kinds of law jobs they are likely to secure upon graduation are neither so intrinsically interesting or fulfilling, nor so remunerative, that going into significant debt for law school really makes sense."

The answer to the question of “is it worth it,” suggests Kent D. Syverud, ’81, depends on one’s motivation for attending law school. “What’s going to happen now, because law school is so expensive, is people are going to have to think a lot harder about law school and what they want to get out of it. There’s a lot of speculation about whether there is a bubble in which people are not willing to pay the current tuition in order to get a legal education,” says Syverud, a former Michigan Law professor and associate dean, and current dean of the Washington University in St. Louis School of Law.

“A law degree is a great thing to get if you have a passion for law, and some graduates will do very well with it and earn high salaries. Others will be quite happy. Not everyone will become wealthy.

“The past 25 years have been a particularly successful time for law schools and lawyers from top law schools, but that period was not constitutionally guaranteed to last forever,” says Syverud.

Richard Matasar, dean of New York Law School and president of the board of the American Law Deans Association, seconds the notion that students should be asked about their motivation for attending law school. “You want to solve problems, help people—that’s great. If your primary motivation is wealth, I’ll tell you this isn’t the right field.”

Matasar—whose school was used as a focal point for *The New York Times* in an article about the economics of law school, and whose school was in the news even more recently as one of several involved in a class-action lawsuit by its alumni—has pushed for reforms in the ways that law schools educate students, while also explaining the value of a law school education beyond a new graduate’s starting salary. He points out that he tells every student “that going to law school is among the most important financial decisions they will ever make, that the job market for students outside the top 10 percent of their graduating class is tough, and that 90 percent of them are guaranteed not to be in the top 10 percent of their class.”

For those who make the decision to attend, law schools need to prove the value of the education and the degree. That could—and should—mean adding to the scope of a law student’s education, Matasar points out. Teaching theory is still vital, but so is real-world, practice-based instruction.

“We’re all worried about the same thing: the value of the education against its cost. Whether we’re delivering the best quality we can in order for them to be professionals when they graduate. Adding value to society,” he says.

Law schools are very good at producing scholarly research and contributing to the justice system, he notes, and graduates of schools such as Michigan Law undeniably have added great value to society, Matasar adds.

*Opening pages: Professor Mark Osbeck, ’86, teaches a class of summer starters.*
Preparing Students for the Real World

The website Answers.com poses a question: What qualifications do you need to become a lawyer? One of the answers states: You need a law degree in most states and then you need a license to practice law. The only training in most places is what you get on the job.

True, that has been the case for many law graduates in the past. But some law schools are working to add to students’ options so they are better prepared to practice when they graduate.

Clinics are still one of the best ways for students to obtain experience—one reason Michigan Law has expanded its clinic offerings in recent years (see story, p. 18). Student enrollment in clinics here has doubled in the past five years, with student-practitioners representing children, families, small business owners and not-for-profit agencies, the wrongly convicted, those held against their will by human traffickers, and organizations making cross-border deals in international transactions.

As Caminker points out, Michigan’s clinics don’t just train people interested in specific aspects of litigation, but are good at teaching generalizable skills. For instance, a student in one of the transactional clinics may well use what she has learned when she is working on an international deal for her law firm.

“Clinics are the best thing we can do in law school to provide students with practical experience,” says Matasar. “But it’s hard to scale a clinic so everyone can get that experience. And on some level, it’s still pretend, since you have the safety net of a faculty member and you aren’t completely on your own.”

They also are expensive, in large part due to their low student-faculty ratio. At Michigan Law, however, many clinical professors also teach other courses with higher student-faculty ratios, notes Bridget McCormack, associate dean for clinical affairs and codirector of the Michigan Innocence Clinic. “Our leadership is getting a lot of bang for their buck with us.”

Besides, clinics provide an experience like no other, and they’re worth the cost, Syverud believes. “Clinics are the best capstone I can imagine for a legal education. The best law schools are going to provide that capstone experience for all the students who would like it, in spite of the big cost.”

Beyond clinics, many doctrinal classes at Michigan Law now are paired with practice simulation classes (see story, p. 17). Michigan’s Legal Practice Program provides each first-year student with individualized instruction in legal research, analysis, writing, and other skills necessary for the practice of law. Additionally, Michigan and other law schools are increasing their emphasis on internships and externships.

“I think experiential learning is going to continue to expand and improve. What I see expanding even faster is experiential learning through externships,” says Syverud. Clinics, externships, and increased opportunities for experiential learning are all necessary “as a route to employment after graduation.”
The 1L Experience

Professor Sherman Clark strides back and forth, left and right, at the front of 116 Hutchins. Clark (pictured here) has posed a question about why a property owner should have less liability when a licensee is on his property than an invitee (in tort law, a social guest is a licensee, while invitees are people such as business customers). A 1L in the torts class suggests one answer: To protect your autonomy, you should be able to keep your own house the way you want to, without fearing liability when your brother-in-law visits and injures himself.

“Bam, that is so good,” Clark exclaims, with his trademark zeal.

The day’s class addresses limitations on liability for the way one maintains his land and property, and the conversation cools through topics such as falling-down psychiatric hospitals, skateboarders in big cement pipes, proximate cause, and, somehow, Walmart.

Everything about the class—the good energy between faculty and students, the fact that an established faculty member is teaching an entry-level course, the size of the class—is indicative of the focus Michigan Law has placed on the experience of 1L students.

In some eras in the past, says Dean Evan Caminker, a number of first-year classes were taught by visiting faculty and adjuncts. “A consensus has emerged that there are some problems with having visiting professors teach first-years, including the loss of potential mentorship. We wanted more continuity throughout the course of their years here.”

As a result, experienced Michigan Law professors such as Clark, James Krier, William Miller, Richard Friedman, Richard Primus, and Ed Cooper teach required first-year courses, giving students early exposure to full-time tenured faculty members.

While some of those classes still enroll about 90 students, others have far fewer. Smaller classes allow for greater student participation in the learning process, says David Baum, ’89, assistant dean for student affairs and special counsel for professional skills development.

“We work very hard to ensure that our 1Ls have some classroom experiences that are more intimate and in smaller settings,” Baum says. He adds that the primary focus remains the teaching of analytical skills and legal concepts, with the goal of teaching students how to think like a lawyer.

When Baum was a student at Michigan Law, he was taught research skills, as well as written and oral advocacy, by 3Ls known as senior judges as part of the Case Club Program. In 1995, then-Dean Jeffrey Lehman, ’81, inaugurated the Legal Practice Program as a way of professionalizing the instruction of writing, analysis, and other skills in the 1L year.

Michigan Law currently offers classes during both semesters of the student’s first year that focus on analytical writing, legal research, the drafting of briefs, and the presentation of oral arguments, taught by faculty members.

“We thought it was important to bring in faculty who had recent practice experience as well as teaching experience,” says Philip Frost, ’73, director of the Legal Practice Program. “We were one of the first of the top law schools to professionalize a legal practice program, and we’re still in the leading group among the top law schools in terms of experience and the caliber of the faculty in the program.”

A lot of the credit for the strength of the 1L experience, Clark points out, should go to Sarah Zearfoss, ’92, senior assistant dean for admissions, financial aid, and career planning. “She recruits the right crew,” he believes.

Once that crew arrives, they are taught by professors who “all cherish the opportunity to help them think about the way they think about the law,” says Clark, who also goes to lunch or dinner with all of his 1Ls in small groups so he can get to know them better. “The faculty invest a lot of energy in teaching these first-year courses. We have an ethic here of teaching, and doing it well.”
More than a century ago at Michigan Law, in 1905–06, students could sign up for Roman law or Spanish law. That was the beginning, and the end, of international offerings that year.

Today, top law schools offer courses on topics such as international trade law, public international law, and international tax law, as well as country-focused classes on Japanese, Chinese, or Indian law. Caminker notes that Michigan Law has recruited U.S.-based faculty who are experts on these topics, as well as William W. Cook Global Law Professors, who visit from tenured positions in prominent educational institutions around the world and teach at the Law School regularly. Even Roman law is still taught, now by Bruce Frier, the John and Tessa D’Arms Distinguished Professor of Classics and Roman Law.

That’s just the start of the international reach. More than 1,300 Michigan Law alumni now live in countries other than the United States. Many obtained their overseas appointments through contacts they made at the Law School, and such relationships are vital when building a strong international presence.

“For the best schools, the ability to have a placement network anyplace in the world will be what is expected,” Syverud predicts.

Students and faculty have access to international experiences without ever boarding a plane. With videoconferencing, for instance, students in Ann Arbor can be in the same virtual classroom as their counterparts in India (see related story, page 41). “Technology,” Syverud notes, “will facilitate the globalization of legal education.”

The globalization of teaching and practicing law is happening at a rapid pace, and many believe that a legal education today isn’t complete without a strong international component, one of the reasons that Michigan was the first top law school to require a course in Transnational Law starting in 2001.

“We are living increasingly in a flat world, certainly an interconnected set of societies,” Matasar notes. “Almost all business has some sort of international component to it. We used to kid about who’s an international lawyer—who are these people? These days, every lawyer is an international lawyer.”
The Practicality of the Practicum

A couple of years ago, Barrie Lawson Loeks, ’79, looked through the course descriptions as her daughter prepared to start her 1L year at Michigan Law. The school offered some business classes, but nothing that would provide practical experience in the area of business entrepreneurship. Maybe I should teach one, she told her daughter, Jamie, now a 3L.

“She called me out on it. She said, ‘Mom, you’ve been talking about doing this for 10 years,’” she recalls. So it was that Loeks began the process of creating and teaching the Entrepreneurial Business Practicum, or practice simulation. Now in its second year, the class features business case studies, problem-solving exercises, and speakers, all designed to help students understand what it means to be a lawyer who works with entrepreneurs.

As Barrie Loeks explains, “What I’m trying to teach in particular with this group is how a lawyer can support and interact with, and add value to, an entrepreneurial company. Entrepreneurs are primarily focused on the product, especially in the early stages, and not on strategic planning or structure for the business. Lawyers are considered a necessary evil. “What I teach my students is that they have to diagnose the needs of the business and help the entrepreneur plan strategically for the future.” (See related story, page 26.)

Loeks’s class is one of many practice simulations added to the course catalog in the past few years. The idea was to expand skill-based learning options available to students, says Mark West, associate dean for academic affairs and the Nippon Life Professor of Law.

In the past, West says, much of this kind of training would occur at law firms. “We rarely taught things such as how to draft a discovery request or how to conduct due diligence. The firms picked up the slack” with seminars and on-the-job training, he says. With the downturn in the economy in recent years, however, firms were more likely to make lateral hires than to bring on associates who didn’t have these skills.

At the same time, the Legal Practice Program and clinics at Michigan Law had proven to be both popular and successful. “We knew we were getting value out of the non-doctrinal courses we were offering, even before the market forces took hold,” West says.

A natural next step was adding practice simulations to courses such as Bankruptcy, Business Transactions, Evidence, and others. In the Evidence practicum, students examine impeachment, hearsay, expert testimony, and privileges, and their coursework includes the drafting of motions and courtroom-based scenarios in which they dissect and apply the Rules of Evidence.

One of the greatest strengths of the initiative, West points out, is that the instructors typically are attorneys who are practicing in the relevant areas today. “You really need current practitioners teaching a lot of those classes,” he says. “And demand for these classes is high. I get emails from students saying, ‘I actually feel like I’m practicing law.’”

Professors who teach corresponding classes in a more traditional academic setting also see the value in the practice simulations.

“I have too many students to have in-class assignments every week,” says Adam Pritchard, the Frances and George Skestos Professor of Law, who typically has about 55 students in his Securities Regulation course. The practicum—taught by Barbara Griffin Novak, vice president and corporate secretary of ArvinMeritor, an auto supplier—“is the next step and is an important part of a model of teaching doctrine in the first and second years, then moving forward with skills training in the 3L year,” Pritchard says.

For Loeks, now in her second year of teaching the practicum, the possibilities are vast. This year, she is pairing law and graduate-level engineering students for the first six weeks of the semester. “Wouldn’t it be great if these students started the next Google, and then they called my law students to be their lawyers? They could be the next big thing in business.”
Long History, Strong Future of Clinics

“Clinical experience puts color in the empty outlines of the legal comic book.”


Nationally, law clinics were first introduced in the late 1960s. A sort of trial period for clinics began at Michigan Law in the 1969 summer term, when Professor J.J. White, ’62, taught a group of 10 students who took on cases from the Washtenaw County Legal Aid Clinic. White also drafted a rule, which he and then-Acting Dean Charles Joiner submitted to the Michigan Supreme Court, that allowed students to practice in state courts. Students began practicing regularly with the Legal Aid Clinic.

The cases “expose[d] a student to a magnificent menagerie of documents and processes which seldom appear in person in the law school curriculum,” White, the Robert A. Sullivan Professor of Law, wrote in a 1969 paper.

Through the years, the popularity of clinics grew, as did the array of options available to students. As many as 13 clinics now are offered at any given time, including the relatively new Human Trafficking, Innocence, International Transactions, and Federal Appellate Litigation clinics.

Because of the growth of clinics, as well as their importance in students’ education, the new Law Quad South Hall features a wing for the Clinical Law Program, where the clinics will have a consolidated home—a setting with the professional quality of a law firm, but appropriate for legal education.

Michigan Law’s emphasis on clinics as part of a student’s educational opportunities is exceptional, says Bridget McCormack, associate dean for clinical affairs and codirector of the Michigan Innocence Clinic. She was a student in a clinic at New York University School of Law, and she taught in a clinic at Yale Law.

“They were good programs, but I think Michigan has something really unique,” she says. In addition to the range of clinics, she points out that another advantage Michigan Law has is the support of doctrinal faculty.

If it were up to her, McCormack says, all law students would have the opportunity to learn in a clinical setting. “Working on real cases with real people is educationally motivating for a lot of students. It enhances the rest of a student’s education. We’re teaching a set of values and norms in the industry that students would have a hard time learning in the rest of their legal education.”
Caminker hears from alumni from time to time who worry that an increased focus on skills-based education means a retreat from the heavily doctrinal instruction they received as students. Have no fear, he assures them.

"Michigan Law is every bit as intellectually rigorous as ever," says Caminker. "We still expect and demand students to be engaged, to be challenged when they fail, to learn using the Socratic method."

"Maybe the biggest change is that, 20 or 30 years ago, a relatively high percentage of upper-level classes were lecture-oriented, basically providing just a flow of information from the faculty to the student. Today we have more of a give-and-take between faculty and students, especially in the second and third years. What we really have seen isn’t a retreat from a broad legal education; it’s an expansion of opportunities."

Professor Sherman Clark experiences the back-and-forth interaction with students whenever one of his Torts or Evidence classes meets, and many of his colleagues use a similar approach. “We focus on authentic conversation instead of gamesmanship with the students,” he says. Don’t misunderstand; professors are plenty tough, he points out, but “none of them are trying to use fear as motivation.”

Clark also is ready with a rejoinder if anyone wants to bring up the article in The New York Times, about whether law school is worth it. “They miss a large part of the point. The sole value of law school is not job training. It’s not just a ticket to a market. Yes, it’s great career training, but it’s also great education more broadly. It is, at least here at Michigan, a genuine intellectual experience—a way of developing habits of mind and critical reasoning skills which are valuable to us as human beings as well as useful to us as lawyers.

“It’s not one or the other. That’s the genius of the Michigan Law School; our mission has always been, and still is, both about training you for a job and helping you think well and fully about our world and how we live together in it.”
THE NEW BUILDINGS

By Katie Vloet
Photography by Philip Dattilo and Leisa Thompson

A Window On …

THE NEW BUILDINGS
How’s this for a nod to history? Law School administrators and the architects of the new Law Quad South Hall wanted the exterior to be a clear part of the family of buildings to its north, and of particular importance was the stone façade. So they went to the same quarries that the architectural firm York and Sawyer used in the 1920s and 1930s. Even then, getting a near-match proved tricky.

“The stone choice was a real challenge,” says Lee Becker, the lead architect on the project. On the original Law Quadrangle buildings, the stone with the classic gray, tan, and deep rust hues was seam-face granite—that is, the vertical layers (seams) of rock excavated from the quarry were used as the face of the exposed stone.

But deeper stone in the quarry includes less seam-face granite and more split-face, which features more texture but less of a range of colors, says Jon Devine, owner of Plymouth Quarries in Hingham, Massachusetts. South Hall, then, is a blend of the two types. It has a similar appearance to the long-standing buildings because quartzite was incorporated to the mix to add more orange, says Becker, a partner with Hartman-Cox Architects of Washington, D.C., which designed the building in association with Troy, Michigan–based Integrated Design Solutions.

“It will darken in time and will begin to look even more like the existing buildings,” he says. “As a series of buildings, I think South Hall is an undeniable extension, though it tends to be simpler and a little more modern than the existing buildings. It isn’t directly derivative of another building, but it speaks in the language of the buildings around it.”

The use of stone from the same quarries, Devine notes, is a sign of the importance Michigan Law places on honoring the past. “Tradition is very strong at the University of Michigan, and the buildings that comprise the Law School played a big part in creating that tradition. Being able to continue the architectural style of the original buildings over 80 years later by using the same stone, from the same quarries, enables the University to continue that tradition, and we are thrilled that we could be a small part of that.”
While the exterior of the building is a blend of old traditions and new realities, the interior is decidedly modern. It is equipped to accommodate the latest technology in classrooms, and to adapt to future technological changes (see story, next page). The building also makes room for a student body that has more than doubled, and a law faculty that has more than quadrupled, since Hutchins Hall opened in 1933.

“Times have changed since the original buildings were designed. Today there is considerable input from the users that determines what is needed within, and we work closely with clients like the Law School to figure out the practical needs. While the existing buildings are some of the loveliest in terms of the elements of style and the surprise details,” Becker says, “I am told that the original architects, York and Sawyer, and Law School benefactor William W. Cook, went to New York to think about the design. They did not consult about the amount of books, which led to the addition and expansion of the stacks in the 1950s.

“We also need to blend the modern principles of architecture with the understanding that both size and needs will change and evolve over time.”

Areas that will be frequented by students are clustered around the stairs or are on the first floor and lower level. The clinics were put on the west end of the second floor so clients could reach them through a side entrance. Research faculty are together on the east end of the third floor, while clinical faculty are on the west end—immediately above the clinic suites (see floor plans in foldout pages for more details).

The classroom spaces were a particular focus for the Law School building committee and the architects. “One of the first things I asked the architects was, ‘Have you been to a class?’ because I wanted to make sure they fully understood the needs of our faculty and students,” explains Michele Frasier Wing, ’98, director of finance and planning. They attended classes, which led to, among other things, changes in the acoustics to accommodate the dual needs of classroom interaction and low-noise-reflection videoconferencing.

An effort to tie the new building to Hutchins Hall manifested in a variety of ways: stone floors, arches, high ceilings in some areas. A single piece of oak veneer (a flitch) was used as the veneer on all the desks in room 1020. Some of the glass from the Hutchins Hall cloisters—which featured cartoons of legal scenarios and had to be removed to make way for the entrance to the Robert B. Aikens Commons—has been preserved as the glass in some South Hall doorways.

“The building has a little bit of everything for everyone,” Frasier Wing says. “The administrative space is bright, well lit, and inviting for students to visit. The classroom spaces are not only beautiful but functional. I think people are going to be surprised by how grand a modern space can be.”
The adage used to be that the school isn’t just the building—it’s the people who work inside the building.

But these days, something else better work inside the building, too: technology. Lots of it.

The five full classrooms in the Law School’s new South Hall are up to the challenge. All five are packed with high-tech features, including touch-panel control systems, document cameras, a larger touch screen that allows professors to annotate documents projected on video screens, and more.

It all starts with a small panel on the professor’s desk that controls most of those features.

Say Professor John Pottow is teaching a bankruptcy class. He can use his small touch panel to choose to project his notes on a large screen in the center of the room or a smaller screen off to one side. (In some rooms the whole class actually could videoconference with the petitioner, but more on that later.) The same touch panel dims the lights, turns on the correct projector, and closes the drapes—all with the brush of a finger on the control panel’s screen.

The technology doesn’t end there. Professor Pottow, it turns out, brought a presentation on a flash drive. He can plug the drive into a computer and display his slides on whichever screen he prefers. And if he wants to emphasize a particular bullet point, he can just underline it onscreen by swiping his finger across the second touch screen—a 17-inch version known as an “annotation panel.”

Other classroom features will enable Pottow to place a paper document—a photocopy of a poorly worded court order, say, or a faulty motion—on the room’s document camera, then slash away at it using his finger on the annotation panel. (He could also use a good old-fashioned pen; either way, the notations will end up on the video screen.) Think old-fashioned overhead projector, minus the transparencies and grease pencils.

In more specialized areas of the building, different equipment is used. The clinical suites, for example, boast five interview rooms equipped with digital equipment that can produce video or audio recordings of client interviews at the push of a button. The interview action also can be viewed over a secure Internet connection—in case an instructor needs to monitor the discussion—right down the hall, or anywhere in the world.

Finally, and perhaps most important: Every classroom has a technology panic button. Push it, and the Law School’s friendly audio-visual experts will fix whatever’s ailing—sometimes without even needing to leave their Mission Control–style booth.

“Our goal is to diagnose and troubleshoot as many issues as possible from a remote location,” says Michigan Law IT Director Rosa Peters, adding that faculty and their assistants soon will be trained on the equipment so they can use the new technology to its fullest potential.—JM
The first floor of South Hall features large- and medium-sized classrooms, a comfortable lounge with a gas fireplace, seminar rooms, and the career planning office—one of the most important destinations for students. A lower level features large- and medium-sized classrooms.
Admissions, IT, communications, and financial aid share the second floor with clinic suites, including spaces where clinic students and faculty can meet with clients.
Clinical faculty will work in offices immediately above the second-floor clinic space, and research faculty will occupy the other end of the floor.
Finance, HR, facilities, and development and alumni relations offices comprise the top floor of the building.
A

n early rendering of the Robert B. Aikens Commons featured a peaked roof that would mimic the roofline of the other buildings on the Law Quad (see image, top left). At a meeting, recalls Dean Evan Caminker, another idea was proposed.

Ginny Stein, the wife of the late Eric Stein, ’42, the Hessel E. Yntema Professor Emeritus of Law, “said the archways you would see from inside the Commons are more curved, and that we should reconsider the shape of the roof,” Caminker says.

The final version of the glass and steel roof indeed is curved, rather than reaching a central peak. The arched roof of the 16,000-square-foot structure provides stunning views of the surrounding buildings, Legal Research and Hutchins Hall.

Aikens Commons—which instantly became the main gathering place for law students and faculty—also is open-air between the main level, with the Kirkland & Ellis Café (photo, bottom left and p. 72), and a lower level, where student groups can meet informally or host seminars or speakers.

“It is really an attempt to provide a center space that not only improves linkages between the various academic areas that exist in the Law School,” architect Becker says, “but also to create a space that fosters social and intellectual interaction beyond the workaday spaces at the school.

“People who visit the building will immediately sense the vitality and spirit of the University of Michigan Law School,” Becker predicts. “The Commons will be the heart and soul of the school.”
A RARE PROGRAM IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND LAW

Launching this fall at the Law School will steep student lawyers in the arts of entrepreneurial businesses and also lead to groundbreaking entrepreneurial opportunities for students University-wide.

The Zell Entrepreneurship and Law (ZEAL) Program establishes a clinic to offer free legal advice to Michigan’s burgeoning number of student entrepreneurs, while simultaneously boosting the Law School’s curriculum to train law students to better serve both start-up and existing entrepreneurial businesses. This dual approach, combined with the depth and scope of resources involved across the full spectrum of the University, makes the ZEAL program unique.

Together the two parts of the program will encourage law students to offer legal advice to—and ideally, to join forces with—the growing number of student enterprises bubbling up as a result of U-M’s campus-wide culture of entrepreneurship.

The program has broad implications for students and the economy. Small businesses are the leading driver of job growth in the United States, creating 64 percent of new jobs in the country. There are roughly 29.6 million small businesses in the country, and approximately 627,000 are started every year.

“The University has created an entrepreneurial ecosystem across this campus that is exciting and distinctive,” said U-M President Mary Sue Coleman. “Whether in classes, business plan competitions, or incubators, students have an opportunity to bring a good business idea to life. These new Law School offerings add an important new dimension to support student innovation.”

Sam Zell, ’66, the Chicago-based entrepreneur who earned his undergraduate and law degrees at Michigan, is seeding ZEAL with a $5 million gift. Zell founded an apartment management and investment company while attending the University.

“My goal with entrepreneurial endeavors at the University has always been to create cross-pollination across multiple disciplines,” Zell said. “We’ve got top schools in law, engineering, business, and medicine. That’s an entrepreneurial jackpot just waiting to be cashed in.”

ZEAL is the newest in a series of University initiatives geared toward business development, including the Samuel Zell and Robert H. Lurie Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies at the Ross School of Business (ZLI); the Center for Entrepreneurship within the School of Engineering; a unique new professional master’s degree in entrepreneurship created by the College of Engineering and the Ross School; the Michigan Venture Center; student-run programs like the Wolverine Venture Fund; and a variety of competitions and grant programs that encourage student start-ups. Overall, more than 5,000 students across campus participated in an entrepreneurial activity last year.

“What we’re trying to do at Michigan is something no other top school has done: truly connecting and coordinating entrepreneurial efforts across the entire campus to maximize

“We’ve got top schools in law, engineering, business, and medicine. That’s an entrepreneurial jackpot just waiting to be cashed in.”

—Sam Zell
opportunities for all students,” said Thomas Zurbuchen, a professor of aerospace engineering and the associate dean for entrepreneurial programs in the College of Engineering. “That’s why the Law School’s new program is so exciting. This kind of connectedness across disciplines makes U-M truly unique among peers.”

The ZEAL program’s dual approach to entrepreneurial education—the clinic, together with several new courses tailored for the entrepreneurial lawyer, for businesses large and small—is at the heart of the school’s philosophy of joining the practical with the purely academic, said Law School Dean Evan Caminker.

“We are preparing our law students with a specialized skill set that will enable them to serve the small business community through entrepreneurial start-ups,” Caminker said. “At the same time, we can encourage up-and-coming entrepreneurs by helping them get started and grow.”

Significantly, the approach also benefits the largest number of students from across all disciplines and schools on the Ann Arbor campus.

“While our law students have huge interest in business law courses, there’s an even larger, unmet need for legal advice among campus entrepreneurs,” Caminker said. The clinical aspect of ZEAL will deploy student-attorneys, supervised by faculty members, to help founders of promising student ventures iron out the business formation, trademark, finance, patent, regulatory, and other issues that can complicate the establishment of any entrepreneurial business.

The program will support such existing initiatives as the ZLI, which was cofounded by Zell in 1999 and has granted more than $2.3 million in support of start-ups for graduate students and undergraduates alike. Tim Faley, ZLI’s managing director, said the rest of the University community will be grateful for Law School help.

“We know the Law School is going to be a great partner,” Faley said. “All of Michigan’s entrepreneurial programs are looking for legal counsel. And law students are saying much the same thing—that they’d love to learn how these deals go down.”

The clinical aspect of ZEAL will deploy student-attorneys, supervised by faculty members, to help founders of promising student ventures iron out the business formation, trademark, finance, patent, regulatory, and other issues that can complicate the establishment of any entrepreneurial business.

“This kind of relationship with the Law School will be really valuable for both groups, in terms of giving the law students insight into the entrepreneurial process and giving other students insight into the legal issues surrounding formation of a new business,” said Mike Johnson, a 2011 MD/MBA graduate now working as a research fellow at U-M’s Medical Innovation Center.

“It’s a good time at the University to have these groups come together in a more formal way,” added Johnson, who was managing director of the Wolverine Venture Fund last year. “There will be lots of work, and it will be a fruitful experience for everyone.”

That view was echoed by Michigan Law adjunct professor Barrie Loeks, ’79, who is helping organize ZEAL. She said program designers came up with about a dozen new courses tailored to entrepreneurial-minded student lawyers.

“Working with entrepreneurial businesses requires a different skill set and a different approach than working with larger, established businesses,” Loeks said. “With most of the nation’s job growth coming from entrepreneurial businesses, we need to better prepare our law students to provide strategic legal guidance to those businesses.”

The program will do that, while also supporting such existing initiatives as the ZLI. “We’re coming up with the next generation of solutions right here, right now, on this campus, in every important field,” said Loeks, who earned both undergraduate and law degrees at U-M. “Put together our business students, our med students, our engineering students, and our law students, and watch out. They’ll change the world. But we need to put them together. We need to help them.”

Loeks, whose background is both entrepreneurial and corporate, founded with husband Jim Loeks the Michigan-based Star Theatres. Later she became co-CEO of Sony’s 250-location Loews Theatres—a position that made her the highest-ranking woman in the Sony corporate empire.

Long active in an advisory capacity with her alma mater, Loeks hopes ZEAL, in which she’ll continue to have an active role, will pull together various strands of entrepreneurship across campus in order to create a critical mass of creative business thought. Along the way, she hopes entrepreneurs’ somewhat jaded ideas about lawyers will change.

“Entrepreneurs usually look at lawyers as a necessary evil—they’re expensive, and they’re considered obstacles,” Loeks said. “But any successful entrepreneur knows that a collaboration with a good lawyer who understands the business can make you enormously more successful.”

More information about University entrepreneurial efforts is available at innovate.umich.edu/u-m_programs/u-m-entrepreneurial-ecosystem/.
Both of the mock trial teams from Ypsilanti High School have spent the morning in the Oakland County Courthouse sparring with other teams in a case involving cyberbullying. They’re taking a break for lunch on the school bus, heads collapsed against the windows, and they debrief classmates from the other team about how they think they did.

One of the high school students asks John Robinson—a Michigan Law 2L and head coach of the team—if there is any way the two Ypsi teams will compete against each other in the third and final round of the regional tournament that afternoon. There’s a chance, but only a very small one, Robinson tells them. They go back to crunching chips and evaluating their performances.

Inside the courthouse, the coaches—all of them Michigan Law students, members of an organization founded here three years ago called Future Advocates in Training, or FAIT—await the room assignments for the afternoon round. Michael Adler, a 3L who was the head coach the previous year and who stayed as an adviser for the 2010–11 year, watches the board. Team 18 is assigned room 1A. They’ll compete against … Team 12.

“Oh, no,” Adler says.
The small chance that Robinson mentioned? That’s exactly what has happened. After training for several months, the two teams from Ypsi High will face each other in the courtroom. Sure, it’s only a mock trial, but it feels intensely real to these students. They have sacrificed social activities to make it to practice. They have stayed up late to learn rules of evidence. They have become friends with people on both teams, and now only one team will emerge as the winner.

More to the point, there now is a good chance that only one of the teams will make it out of the regional tournament to attend the state competition.

The competitors start to stroll into room 1A. One by one, they come to the realization that the Ypsi Maize team is competing against the Ypsi Blue team. Friend against friend, sister against sister.

“It’s not fair!” someone says. “I know John’s entire cross,” says another. “And I know Anna’s entire cross,” says a third. Lucy Smith walks in, and she is told, “it’s definitely happening.” She rests her head in her hands and glances at her younger sister, Sally, an attorney on the other team.

Robinson, the steadfastly positive head coach, takes control of the group and leads the students into the hallway. “I see a lot of nervous faces, and I see a lot of anxious faces. What this means is that you all did a hell of a job in the first two rounds”—only the top teams made it to the third round—“and this means we’re definitely going to win.”

They form a circle, put their hands in the middle, and shout, “One, two, three, dominate!”

One of the students adds:

“But be nice about it.”
This group of Ypsi High students began their journey in the fall of 2010. Most knew little about trial, the rules of evidence, how to make an objection. Some had a theater background, some wanted to be lawyers, some tagged along with a friend to the tryouts.

In the months since then, team members have come and gone, with some finding the after-school practice schedule too time-consuming. Many remained, though, and were willing to take on the challenge.

A tremendous challenge it was, too—perhaps more so because the program was still in its infancy at Ypsi High. This was the third year the FAIT students from Michigan Law had coached the team. The team was coached by a theater teacher with an eagerness to offer a mock trial team at the school but no background in the law.

Brittlynn Hall, '10, was a 1L when she decided the talented students at Michigan Law—with backgrounds as Rhodes Scholars and Teach for America participants—needed to be more involved in the community. She also knew that many schools in the Detroit area were in desperate need of assistance.

She consulted with a couple of people she respected. Julian Johnson, senior vice president of external relations at Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (where Hall had interned), advised Hall to focus on students who weren’t at the bottom of the pack in school but who weren’t guaranteed to graduate. Some students at the top of the class would participate no matter what, and some students at the bottom of the class may not be the best use of the program’s limited resources.

“That helped me narrow the scope of the program,” Hall notes.

Margaret Krasnoff, an Ann Arbor attorney, pointed out that Detroit schools would make for a long commute, and that plenty of nearby schools could use the new program’s assistance. So Hall reached out to two schools, and heard back from one: Ypsilanti High. As coincidence would have it, the school had a fledgling mock trial program, but it needed more assistance from lawyers to coach the students. Or, in this case,

lawyers-to-be.
Early on, a few disruptive students and other hurdles made FAIT even more of a challenge than Hall had predicted. Things turned around quickly, however.

“We had a problem with confidence that first year. My second year—we had to learn to say no and to kick kids off the team. If they’re not willing to put in the time, it brings down the whole team,” Hall points out. “You want to get the kids hooked. Even kids who otherwise wouldn’t be ambitious—you want to make them hungry.”

One of the kids who got hooked, and who stuck with the team during challenging times in her personal life, was Mayah Wells, who had been homeless at times in her life. When Wells’s mother couldn’t provide transportation, Hall or other FAIT coaches would drive her home.

Yet there she was, at nearly every practice, plus additional time at home preparing arguments. She wants to be a corporate lawyer or district attorney. “Being in the courtroom—I feel as though that’s my forte,” she says.

Indeed it is. Mayah and the rest of the 2009–10 team—FAIT’s second year—earned fourth place in the state. “It was an amazing feeling. We thought we should’ve won the last round, but just to make it as far as we did—it was the most amazing feeling. It seemed as though all the
That was the challenge for many members of the 2010–11 team: achieving fourth place in the state, or even higher. Early in the year, it seems an improbable outcome. During November tryouts, one girl rocks nervously as she plays the role of a witness. She is unfamiliar with most details of the case, though she was supposed to have studied for the tryout. Several students don’t show up for their tryouts, one of them because he was suspended for 10 days.

By February, the students find their places as lawyers or witnesses, and they are much more knowledgeable about the cyberbullying case. They still need to improve a lot before the March 12 regional competition. Some of the witnesses rely on their notes as a crutch during practices, and the attorneys struggle with objections.

On March 12, the team travels on a school bus to the Oakland County Courthouse. The Blue team—FAIT declines to label either team as the A or B squad—performs solidly in both of the first rounds. The Maize team has a rough time in one round, when the competing school has one of the Ypsilanti witnesses impeached, but also has a solid second round. All the judges and jurors—actual judges and lawyers from the community—commend the Ypsilanti teams for not relying on notes at any point during the arguments.

And then comes the afternoon round, in which the Maize and Blue teams face off against each other. They are well matched. The attorneys use legal phrases with ease, making “preponderance of the evidence” sound like a normal part of a high school student’s discourse.

One of the jurors compliments both teams afterward. “You all had an excellent grasp of the facts. The witnesses were excellent. Attorneys, you just need some fine-tuning. Work on your tone of voice. You don’t want to be too newscastery. But everyone was very good.”

The teams await the outcome. “We as a team have won without a doubt,” 2L Ilya Feldsherov, head coach of the Maize team, and FAIT education chair tells the students. “Where we started six months ago, and where we are now, it’s just incredible.”
The results are in. Only one point separated the two teams, with the Blue team coming out on top. They cheer and high-five each other as they realize they will go to the state competition.

The celebration, though, is short-lived; Robinson says the Maize team will not go to States. “Everyone said we should have ended up with two bids, and I think we would have if we hadn’t met up in the third round. The math beat us.”

In the hallway, they all hug and cry. They are all so close that one team’s success feels diminished by the other team’s disappointment.

Lucy Smith embraces her sister, Sally, just a freshman but already a strong attorney who approaches Lucy’s levels of confidence and poise in the courtroom. It isn’t fair, someone says. They could be talking about the day’s results, or high school, or life in general. At this moment, in this courthouse hallway, nothing seems fair.

Two weeks later, the Blue team competes in the state tournament in Lansing. Most of the Maize team is there to cheer them on. After two strong rounds, Feldsherov says he guesses the scoring was close, but he thinks the Ypsi team won both times.

All 10 teams from around the state gather in a room to hear the results. Ypsi’s Maize and Blue teammates sit in a row, their hands interlocked, as the four semi-finalists are announced. Could they repeat the previous year’s success as one of the top four teams in the state?

Alas, no. In spite of the impressive performances, they do not advance. Wide-eyed, they prepare to head back to the bus. Robinson pulls them to the side and says he understands their disappointment, but he is very proud of the way they performed. Now let’s all clap for Shay Curry, who is graduating this year, he says.

And then, pointedly, he reminds them of the best news of all: “Everyone else is coming back.” That means that 2011–12 should be a very good year indeed.
Law School Fund Marks

By Becky Freligh

“It was bound to come, and it has come,” wrote Dean Allan Smith in the August 1961 issue of Law Quadrangle Notes. What watershed moment in Michigan Law history was the dean referring to? None other than the creation of the Law School Fund, the oldest annual fund on the U-M campus, marking its 50th anniversary this year.

Yes, Dean Smith told alumni, the Law School had financial needs that state appropriations alone couldn’t meet (sound familiar?), and so it was, for the first time, turning to all alumni for fiscal help in an organized fashion. Mega-gifts from alumni like William W. Cook, 1882, the building benefactor, and Frederick Leckie, 1904, the scholarship donor, had been amazing boons. But the school also needed to rely upon a system of regular annual alumni giving.

Now, it was clear, everyone had to step up.

In the half century since, thousands of Michigan Law alumni have done so, some reliably, every year. The Law School Fund—that pool of discretionary funding available for where it’s most needed—has been a steady source of financial support for every dean from Smith to Caminker.

“The Law School Fund is one of the things that made this institution more than an ordinary state law school,” says Theodore J. St. Antoine, ’54, the James E. and Sarah A. Degan Professor Emeritus and dean of the Law School from 1971–78.

The person most closely associated with the Law School Fund is Professor Emeritus Roy Proffitt, ’48, who served Michigan Law from 1956–86 as both teacher (of admiralty law and criminal law and procedure) and administrator. Proffitt’s duties included directing the Law School Fund for nearly a quarter century until his retirement, a task he performed with uncommon warmth and

Into the future Matthew J. Nolan, ’06

The last place you’ll find Matt Nolan is on the sidelines. Of anything. School, extracurricular activities, work—Nolan has thrown himself completely into whatever he has taken on.

Fortunately for Michigan Law, Nolan has become one of the school’s most dedicated young fundraisers and a generous donor in his own right. His current goal: for his class of 2006 to set a record reunion giving total for five-year classes.

“Alumni have a crucial responsibility to help keep Michigan Law what it is and to make it better,” says Nolan. “Without alumni support, that would be impossible. If each of us steps up and does only a fraction of what we’re in a position to do, we can collectively propel the Law School toward even bigger and better things, just as past alumni have done for us.”

A native of Muskegon, Michigan, and drum major of his high school’s state championship-winning marching band, Nolan came to U-M as a freshman and briefly considered the marching band before entering student politics. He was elected to serve as student body president in 2001–2002, his junior year, a tumultuous time in which he spoke to 15,000 students at a campus vigil on the night of the 9/11 attacks, fielded media questions on the University’s affirmative action case, and sat on the search committee that hired U-M’s current president, Mary Sue Coleman, the only student to do so.

“I was very fortunate and grateful to be a part of all that,” Nolan says. “Each of those experiences has helped shape me.”

When he came across the street to Michigan Law, Nolan approached law school with equal verve, singing bass for the Headnotes, helping run Res Gestae as executive editor, serving as commissioner of the bowling league, being elected president of the Federalist Society, and participating in other student organizations. He co-chaired the first-ever student-led Nannes 3L Challenge initiative and the most successful to that time, garnering $50,000 for the Law School Fund.

Nolan went on to practice corporate law in Kirkland & Ellis’s Chicago office, and in 2010 returned to Michigan to take an in-house counsel position with Dow Corning in Midland. In addition to working on a variety of legal matters, he recently was elected director and secretary of Dow Corning’s political action committee and trustee and secretary of the company’s foundation. “Dow Corning has been a place of great opportunity for me so far,” he says.

Since law school graduation, Nolan has led his class’s committee of class agents, urging fellow ’06 grads to give to the Law School Fund and now to set a new reunion giving record.

A fellow class agent, Mandy Legal, ’06, says, “He always sets ambitious goals, and we often meet them.” When they do, “I attribute a large part of that to Matt’s efforts.”—BF
Richard Leslie’s zest for life is so vibrant, it’s practically contagious. He calls himself a lucky man, with a family he loves, a profession he’s still passionate about, and a lifelong avocation: tennis.

Skilled on the tennis court since his youth, Leslie found a natural legal home in the competitive realm of the courtroom—and enjoyed it to the hilt.

“I always loved being a lawyer,” says the career litigator. “I never had a day when I said, ‘Ugh, I have to go to work.’”

In gratitude for the education that led to his successful career, Leslie has given to the Law School Fund every year since graduation a half century ago.

A college tennis scholarship brought Leslie from his native Chicago to the University of Florida, where he graduated early and, before coming to Michigan Law, played professional tennis on the European circuit. He fondly remembers Professors Sam Estep, Marcus Plant, Paul Kauper, and especially William Bishop, who taught admiralty law.

“The education Michigan gave me was the basis upon which I built my career,” Leslie says.

The doctrinal courses provided theoretical tools that he put to good use in two summer clerkships, one in New York, the other in Chicago. “That was terrific,” he recalls, “because we didn’t have much practical experience in school at that time.”

After graduation, Leslie worked in Chicago briefly before heading to Florida, where cases moved swiftly through the courts, and a young litigator had abundant opportunities to make his mark. He joined Shutts & Bowen in Miami when the firm had 15 lawyers; today it numbers 200.

During his career Leslie tried 200 cases to verdict, most jury trials. He argued before the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fifth and Eleventh Circuits, the Florida Supreme Court, and the state’s five appellate courts. Upon his mandatory retirement at 70, he had the longest tenure of any equity partner at the firm: 40 years.

The father of five (including three trial lawyers) and grandfather of eight continues to work on cases with his children and remains active in professional associations. He’s still a competitive tennis player and a veteran of several Senior Games.

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A member of the reunion committee for the class of 1961’s 50-year celebration last month, Leslie continued his unbroken giving record by making a generous pledge to the Law School Fund.

“I’m very appreciative of my Michigan education,” says Leslie, who remembers when the Fund was created. “I was proud to pledge again for our 50th.” —BF
Professor Eric Stein, ‘Europe’s Prophet,’ dies at 98

Eminent legal scholar Eric Stein, ’42, who first came to Michigan Law as a refugee from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia and later helped his adopted country draft rules that still govern the United Nations, has died in Ann Arbor at 98.

The passing of a man universally acknowledged as the father of legal scholarship on the European Union means the loss of two bridges in the legal world—one spanning the Atlantic, and the other spanning the pre- and post–World War II eras.

“All of us who knew Eric were grateful for the privilege,” Law School Dean Evan Caminker said. “Eric has been associated with Michigan Law since the middle of the last century, and his vitality and exuberance will be sorely missed.”

Stein’s war service earned him a Bronze Star and the Order of the Italian Crown, Italian Military Cross. After the war he went to work for the U.S. State Department, where, armed only with the UN Charter, he helped organize the General Assembly, the Security Council, and other institutions still at work today.

Stein discovered his life’s work, in international and comparative law, in the early 1950s. Europe’s Coal and Steel Community represented the marriage of strategic industries from nations that had been enemies in World War II, and Stein became fascinated by the group’s potential to evolve and prevent such catastrophes in the future. By 1956 he was a law professor at Michigan, and by 1960 had correctly predicted that the Community one day would evolve into what is now the European Union.

“Eric taught the first course and wrote the first book on what we would now call European Union law,” said Professor Daniel Halberstam, who holds the endowed professorship created to honor Stein at the Law School. “He also was the first to make people see the constitutional dimension of European integration. And he did all this with a wonderful gift for writing and a compelling spirit of decency.”

Looking back on Stein’s work, a leading German newspaper recently proclaimed him “Europe’s Prophet.”

His remarkable career didn’t slow as he aged. He helped draft a proposed constitution for a Czechoslovak Republic, then helped write the Czech Republic’s constitution after the two countries finally split. At 84 he published the prize-winning book *Czecho/Slovakia: Ethnic Conflict, Constitutional Fissure, Negotiated Breakup*. In 2001, Czech President Vaclav Havel personally presented him with the Czech Medal of Merit First Degree.

Stein also received prestigious lifetime achievement awards in every discipline he touched: from the American Society of Comparative Law in 2004, the European Union Studies Association in 2005, and this year from the American Society of International Law.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Virginia Stein. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Eric and Virginia Stein Fund for International and Comparative Law at the University of Michigan Law School, 625 S. State St., Ann Arbor, MI, 48109, or to Arbor Hospice, 2366 Oak Valley Drive, Ann Arbor, MI, 48103. A memorial gathering will be held at the Law School on October 30 at 1:30 p.m.

A complete obituary can be viewed at www.law.umich.edu/newsandinfo/releases/Pages/stein.aspx. —JM
Hicks Award Caps Leary’s Career

Law Library Director Margaret A. Leary, who retired earlier this year, has won the Frederick Charles Hicks Award for outstanding contributions to the improvement of academic law librarianship. Colleagues say Leary, who ran the Law Library since 1984, practically personifies the award description.

“Margaret Leary is the quintessential law librarian,” wrote Penny Hazelton, the University of Washington School of Law’s associate dean for library and computing services, in nominating Leary. “Smart, visionary, focused on outstanding service, not afraid to tackle the tough problems of our profession, curious, flexible, and a model to those in academic law librarianship.” The Hicks Award is sponsored by the American Association of Law Libraries.

Among Leary’s most significant achievements during her career is one of the earliest: the Law Library’s Faculty Research Service, which Leary invented during her first year as librarian. The service, which employs librarians who also hold law degrees as well as well-trained law students, helps Michigan Law faculty members with more than 500 academic research projects every year. “Michigan was the first, and as far as I know is still one of only two libraries that have a whole unit set up to carry that out,” Leary says.

Garavaglia, ‘80, Named Director of Law Library

Barbara H. Garavaglia, ‘80, has been named the new director of the Law Library at U-M, succeeding Margaret Leary, who retired earlier this year after serving as director since 1984.

Prior to this appointment, she was the assistant director of the Law Library, where she has focused on building and maintaining an enduring infrastructure to support faculty research, including the continuing development of the Law Library collection in support of the work of the faculty, students, and researchers from around the world who come to Michigan as visiting scholars.

“Becoming director of this great law library is both an honor and a privilege. I am excited and energized at the prospect of leading the Law Library, building on its tradition of excellence in support of scholarship and legal education, and embarking on new initiatives to take advantage of continuing developments in legal publishing, research, and education,” Garavaglia said.

Garavaglia was the head of the reference department in the Michigan Law Library from 1988 to 2007, and before that, the assistant state law librarian at the Library of Michigan and a research attorney for a commercial legal research firm. From 1989 to 1994, she was an adjunct professor at the Law School, teaching “Doing Research in American Law” to LLM students. In addition to her JD from Michigan Law, Garavaglia earned her MLS from the U-M School of Library Science (now the School of Information).

“Barb was chosen over two other finalists who received outstanding ratings from persons we respect, including some of our own faculty members. While Barb definitely got no ‘home team’ call, she comes with the nice bonus of being able to hit the ground running as someone who knows our Law Library inside out. She should be a superlative director,” said Theodore J. St. Antoine, ‘54, Degan Professor Emeritus of Law, who headed the search committee.

Her professional roles include service on many boards and committees, including serving as a member of the board of directors and secretary of the International Association of Law Libraries.
For the Good of South Sudan

By Lori Atherton

Shortly after South Sudan—the United Nations’ 193rd member state—gained its independence on July 9, Professor Laura Beny penned a Newsweek piece in which she expressed cautious optimism for the leadership of President Salva Kiir Mayardit.

“One of the best gifts the world can give to the new nation,” she wrote, “is unwavering support of President Kiir’s cabinet’s efforts to forge a successful nation-state under what at times will seem like impossible circumstances.”

Beny is all too aware of the impossible situations South Sudan has endured for decades, from civil wars and genocide to the lack of infrastructure, jobs, and clean drinking water. Born in Khartoum, Sudan, to a Southern Sudanese father and an American mother, Beny moved to the United States when she was 10 years old. Growing up, she was kept informed of the news within her home country and, as a result, sought to use her training as an economist and lawyer for the betterment of Sudan.

Since 2006, she has made yearly trips to Sudan to visit relatives, conduct research, and work on projects related to rule of law, corporate law, and law and development, including advising the government of South Sudan on corporate governance and transparency in South Sudan’s nascent private sector.

In 2009, Beny and economist Melody Atil co-founded Peace Dividend, an online platform that provides financing to South Sudanese entrepreneurs lacking access to traditional lending sources. Peace Dividend, a client of Michigan Law’s International Transactions Clinic, has been trying to raise funds, for example, to support the work of a former tailor who is developing a means of delivering cassava from rural areas to urban markets.

“South Sudan is one of the most agriculturally rich countries in the world,” Beny noted, “but it imports most of its produce. Because of the lack of infrastructure, because of 22 years of war, they don’t have the roads to get products to market, and they don’t have the knowledge of marketing and distribution. It creates a situation where there are not enough jobs, because everything comes from neighboring countries. We [Peace Dividend] like to target enterprises that create opportunities for jobs.”

Also on Beny’s plate is her forthcoming book (scheduled for release in 2011 or 2012), Sudan’s Killing Fields: Perspectives on Genocide, of which she is a co-editor. The book is a collection of essays that shed light on the human rights abuses perpetrated by the government against indigenous peoples across all marginalized areas of Sudan, not just against those in the western Sudanese area of Darfur. It also sheds light on the historical and contemporary causes of the secession of South Sudan in 2011 from the larger Sudan, creating the world’s 193rd country earlier this year.

“Even though the south has separated and the war between the north and south has officially ended, there is still a high genocide risk in the remaining parts of northern Sudan, in the peripheral areas,” Beny said. “A review of those atrocities would go a long way in explaining to an American audience why Sudan has been partitioned into two countries.”
New Award Honors Reed

The State Bar of Michigan has established a new award honoring John Reed, the Thomas M. Cooley Professor of Law Emeritus, for his outstanding service to law students. The John W. Reed Lawyer Legacy Award will be presented periodically to a professor from a Michigan law school whose influence on the state’s lawyers has elevated the quality of legal practice in Michigan.

Reed presented the inaugural award in September to Harold P. Norris, professor emeritus of Detroit College of Law (now Michigan State University School of Law).

This award is the only one that the State Bar gives out specifically to those in academia. “The award is intended to recognize only the best of the best,” notes Dean Evan Caminker, “so it’s quite fitting that this award will bear John’s name.”

Prescott Study Casts Doubt on Sex-Offender Notification Laws

While evidence suggests that requiring convicted sex offenders to register with the police reduces the chances they’ll re-offend, a recent paper coauthored by Michigan Law Professor J.J. Prescott shows that publicizing sex offenders’ identities may actually increase the chances they’ll commit another sex crime.

The paper, which received widespread media attention after it was published in The Journal of Law & Economics, examines 10 years of data from 15 states. It takes a systematic look at the aftermath of two stages of the ever-changing get-tough legislative response to sex offenders:

First, laws that require convicted offenders to register with their local police, and second, laws that also require notification—that is, publication of offenders’ identities, their crimes, etc.—either through searchable Internet pages or other means, including personal visits or newspaper notices.

The outcomes of the two approaches are distinctly different, Prescott and coauthor Professor Jonah E. Rockoff of the Columbia Business School found.

First, their evidence indicates that a registration requirement without public notification reduces reported sex crimes substantially, probably because police are better able to monitor and arrest recidivists. In jurisdictions with an average number of offenders registered, that reduction can be as high as 13 percent, and grows larger as the registries grow. This last fact implies that registration laws lower crime more by discouraging registered offenders from committing new crimes than by discouraging potential first offenders from committing crimes in the first place.

Second, the data suggest that making the identities of registered offenders public actually may weaken public safety by making registered sex offenders more likely to commit new crimes. In jurisdictions that require notification, the deterrence provided by making convicted offenders’ identities known for would-be first offenders may be more than offset by released offenders’ tendency to commit new crimes when they are subjected to notification requirements. The data also indicate that jurisdictions with notification laws suffer slightly higher rates of overall reported sex crimes.

So while registration appears to discourage repeat offenses, notification requirements actually seem to encourage them—possibly, according to the authors, “because the associated psychological, social, or financial costs (of notification requirements) make a crime-free life relatively less desirable.”—JM

To see a video interview with Prescott, visit web.law.umich.edu/Prescott.
A new book dedicated to Bruno Simma, a William W. Cook Global Law Professor at U-M, traces the development of international law through a series of essays by a prominent array of people who wanted to pay tribute to the International Court of Justice judge.

From Bilateralism to Community Interest: Essays in Honour of Bruno Simma (Oxford University Press, 2011) is a 1,312-page book, published on the occasion of Simma’s 70th birthday.

“I confess that I knew something in my honor was being assembled. But when I first saw this huge tome and after I had read some of the things people were saying about my work and had a first impression of the number and quality of the contributions to the book, I had this strong feeling that I did not deserve such recognition,” Simma said.

“I feel indebted to the authors for their labor and their affection.”

One of the essays was written by the late Eric Stein, ’42, the Hessel E. Yntema Professor Emeritus of Law: “Bruno Simma has become a model of a quintessential international lawyer. He has managed to combine effectively teaching and extensive scholarship with the positions of counsel to governments, arbitrator of disputes between States, expert and leader in international public and private organizations, cofounder and co-editor of the successful European Journal of International Law, advocate before and, finally, member of the ICJ.”

The book also includes text of a speech that J. Christopher McCrudden, William W. Cook Global Law Professor at Michigan, gave at the Law School in honor of Simma’s election to the ICJ in 2004, and an essay by Steven R. Ratner, the Bruno Simma Collegiate Professor of Law at Michigan.

Rebecca J. Scott, professor of law and the Charles Gibson Distinguished University Professor of History, has been named the University’s Henry Russel Lecturer for 2012. Considered one of the University’s highest honors for a senior member of its active faculty, the Henry Russel Lectureship is awarded annually in recognition of a scholar’s exceptional achievements in research, scholarship and/or creative endeavors, and an outstanding record of teaching, mentoring, and service.

Scott is best known for her groundbreaking publications on slavery, and on race and the law, in post-emancipation Cuba, Brazil, and the United States. Her accomplishments have been acknowledged throughout her career with numerous awards and honors.


Scott’s Russel Lecture on February 23 will explore the relationship of slavery to law, both in the 19th century and in the present.
On one continent, Professor Vikramaditya Khanna’s students are discussing facets of the Indian legal system. On another continent, his students are talking about the same thing. At the same time. With each other.

Khanna is a pioneer in the nascent world of trans-ocean instruction with his course Law and Economic Development in India, which he taught in the spring at Michigan Law and at the Jindal Global Law School near Delhi, India, via videoconference across a web linkup. For many of the sessions, Khanna was physically in a classroom at Jindal, and for the rest he was in Ann Arbor.

No matter his location, he is always interested in the differences and similarities in the way the two groups of students view the legal challenges of the world’s two largest democracies. For instance, in India, there was until recently a strong, historical aversion to patents. In no small part this was due to the perception that, during the British Raj, patents were issued and protected “asymmetrically,” Khanna said, and did not allow Indians to receive an equitable number of patents.

Labor law is vastly different between the two countries, partly because companies in India with more than 100 employees must receive government permission to dismiss anyone. As a result, a lot of companies have just a few employees below the 100-employee threshold, and India has not been as active in large-scale manufacturing as countries such as China. Further, the result of size restrictions on law firms in India (which were only recently relaxed) was that some jobs that would often be performed in-house in the United States have been outsourced in India.

And in a couple of states in India, a landowner can sell land only to someone from his own caste, which has created myriad legal and practical issues as the country has experienced a land boom in recent years.

Khanna said the two classes meeting at the same time gave students from both countries a chance to better understand the legal differences between the United States and India. “The students learn that you can’t cut and paste solutions from one country to another and that understanding context is critical,” Khanna says.

Jindal Global Law School Dean Raj Kumar noted in an article in Legally India that the class is not “a passive video conference.” Each student’s desk has a button and a microphone, and in the future, a camera will automatically zoom in on the student who is speaking and put him or her on screen. “I’m very skeptical of video conferencing,” Kumar said, “but this is something that actually works.”—KV
Duquette Leads National Effort to Improve Representation in Child Welfare System

It stands to reason: When better-trained lawyers represent kids in child welfare cases, the kids come out better for it. But what, exactly, makes for a better-trained lawyer?

Professor Don Duquette, ’75, aims to find out. Under his leadership, the National Quality Improvement Center on the Representation of Children at Michigan Law—funded by a five-year, $5 million grant from the Children’s Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—has embarked on an ambitious plan to bring empirical precision to studying the training and effectiveness of lawyers who represent kids in the child welfare system.

“The problem with the system now is that it over-responds and under-responds,” Duquette says. “Kids who need help don’t get it. At the other extreme, kids may be taken from their homes when it isn’t necessary.”

To prevent such miscarriages of justice, best practices under the initiative—known informally as QIC-ChildRep—urge lawyers to engage affected children more than they may have in the past.

Already in its second year, QIC-ChildRep began with a nationwide assessment of child welfare practices that continues today.

A research-and-demonstration phase, beginning in earnest this fall with the participation of the Georgia Supreme Court Committee on Justice for Children and the Washington State Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care, involves more than 200 lawyers, more or less evenly divided between the two states. Half the participating lawyers will be trained in QIC-ChildRep best practices, while the other half will not. Child welfare cases will be assigned to lawyers from both groups, and QIC-ChildRep participants—including experts from Chapin Hall, the family policy research center at the University of Chicago—will analyze the outcomes.

The advocacy model is both rights-based (children are entitled to competent legal representation when facing a serious loss of liberty) and needs-based (better representation for children will improve outcomes for children). “Getting the child what the child needs requires sophisticated lawyering skills,” Duquette points out. “With this study, we should be able to find out what it is lawyers do that contributes to a successful outcome.

“We expect that advocacy that rests on engagement with the child, accommodating the child’s point of view, and using non-adversarial conflict resolution means as much as possible, will not only lead to better outcomes for children but also do so at overall less costs to the government.”

Duquette and fellow Michigan Law Professor Frank Vandervort helped conduct a QIC-ChildRep training session in Hutchins Hall this summer. Child welfare lawyers from both participating states and Michigan attended, as did analysts from Chapin Hall.

“This is the most methodologically sound research project ever in child welfare law,” Duquette notes. “The problem has always been we don’t know empirically what makes a good lawyer.”

And given Duquette’s 30-plus years of experience in blazing a trail for child welfare advocacy, that problem suddenly may be a lot closer to being solved.—JM
I'll take 'Course Correction' for $400, Alex

Jeopardy! host Alex Trebek read the answer behind the $400 marker in a quiz column labeled, in cryptic Jeopardy! style, “Course Correction.” The answer? "Dropped Bankruptcy for Bloodfeuds, at this Ann Arbor univ.’s law school ‘cause Bloodfeuds sounded awesome!"

And probably before contestant Kartik Venguswamy—himself an attorney—could spit out the correct response ("What is the University of Michigan?") of course, Professor William I. Miller’s sprawling clan of former students already had begun texting, emailing, and Tweeting the news. At least one alum whipped out a cell phone and captured the answer in close-up.

“I took Bloodfeuds my 3L year, and by the time the first commercial break was over, my classmates and I were on Facebook buzzing about it,” said another alum, Joseph Wang, ’10. “Brought back fond memories.”

Miller’s colleagues were buzzing with good-natured ribbing, too. “Miller probably always hoped that he would be famous enough to be an answer in some trivia game,” said Associate Dean Mark West. “How brilliant is it that when he actually is part of a trivia game—and a nationally televised one at that—the answer comes in the form of a question?”

As for Miller himself, the Thomas G. Long Professor of Law was modest, as befits a man who has, in his own words, dedicated his scholarly life to writing about “emotions, mostly unpleasant ones involving self-assessment, and select vices and virtues.”

“Wouldn’t it be my luck to make it to Jeopardy! as an irrelevant sidebar to a question any sentient six-year-old could answer?” Miller wondered. “No wonder they marked it down to 400 bucks. My modesty is thus no virtue, but forcefully imposed upon me. At least I can take some solace in not having some kid drop Bloodfeuds for John Pottow’s bankruptcy course. There’s a guy who ought to be looking to take revenge on Trebek.”

Pottow wasn’t so sure he agreed. “It seems the type of student who would drop my bankruptcy class for Bloodfeuds based on ‘awesomeness’ might actually be better off as a result,” Pottow said archly.—JM

Translating the Meaning of Art

When U-M Museum of Art officials needed more information about a sculpture they had acquired, which was made in Cambodia of decommissioned weapons, they asked Clinical Professor of Law Nick Rine for help. Rine and his wife spend much of their time in Cambodia, so they were able to meet with the artist, Ouk Chim Vichet, in person on a recent visit. Their conversation led to a greater understanding of the meaning behind the sculpture, Apsara Warrior.

The piece had become a favorite of tour groups, especially schoolchildren, who were drawn to the giant female divinity figure made of decommissioned AK-47s and other weapons from Cambodia’s 25-year civil war. Docents at the museum previously knew little about the sculpture, until Rine filled in the gaps.

“In traditional Cambodian art, there are figures known as apsaras, which do a kind of dance that is a strenuous and graceful sort of ballet,” Rine notes. “This figure is aggressive and is in a somewhat uncharacteristic pose, and she is breaking an automatic rifle. The apsara is going to conquer brutality with beauty and grace.”

The piece came about through the Peace Arts Project Cambodia, which was designed to promote non-violence and young Cambodian artists.
New Faculty

Two legal professionals with expertise in financial economic history, law and development, corporate and securities law, and international mergers and acquisitions joined the Law School faculty this fall.

**Hwa-Jin Kim**, professor of law and business at Seoul National University School of Law, is a William W. Cook Global Law Professor at Michigan. He also teaches at Seoul National University Business School. He taught international corporate governance at Michigan Law in 2010, at Tel Aviv University Faculty of Law in 2009, and at Stanford University School of Law in 2002. Before joining academia in September 2006, Kim practiced corporate and securities law in Korea from 1998 to 2006 and in Switzerland from 1995 to 1998. He advised and worked for or with global investment banking houses in their international mergers and acquisitions and capital market transactions.

Kim has advised the Office of the President of Korea, the Korea Fair Trade Commission, the Korea Financial Supervisory Service, and the Ministry of Justice of Korea. He is a member of the board of directors of the Korea Association for Chief Financial Officers, Korean Financial Investment Association, and STX Corporation, Korea. He also is a member of the Voting Committee of the Korea National Pension Fund and chair of the Korea Investment Bankers Forum. He previously served as a member of the Specialist Chapter of the National Economic Advisory Council to the President of Korea.

Since 2003, he regularly has written op-eds for leading financial newspapers in Korea and received extensive media coverage for his work, speeches, and testimonies before the Korean National Assembly. In addition, he won the Book Prize from the Korean National Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2005 and 2010 (in business and law, respectively). He is a member of the New York Bar.

Kim received his BS in mathematics from Seoul National University in 1983. He received a DrJur, magna cum laude, in 1988 from Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany, where he was an Adenauer Scholar and worked with Professor Bruno Simma. He received an LLM from Harvard University Law School in 1994.

**Veronica Santarosa** is an assistant professor of law. Her research interests include law and economics, financial economic history, and law and development. Her current projects examine, both empirically and theoretically, how legal innovations and political institutions affect firms and financial markets now and throughout history.

Santarosa holds a BA in economics from Ibmec Business School in Brazil, an LLB from the University of São Paulo, an EMLE from the University of Hamburg, and an LLM from Yale Law School. In May 2011, she completed her PhD in economics at Yale University. She is the recipient of numerous fellowships and awards, including the John F. Enders Summer Fellowship, the Economic History Association Dissertation Fellowship, and the Yale University Graduate Fellowship.

Santarosa was a teaching assistant from 2007 to 2009 at Yale University, where she taught introductory and intermediate microeconomics and American and European economic history. She is teaching law and the history of economic institutions of capitalism at Michigan this fall, followed by contracts in the winter.—LA
In the News

“*The system will be gamed. There will be people trying to get the government to publish scurrilous information and people flooding the government with information.*”

—Sallyanne Payton in a Federal Computer Week article about public comments on government e-dockets.

AUGUST

Daniel Crane talks to the Reuters news service about Google’s purchase of Motorola Mobility.

Leonard Niehoff, ’84, talks with AP and other media outlets about the First Amendment ramifications of San Francisco’s public transit authorities shutting down a cell phone network to prevent a protest.

Theodore St. Antoine, ’54, tells the Detroit Free Press that the political mood in Michigan is likely to hurt striking Central Michigan University professors.

JULY

Michael Barr addresses the new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Dodd-Frank Act, among other topics, in The New York Times, on NPR, and in other media outlets.

Bridgette Carr is quoted in a Detroit News story about an arrest in a sex slavery case.

John Pottow explains the ramifications of the liquidation of Borders to numerous media outlets.

JUNE

Mark Rosenbaum receives coast-to-coast news coverage of a lawsuit that says the Department of Veterans Affairs misused a campus in Los Angeles and has failed to provide stable housing to veterans suffering from severe cases of post-traumatic stress disorder or other mental disorders.

Catharine MacKinnon is cited in a New York Times op-ed that argues our current dysfunctional political discourse effectively silences opposition in much the same way pornography silences women.

Adam Pritchard talks to Reuters about accounting scandals at U.S.-listed Chinese companies.

MAY

Steven Ratner is quoted on NPR and in media around the world on the legality of bin Laden’s killing, how it transpired, and whether it would have been legal for President Obama to release photos of the corpse.


Jessica Litman helps the ABA Journal sort out copyright issues in the case of a trove of priceless recordings from the golden age of jazz that lie unheard.

“*If a judge is willing to impose a sentence within the statutory limits, then perhaps that is within the judge’s province, but if they are compromising fundamental fairness and individual sentencing, that can become problematic.*”

—Eve Brensike Primus, ’01, in a Detroit Free Press story about a judge’s policy of sending first-time drunken drivers to jail.

“*It’s a complicated question as a legal matter. A lot of it depends on whether you believe Osama bin Laden is a combatant in a war or a suspect in a mass murder.*”

—Steven Ratner in a Reuters story about the legality of the killing of bin Laden.
Faculty Write About Lovesick Japan, Losing It, and Law Quad Benefactor Cook

Professor William Miller is losing it. “What of my clearly decaying scholarly capacities? Of being unable to continue learning or, if able, then unable to retain what I have recently learned? I can’t even come up with words like refrigerator or kitty litter and must endure my wife’s hand gesture of irritated contempt to ‘get on with it,’” he writes in his new book, Losing It (with a subtitle so long that we don’t have room for it in the magazine).

Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Mark West assumed he would discover through research that by-the-book Japanese judges “do not concern themselves with legally trivial matters of the heart.” Instead, he found out that “love mattered mostly in criminal cases, not in cases about marriage and divorce, in which love is trotted out for the sake of showing its unattainability,” he writes in Lovesick Japan: Sex*Marriage*Romance*Law.

Longtime director of the law library Margaret Leary, who recently retired from the post, grew fascinated with William W. Cook, 1882, the benefactor of the first buildings on the Law Quad, as she learned more about his life and times. “This man remains unknown to the thousands who have benefited from his wealth. In my opinion, this is wrong. Cook deserves wider recognition for all he accomplished,” she writes in Giving It All Away: The Story of William W. Cook & His Michigan Law Quadrangle.

Here, we excerpt the three new books and their references to Saturn devouring his son, judges as arbiters of emotions, and a man perceived—wrongly, some would say—as prickly and prejudiced. Enjoy.

For video interviews with the authors, visit www.law.umich.edu/quadrangle.

Losing It

By William Ian Miller
Yale University Press, New Haven, Connecticut, 2011

A competently socialized person knows that a welcome has a half-life; he senses when to leave, graciously saving the host from having to hint that it is time to do so. The adept actor anticipates a hint before it needs to be given. But we make mistakes, and sometimes misread the situation. It is one thing to misread by ten minutes when we should have left a dinner party, and quite another to misread by ten years when we should have left the job, or by thirty years when we should have left off breathing. Since age takes its toll on our perceptual acumen, we may lose the capacity to discern even the heaviest handed of hints, nor are we in any mood to take the hints we do perceive. Instead of taking our leave we mobilize politically and demand third and fourth helpings, to be put up for the night too, thirty more years of nights, our bodies still insisting on staying long after our minds have lost the ability to know we have put our hosts in the poorhouse.
To hell with taking polite leave: there are more of us merry old souls than ever before, and we vote, which the young, whom we fleece, are less likely to do, and will be outnumbered even if they do show up at the polls, mightily armed as we are with obedient mortality tables. The withered hands of the old are now rather more powerful than they were in earlier times; it does not take much strength to feed a ballot into a voting machine, or to send in an absentee one if your arthritis is acting up.

As western populations age the costs of maintaining the old could justly activate in the young an image of the old as so many Cronuses and Saturns, devouring their offspring. (The myth or truth of the cannibalistic old is of long standing.) The riotous and stoned youths of the sixties, now in our sixties, who did much to pave the way for our no-gratification-left-behind culture, take to this mythic role with no shame, cramming our craw with everything in sight, not caring that it is chunks of our children and grandchildren that are the tenderest meat on our well-presented plate.

Me Cronus? Occasionally I flatter myself that I am earning my keep, contributing more than I am consuming. And unlike those football players and boxers who do not know when to quit, professors, like me, cannot be cut. Tenure and age discrimination laws let us keep working, which somehow does not seem the right word. Besides, there are always a couple of lazy colleagues whose real contribution to the enterprise is to make less lazy ones feel like we deliver value for the price. Never mind that my keep would fund four entry-level scholars in history or anthropology who are now unemployed: I still have kids of my own to feed, though I might be feeding them with someone else’s. Self-deception and wishful thinking, looking on the bright side in a self-interested way, keep us conveniently colorblind to our real value, seeing black when the ink is red. Or simply not caring if it is red, when we see it.

What of my clearly decaying scholarly capacities? Of being unable to continue learning or, if able, then unable to retain what I have recently learned? I can’t even come up with words like refrigerator or kitty litter and must endure my wife’s hand gesture of irritated contempt to “get on with it.” Can I ever get lost in a book again without my mind wandering? I have always been suspicious of those parents who claim that their dull normal and badly behaved children are really geniuses suffering from Attention Deficit Disorder and need to be dosed with Ritalin. But now it seems, in some kind of poetic justice, that I have ADD, the only difference being that I really do have it. My doctor actually prescribed Ritalin for me, which, as it turned out, my health insurance refused to cover for anyone over 18. Not willing to pay the unsubsidized price, my avarice, itself an attribute of old age, has kept me Ritalin-free.

Everything distracts me. Being interested in something has become unmoored from my ability to attend to it. Ambient noise, intrusive trivial thoughts, email, stock prices, Green Bay Packer blogs, variously and predictably plague me. Ambient quiet is distracting too and sent me to the Internet to buy a white-noise machine. I interrupted the writing of this paragraph to play a game of Solitaire, and then when I lost, I allowed myself to play until I won, and then one more in case I won two in a row, and then I kept on until I won two in a row. Says the ancient rabbinical Pirke Avot, The Ethics of the Fathers, some 1800 years ago, “If a man is walking by the way and is studying and then interrupts his study and exclaims: ‘How beautiful is this tree? How beautiful is this plowed furrow?’ Scripture considers that it is to be regarded as if he has forfeited his life (or as if he bears guilt for his soul).”

Has Nemesis gotten even with me for the contempt I did not quite disguise for the dead wood of twenty years ago, by making me petrified wood in the eyes of my younger colleagues? You see them, don’t you, giving signals that they want to break off the conversation you are holding them to almost out of spite, but desperately too, telling them, oh, just one more thing, but talking faster as a concession to your perceiving in some primitive part of your brain that you are boring them silly, which they can perceive that you can perceive and so on in an infinite regress. You even find yourself following them down the hall as they head for the hills, still chattering at them, self-destructively unable to break off.
Cook not only gave away money, he inspired (or “flogg’d,” to use his word) his architects to do their finest work for him. What did he hope to achieve with his generosity? Who was this man? Who did he love? What did he read? Who were his friends? How did he make his fortune? How did a native of tiny and remote Hillsdale, Michigan, come to be a wildly successful Manhattan lawyer who would make the largest personal gift ever to the University of Michigan? Finally, why is it that he often traveled to Hillsdale to visit his family but never once returned to Ann Arbor after his 1882 law school graduation? Cook was never in the physical presence of the buildings that came to grace the University of Michigan campus through his passionate efforts and generous gifts. Is it possible to understand this man?

Cook, who earned Michigan undergraduate (1880) and law (1882) degrees, was a shrewd strategic thinker and indefatigable workaholic who had dual careers as a lawyer and a writer before he became a sophisticated and visionary donor. He was an early giant in the field of corporation law. With the help of Cook’s pioneering work, the corporation became the driving force behind America’s capitalist industrial expansion. He accomplished this through his job with the Mackay telegraph and cable companies and as a major writer of his time on corporation law.

Cook shaped the development of the first global telegraph and cable system. His widely published scheme for the reorganization of America’s railroads became a bill that was considered but never passed by Congress. His ideas about the future of legal research have proven accurate, for the most part, and have made possible an ambitious, effective research program at Michigan Law. Cook believed that the law book of the future would be written by scholars, not practitioners, and that the best way to improve the law was by restating the accumulation of centuries of case law.

Cook’s primary motivation was his desire to preserve American institutions. He also wanted to demonstrate the value of private giving. His crowning accomplishment was his gift to Michigan, valued in 1931 as one-third of all the university’s financial support from sources other than public funds or student fees. The road from his original vision to success, however, held many obstacles: financial, psychological, interpersonal, legal, economic, and institutional. How Cook overcame those barriers gives us the story line of his biography. This man remains unknown to the thousands who have benefited from his wealth. In my opinion, this is wrong. Cook deserves wider recognition for all he accomplished.
Lovesick Japan: Sex* Marriage*Romance*Law

By Mark D. West

In this book, I use a comprehensive body of evidence—2,700 publicly available court opinions—to explore a particular vision of love, sex, and marriage in Japan. The opinions are from diverse areas such as family law, criminal law, torts, contracts, immigration, and trusts and estates. They reveal an important, official perspective on how real individuals in Japan confront the painfully human issues that surround love, sex, and marriage.

Court opinions usually contain facts, analysis, decisions, and commentary. Sometimes judges’ views of love, sex, and marriage emerge from the presentation of the facts. Among the recurring factual elements in the case law are work-induced commuter marriages, abortions forced or at least prompted by men, compensated dating, late-life divorces, termination fees to end affairs, sexless couples, Valentine’s Day heartbreak, “soapland” bath-brothels, and home-wrecking hostesses. In many cases, these elements are irrelevant to the judgment, and yet judges choose to include them in the narrative anyway.

Sometimes it is the nonfactual elements of the opinions that are most revealing. Especially when combined with the facts, these portions—analysis, decisions, commentary—often suggest broad problems in love, sex, and marriage. Love, for instance, is highly valued in Japan, but in judges’ opinions, it usually appears as a tragic, overwhelming emotion associated with jealousy, suffering, heartache, and death. Other less debilitating emotions and conditions, including “feelings,” “earnestness,” and “mutual affection,” appear in unexpected areas of the law such as cases of underage sex and adultery. Sex in the opinions presents a choice among (a) private “normal” sex, which is male-dominated, conservative, dispassionate, or nonexistent; (b) commercial sex, which caters to every fetish but is said to lead to rape, murder, and general social depravity; and (c) a hybrid of the two in which courts commodify private sexual relationships. Marriage usually has neither love nor sex; judges raise the ideal of love in marriage and proclaim its importance, but virtually no one in the cases achieves it. Instead, married life is best conceptualized as the fulfillment of a contract.

Taken as a whole, the judges’ opinions describe a Lovesick Japan. By “lovesick,” I do not mean languishing with love as a teenager might pine for a sweetheart. Nor do I use lovesick as a substitute for loveless (lacking love) or lovelorn (the pain of unrequited love), though aspects of each apply. In this book, I use the word “lovesick” to describe a society in which a complex set of chronic and evolving problems is revealed in the ways people conceptualize and discuss love and the related components of sex and marriage. In the court opinions, lovesickness most often appears as a presupposed absence of physical and emotional intimacy, affection, and interconnectedness in personal relationships, an absence that stands in stark contrast with courts’ clear recognition of the value and significance of other emotions.

As I analyze Lovesick Japan, I also explore the role that law plays there. In a previous book, Law in Everyday Japan, I showed the extensive role of law in everyday scenarios such as employee working hours, lost and found, and karaoke noise complaints. Those findings contrasted sharply with the traditional view of Japan as a place where law takes a backseat to harmony, hierarchy, and relationships.

In this book, I show that the influence of law in Japan is more pervasive still, and in a very important arena: Japanese judges, who have significant discretion, play a surprisingly direct role as arbiters of emotions in intimate relationships. Take love. We tend to think of love as a warm, spontaneous emotion that lies on the opposite end of the spectrum from cold, calculating law (and lawyers?). Law is about rules; love (and for that matter betrayal, forgiveness, tragedy, endurance, and the rest of the spectrum) is natural and free.

But the cases show that love is inextricably linked with law. In case after case, Japanese judges opine on, and in one type of case actually are required by statute to determine, whether a person is in love, what other emotions a person is feeling, and whether those emotions are appropriate for the situation. In some cases, judges even determine whether a person’s love is “natural,” as opposed to some other kind of love. When judges eschew formalistic legal analysis and conduct a more visceral examination of emotions, they highlight the illusory nature of the line between what we think of as “law” and what we think of as “nonlaw” in an area that is central to being human.

These findings emerged from the cases to my surprise. I began this project after a discussion in my Japanese law class as to whether the Japanese Supreme Court in an important divorce case should have considered the love (or lack thereof) of the spouses. To follow up, I searched Lexis’s online database of approximately 200,000 Japanese cases for cases involving love. I assumed I would find that-by-the-book Japanese judges do not concern themselves with legally trivial matters of the heart.

I was wrong: I found love in the cases. But I found that love mattered mostly in criminal cases, not in cases about marriage and divorce, in which love is trotted out for the sake of showing its unattainability. I then expanded my search beyond love to marriage and divorce cases to see what, if not love, informed and motivated judges’ decisions in those areas. That examination, and in particular an exploration of a long line of adultery-related marriage and divorce cases, led me to broaden my search to cases involving sex, as I found that the three concepts—love, sex, and marriage—were so intertwined in the cases that they needed to be examined together for each to make sense.
The doors are opening. The window is closing. And you’re invited.

The doors are those of South Hall, our beautiful new academic building, and the Robert B. Aikens Commons. In November we will dedicate the Aikens Commons and celebrate the generosity of Ann and Robert Aikens, ’54. In January, current Michigan Law students will become part of Law School history as the first group to attend classes in the building’s five classrooms and three seminar rooms; to get hands-on legal experience in the Clinical Law suites; and to seek services from the Career Planning, Financial Aid, and Admissions offices as they are housed under one roof for the first time in many years. These are memorable times for Michigan Law.

The window is your chance to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime project. We are still seeking private support for the Law Quadrangle South Hall and the Aikens Commons, giving you the chance to be part of Law School history as well. All gifts of $50,000 and greater will be recognized on a permanent display in South Hall. But that window soon will close.

One person gave the resources to build the Law Quadrangle: William W. Cook. Today we have (and need!) hundreds of alumni and friends who believe in the need for the project, have committed personal resources to advance its progress, and soon will celebrate one of the most significant milestones in this great institution’s distinguished history. Will you be among them? I hope so.

That’s the message we want to send to future generations of students: That hundreds of their predecessors cared enough to want to educate them in the best possible facilities. That, in turn, it will be their privilege and their obligation to pay their good fortune forward to future generations.

And finally, my invitation: Join us. You can do so by calling our office at 734.615.4500. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Todd M. Baily
Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations
As a new 1L, Joe Seiger first reacted to Michigan Law like so many other law students: He was awestruck.

“I was quite taken with the architecture, and by how capable all the other students seemed,” says Seiger.

Appropriately, Seiger and his wife, Randee, BA ’67, have made a gift of $250,000 to the building project, to be recognized with the naming of an interview room in the Career Planning suite in their honor—a space that pleases Randee because it will touch so many students’ lives.

The Seigers, of Los Altos Hills, California, met at U-M, he a native of Washington, D.C., she a native of Michigan whose family ties to the University go back to the 1930s. Joe came to law school interested in real estate development, and after clerking for then-Professors Beverley Pooley and Terry Sandalow, was certain of his career path: “They were very much an influence,” he recalls.

After two years in Washington, D.C., where Joe held public sector jobs and earned a master of law degree from George Washington University, the couple moved to the San Francisco Bay area, their home ever since.

Joe served as assistant general counsel of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency and general counsel to a publicly held real estate company, then in 1973 founded Vintage Properties, of which he remains a principal. The company’s portfolio includes a range of complex residential, commercial, and mixed-use projects honored for their design. As a volunteer, he advised on the development of a recently completed building for the Contemporary Jewish Museum of San Francisco.

Randee has pursued a career in the arts, dancing, creating ceramics, designing interiors, and cofounding a community outreach program, now a quarter-century old, that brings dance to underserved children. The couple has two adult children.

The Seigers have also endowed a scholarship fund benefiting students interested in public service, whose beneficiaries include Professor Eve Brensike Primus, ’01.

They were inspired to increase their building support to its current level after a construction tour last summer. Joe says, “I am very pleased with the building.” “Buildings are important to us,” adds Randee, “and we understand how they impact a community, its reputation, and its appeal.”
Building Support
Dee Brown, BA ’70, and Dickson Brown, BA ’68, JD ’71

After Dickson Brown’s first law-firm interview in New York City, he and his wife, Dee, left for the airport three hours early. The native Midwesterners couldn’t wait to leave the city behind. Even when Dickson took a job with Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, the couple was firm: Three years, then back to our roots. They stayed for 37 years.

“I loved my job,” says Dickson, a tax law specialist. “I can’t imagine doing anything more interesting than what I worked on over the years.”

The couple met on a blind date as undergraduates at Michigan, where he majored in economics, she in journalism. They married when Dickson was in law school, then went to New York “so Dee could be a buyer at Bloomingdale’s,” as Dickson says (which, in fact, she was), and so he could practice corporate law, for which he thought the city was the place to be. Over time, tax work proved more satisfying.

“I liked the intellectual challenge of putting puzzles together,” he says. “And the people I worked with had good attitudes about their work and their lives.”

The Browns found a suburban community they loved, “a great place to raise kids,” says Dee, who gave up the 24/7 retail life for jobs she could juggle as a working mom: Welcome Wagon lady, then real estate sales.

“Through selling real estate, I was exposed to local lawyers, and I said, ‘I can do a better job than that,’” Dee recalls. She enrolled in a local law school (in order to be home when the couple’s two young sons got home from school), graduated, and built a successful community-based practice, primarily in trust and estate and real estate work.

Now retired, the Browns live in Naples, Florida, and maintain homes in Charlottesville, Virginia, and Ann Arbor, where they can be part of their six grandchildren’s daily lives. Son James and his family live in Charlottesville. The Ann Arbor contingent includes son Kincaid (known as K.C.), BA ’94, JD ’96, MS INF ’98, head of electronic systems services, a reference librarian, and webmaster at the Michigan Law Library; his spouse, Nancy Vettorello, MUP ’92, JD ’97, a professor in the Legal Practice Program; and their three children.

Closely tied to Michigan Law, the Browns have supported the building project with gifts totaling $500,000 and are thrilled that its traditional design matches the existing buildings. As Dee observes, “Any picture you ever see of U-M features the Law Quad.”

Dickson says their support also recognizes Dean Caminker’s “terrific” leadership and is made in thanks for the support and opportunities provided by Michigan Law.

“The project was needed,” he says, “and I like to see Michigan continue to be a first-rate national and international law school to attract people in competition with any law school in the country.”
International Student Support

Jean-Louis Joris, LLM ’75

In today’s global law environment, it’s hard to recall a time when few European lawyers studied abroad and few American law firms practiced across borders. Jean-Louis Joris remembers it well. Having joined Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP in 1975, he has been part of a pioneering age of internationalization at his firm and in legal practice worldwide.

Joris, of Brussels, credits the Michigan LLM as his passport to an extraordinary career—“an adventure,” he says. In appreciation, he has made a gift of $250,000 for international student support, matched by $125,000 from President Mary Sue Coleman’s Challenge for the Student Global Experience.

Joris came to the United States to study amid the emerging trend at that time for American law firms to be present in Europe (often through an office in Brussels), in order to meet the needs of American multinational corporations there more successfully than local lawyers. As the Brussels bar sought to protect its interests, Joris thought, “Why don’t we go study in the U.S. to learn what those guys know that we don’t?”

He did just that, via an exchange fellowship between Michigan Law and the Flemish University of Brussels, his European alma mater. He arrived in Ann Arbor in August 1974. Joris found the Socratic method refreshing; he enjoyed the luxury of choosing six elective classes; he was impressed by the teaching of J.J. White, ’62.

“But the most important thing was being in an international atmosphere,” he says. “That has led me to advocate in my own firm for the quasi-requirement that all European associates must get an LLM in the United States.” In doing so, Joris believes, the associates get the benefit of analytical legal training plus exposure to American culture, the better to serve American and international clients.

Joris’s 37-year relationship with Cleary began with the simple desire for a call-back interview to spend a weekend in New York. Offered a job as an associate, he worked first in New York, then in Brussels, where he became a partner in 1983. He spent most of his career in mergers and acquisitions, always in cross-border transactions.

Married to a psychologist and the father of three grown children, all professionals, Joris says his gift is also inspired by the desire to thank the school that gave him a fellowship and the fact that American universities depend on the generosity of their alumni to stay strong.

“In continental Europe, higher education is basically free,” he says, “whereas in America, I don’t have to tell you that it’s getting to what I believe are absurd numbers. Since I’ve benefited enormously from the American educational system, I wanted to give something back.”

Building Support

Bruce Featherstone, ’77
and Robert Gorlin, ’77

For evidence that lifelong friendships are forged at Michigan Law, look no further than Rob Gorlin (left) and Bruce Featherstone, 1977 alumni who became friends while working together on the Michigan Law Review, of which Gorlin was editor-in-chief and Featherstone an articles editor. Now Gorlin and Featherstone have collaborated on another enterprise: support for the building project, combining their gifts to make a joint commitment of $1 million. In recognition, they will name the unique, round seminar room on the first floor of South Hall, the new academic building. Featherstone is a founding partner of Featherstone Petrie DeSisto LLP, a Denver litigation boutique specializing in complex civil litigation. Gorlin currently serves on the board of directors for Guardian Industries Corp., of which he was formerly vice president and general counsel. The friends are pictured at the Capstone Ceremony held in October 2010 to celebrate the halfway point in construction of the project and the leadership donors who made it possible.
Since the founding of the Robert B. Fiske Jr. Fellowship Program for Government Service a decade ago, 30 Michigan Law graduates have launched careers in government service with its support.

In celebration of the program’s 10th anniversary, past and current Fiske Fellows gathered in Washington, D.C., on June 16 to toast the program’s benefactor, Bob Fiske, JD ’55, HLLD ’97, over dinner at the Dolley Madison House. Fiske, a senior counsel in the litigation department of Davis Polk & Wardwell—the firm he joined in 1955—has also had a full and distinguished career in public service. He served as independent counsel in the Whitewater investigation and as assistant U.S. attorney and U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York. He served and continues to serve on numerous appointed judicial commissions, including, recently, the seven-member Judicial Compensation Commission established by the New York legislature to determine the compensation of New York State judges for the next four years.

Fiske created the fellowship program believing that having a government service experience early in a professional career is a fulfilling path to pursue, and desiring to help Michigan Law graduates have that experience. Three Fiske Fellows are named annually. Fellows receive debt repayment assistance for three years on all educational loans and a first-year stipend.

“Each year, I am enormously impressed with the quality of the Fellows—their intellectual achievements, their dedication, and their clear promise of making significant contributions to public service,” says Fiske. “It has been my pleasure to see their careers grow and flourish, and it was wonderful to be with them again for the program’s 10th anniversary.”
In appreciation, the Fellows made a collective gift in Fiske’s honor to the summer fellowship program at Michigan Law and presented him with the University of Michigan seal, signed by all. In his toast, Ryan Danks, ’02, paid tribute to Fiske’s public service career and thanked him on behalf of all the Fellows.

Statements written for the occasion reflect the Fellows’ passion for their work and their appreciation of Fiske’s generosity. Maggie Smith, ’07, wrote, “I am extremely grateful to Mr. Fiske for putting this position within my reach,” echoing the words of other Fellows who said they could not have followed their chosen career paths without the support of the fellowship program.

“I am particularly honored to receive the support of Robert Fiske,” wrote Dana Kaersvang, ’06, “whose work in both government and the private sector demonstrates his success in living his values through his legal career.”
Scholarships

Southeast Michigan Scholarship Dinner

Scholarships play a critical role in keeping Michigan Law strong. They help attract great students, and in turn, great students attract great professors who want to teach them—all of which makes for a more dynamic and challenging learning community.

Every year the Law School hosts an event in Southeast Michigan to thank scholarship donors, also inviting scholarship recipients who have the chance to express their gratitude in person.

This year’s event, held March 26 at the Bloomfield Hills Country Club, was hosted by Alan Ackerman, ’72, a longtime major donor to the Law School, who reminded alumni of the importance of Michigan Law to their lives and careers.

Speaking on behalf of students were Jordan Peterson, the Wade Hampton McCree Jr. Scholar, and Cassie Weaver, a Dean’s Scholar. The McCree Scholarship was created by Howard Boigon, BA ’68, JD ’71, of Denver, who had the distinction of traveling the longest distance to attend the dinner.

Peterson and Weaver talked about their Law School experiences and assured the donors that their support of Michigan Law extends far beyond the Quad.

Dean Evan Caminker thanked donors for their generosity and vision as demonstrated by their support. “You are helping us do our jobs even better,” he said, “helping us to ensure that a legal education at the University of Michigan is really an unparalleled experience.”
Recent Gifts

Liz and Richard Burns, BA ’68, JD ’71, of Carefree, Arizona, major supporters of the building project, have made a gift of $100,000 to the Law School Fund in celebration of the Class of 1971’s 40-year reunion. Richard is vice president of business development and general counsel for a family-owned media company and of counsel to Hanft Fride in Duluth, Minnesota. He serves on both the Dean’s Advisory Council and the Development and Alumni Relations Committee.

Stacey and Christopher Caywood, BA ’82, MA ’83, JD ’86, of Kenilworth, Illinois, have made a gift for the building project in honor of the Class of 1986. Chris is president of online services for DeVry Inc.

Lynda, BA ’61, and Murray Feiwell, BA ’60, JD ’63, of Carmel, Indiana, have made an additional gift of $50,000 to the Feiwell Family Scholarship Fund, which they established in 2007. Murray was a founding partner of Feiwell & Hannoy in Indianapolis and now is retired from practice.

Geoffrey Gifford, ’71, of Chicago, has made a gift of $50,000 for the building project in honor of the 40-year reunion of the Class of 1971. Geoff is a partner and founder of Pavalon & Gifford in Chicago.

Ellen and Irv Hockaday, ’61, of Mission Hills, Kansas, have made a gift of $50,000 for the building project in celebration of the 50-year reunion of the Class of 1961. Irv is the retired president and CEO of Hallmark Cards Inc., and currently is a director of Ford Motor Company and Estee Lauder Companies.

Cyril Moscow, ’57, of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, has made a gift of $50,000 for the building project. He is a partner in the Detroit office of Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn LLP and an adjunct professor at the Law School.

Ruth and Brian O’Neill, ’74, of Minnetonka, Minnesota, have made a gift of $25,000 for the building project, bringing their total commitment to the project to $50,000. Brian is a partner in Faegre & Benson’s Minneapolis office and formerly headed the firm’s litigation practice.

Irving Stenn Jr., BA ’52, JD ’55, of Chicago, has made a gift of $100,000 to endow a new scholarship at the Law School. Irv is in private practice in Chicago.
From Selling Carpets to Starting Groupon

By Julie Halpert

When Eric Lefkofsky, ’93, was a first-year student at U-M, his friend’s father, who owned a carpet store, offered his son and Lefkofsky the chance to sell carpet remnants to students in dorms out of the back of a van, keeping half of the profits. By his sophomore year, Lefkofsky (who earned his undergraduate degree at U-M in 1991) and his partner, Noah Siegel, had sold $40,000 worth of carpet. One year later, the two took their business on the road, expanding to five universities and generating $300,000 a year in gross sales. “I realized that I liked making money,” says Lefkofsky. “I loved being an entrepreneur and figuring out how to get a business off the ground.”

Since then, he has proven himself to be one of the country’s most successful entrepreneurs. He’s the largest shareholder in Groupon.com Inc., which provides online coupons at significant discounts. The company reportedly had revenues as high as $760 million in 2010.

At age 42, Lefkofsky has been dubbed one of Forbes’ 15 “billionaires in the making” and a “serial entrepreneur.” Still, it’s not the money that motivates the Southfield, Michigan, native, but the thrill of taking an idea and turning it into a hugely profitable company. He owns 20 of them as cofounder of LightBank in Chicago, a venture fund that focuses on helping fledgling technology businesses thrive.

Lefkofsky says that he honed his business skills while at U-M: “Everything that ultimately I became as an adult was molded and touched when I was in Ann Arbor.” In his junior year, he used profits from the carpet business to launch Mascot Sportswear, which provided children’s clothes with college team logos for Big Ten universities. Within two years, it was generating more than $2 million in sales. Lefkofsky ran the company and managed the staff while juggling his undergraduate classes and, later, law school at U-M. “Some people watch TV, read books, or work out. This was my hobby,” he says.

After graduating, he immediately turned his hobby into a career by heading into business with Brad Keywell, ’93, who became a close friend in law school. The decision was a no-brainer. “I like helping build businesses and starting companies and bringing them to life,” Lefkofsky says. In brainstorming for the next big thing, he looks for concepts that “fix something that’s broken.” Specifically, Lefkofsky wants to harness the power of the Internet to fix that broken element. He’s drawn to businesses that can take advantage of social networks, such as Twitter and Facebook. Predicting what will succeed is “more of an art than a science,” he says.

Though he’s had his share of dark moments—one of his companies, Brandon Apparel Group, became mired in debt, for example—it hasn’t deterred him. “For me, failure is a great tool for learning. If you’re going to take risks and build businesses, not everything you do can be successful.”

Groupon was the brainchild of one of Lefkofsky’s employees, Andrew Mason. His initial business, called The Point, used collective action, through the Internet, to help people solve social problems. But it was unsuccessful, so Mason approached Lefkofsky about changing the focus, to apply the same concept to saving money instead of solving problems. Lefkofsky loved the idea. He agreed to become the initial investor, plunking down $1 million. The notion of the “group coupon” became Groupon in November 2008.

“Almost from its inception, the business began to take off,” Lefkofsky says. “We found a way to get people together and say here are things you can experience and buy, and it gets spread virally.”

Editor’s note: A version of this article first appeared on LSA Wire, the online complement to LSA Magazine at U-M. It is reprinted with permission.
1959

Wendell A. Smith has been chosen to receive the first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award from the New Jersey Chapter of the Community Associations Institute. The award recognizes his years of leadership at the state and national levels of the Community Associations Institute. He is a partner in the Real Estate Department and member of the Community Association, Land Use, Planned Real Estate, and Redevelopment Practice Groups at Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP.

1968

Lawrence Glazer’s book Wounded Warrior: The Rise and Fall of Michigan Governor John Swainson has been awarded the Independent Publisher 2011 Gold Medal for biography. The award was announced May 23 at the start of the Book Expo America convention in New York. The book was published by Michigan State University Press. Glazer served as a Michigan Circuit Judge for 15 years, retiring in 2003.

Edward Goldman, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Michigan Medical School and former associate vice president and deputy general counsel for the University of Michigan Health System, has been elected a fellow of the American Health Lawyers Association, the association’s highest honor. Currently the association has more than 10,000 members, of whom only 60 are fellows.

1969

Douglas Graham has been appointed vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary of Oil-Dri Corporation of America. Graham joins Oil-Dri from Exelon Corp., where he most recently served as assistant general counsel at its Commonwealth Edison Co. subsidiary, and focused on business counseling, governmental relations, compliance, and regulatory matters.


1971

Paul Alexander has joined Arnold & Porter LLP in its Silicon Valley office and will practice in the business litigation group. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. His practice has focused on civil trial work involving patent, trade secret, antitrust, unfair competition, and complex commercial litigation matters.

1969

Robert Vercruyssen, the president, founder, director, and shareholder at the labor and employment law firm of Vercruyssen Murray & Calzone P.C., recently served as moderator for a program presented by The Labor and Employment Law Committee of the Federal Bar Association, Eastern District of Michigan Chapter. Topics of the program included “Federal Summary Judgment Standard and Motions” and “Facilitating Settlement in the Federal System.”

1972

H. Patrick Callahan of Baker & Daniels LLP has been named to the national Board of Advisors of the Legal Sales and Service Organization, the only national organization focused on sales, service excellence, and process improvement in the legal profession. Callahan is a partner at Baker & Daniels, where he provides legal and business counsel to entrepreneurs, corporations, and other business and governmental entities.

1973

Wendy Cole Lascher has joined Ferguson Case Orr Paterson LLP in Ventura, California, and chairs the firm’s Issues and Appeals Practice Group. Lascher advises trial lawyers and handles civil and criminal motions, writs, and appeals for lawyers and clients throughout California.
1977

Gary W. Klotz has been elected chairman of the board of Community Choice Credit Union, a southeast Michigan-based credit union. He is an attorney and shareholder in Butzel Long's Detroit office, where he has represented employers in labor and employment law matters for more than 30 years.

James Spaanstra, a partner at Faegre & Benson, has been elected chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Colorado School of Mines. Initially appointed a member of the board of trustees in 2008, he has worked his entire 30-year career on major projects for extractive industries.

1978

Christopher A. Lewis, a partner at Blank Rome, has been named the firm’s chief diversity and inclusion officer. He will oversee the firm’s overall diversity initiatives and maintain his role as co-chair of the firm’s diversity committee.

Barry N. Seidel has joined the New York office of Dickstein Shapiro LLP as a partner in the firm’s Financial Restructuring & Bankruptcy Practice. His work includes representation of key stakeholders in the General Motors and Delphi bankruptcies, as well as numerous other companies impacted both directly and indirectly by major corporate insolvencies. He was previously a partner in the New York office of Butzel Long.

1979

Jonathan R. Breuning has joined Husch Blackwell’s Omaha office as a partner in the area of labor and employment law. Breuning has more than 30 years of experience representing public and private companies. He has practiced labor and employment law, health care law, and technology law as in-house counsel and in private practice.

Thomas Van Dusen of Bodman’s Troy, Michigan, office, was appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court to the Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions, which drafts standard instructions for juries in civil cases. He is a member of the Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution Practice Group at Bodman and has broad experience in the areas of commercial, insurance, and personal injury defense.

1980

G.A. Finch, a senior partner at Hoogendoorn & Talbot LLP in Chicago, was elected to the board of managers of the Chicago Bar Association and the board of directors of CBA Television Productions. He also received the Ida B. Platt Award from the Cook County Bar Association.

Teresita J. Herbosa was appointed by President Benigno S. Aquino III of the Philippines as chairman of the country’s Securities and Exchange Commission. Herbosa, a senior partner of the Angara Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz Law Offices, is a top litigation lawyer.

1982

Clarence (“Clay”) Armbrister, chief of staff to Philadelphia’s mayor and former executive vice president of Temple University, became senior vice president and chief of staff of The Johns Hopkins University in July. He works closely with the university’s president, Ronald J. Daniels, in coordinating initiatives across the university and managing short- and long-term priorities. He also oversees the finances and administration of the president’s office.

David C. Bahls has been elected managing officer of the Minneapolis-based law firm of Gray Plant Mooty. He previously served as the firm’s vice president and has been a member of its board of directors for 11 years. He represents businesses and individuals on their transactional tax planning and structuring needs.

Mark T. Boonstra, a principal in the Ann Arbor office of Miller Canfield, has been appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court to the Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions, which drafts standard instructions for juries in civil cases. He also was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder, ‘82, to the Michigan Judges Retirement Board for a term ending March 31, 2015. He represents the general public on the board, which oversees the Judges Retirement System Defined Benefit Plan. At Miller Canfield, he co-chairs the firm’s Appellate Section and serves as deputy leader of the Litigation Group.
Storytelling With a Beat

By Clarissa Sansone

When Glynn Washington, ’96, received his acceptance letter to Michigan Law, he was in Japan, just out of the shower, and wearing a towel, which, in the midst of his exuberance, fell to the floor—in front of the postman who had delivered the good news…. That’s the way Washington tells it, anyway, and if there’s one thing he knows how to do, it’s tell an engaging story.

In 2007, Washington—then the director of The Center for Young Entrepreneurs at UC Berkeley’s Haas School of Business—had the opportunity to put his storytelling skills to the test. Ever a fan of public radio, Washington lamented the suburbanized, sterilized direction in which he thought the medium had been heading. “I wanted to preserve my right to complain,” Washington says, so, to put some substance behind his words, when he heard about the Public Radio Talent Quest, he entered. With typical dramatic tension: Washington heard about the contest the day before the submission deadline, and stayed up all night, using Garage Band software to put together a two-minute submission.

More than three years, a few elimination rounds, and one pilot later, Snap Judgment premiered on public radio in the summer of 2010. Additionally, Washington launched a series of Snap Judgment television specials.

“Storytelling with a beat” is how Snap Judgment defines itself. “Our show is infused with a hip-hop sensibility,” says Washington. The “beat,” though, doesn’t only refer to the program’s pervasive musical accompaniment, but to the cadence and rhythm of a tale told well. And eloquently. “The show is very fast,” notes Washington; it features “upwards of nine” stories per hour. “This is the Internet generation,” Washington explains. “Forget the exposition. Get me to the story quickly and stop wasting my time.”

A quick retelling of Washington’s own colorful story, however, only skims the surface. Born in Detroit, Washington moved with his family to the countryside when he was still young. While there, the family joined an apocalyptic cult. While not a pleasant experience—in college Washington jumped at the chance to go to Japan “to clear my head” from the effects of doomsday preachers—being a member of The Worldwide Church of God nevertheless influenced his storytelling skills. “I studied at the feet of amazing charlatans,” he remarks. “It was a storytelling seminar of the highest order.”

Following college (Washington earned his bachelor’s degree in 1992, in addition to his 1996 JD, at U-M), he returned to Asia and did community development work. “I went to law school,” he explains, “as a tool to advance my nonprofit career. I’ve been running nonprofits since graduating from law school.”

His legal education and his storyteller’s gift both have served him professionally. “How you actually move policy is by getting people to understand the story you’re telling,” he says, “trying to get people to put themselves in someone else’s shoes.” And his law degree is a valuable tool in his current storytelling mission. “Being a host and telling a story is the very least of what I have to do. This is a start-up,” Washington says of Snap Judgment. He appreciates his “ability to analyze extraordinary amounts of information quickly,” which he learned at Michigan Law, and considers his law degree “probably more helpful than anything else” in “making sure this organization is sound.”

“One thing I took away from law school is that whoever tells the best story wins. A legal education is, in many ways, a storytelling education. You have to put your facts together in a way that is more compelling than the other guy.”

As with Washington’s nonprofit work, Snap Judgment also “tries to put somebody in someone else’s shoes.” And it isn’t as effortless as Washington makes it sound on his quick-paced show. “Writing’s hard,” he says simply. “Really good stories are crafted. It’s a very painful and deliberate process, but it’s got to sound like you just thought it up.” He adds, “I see storytelling as a type of alchemy,” with its ability to transport people to places they’d never go otherwise.

He gets practice every night, though, telling stories to daughter Bahia, 7, and son Quincy, 4. “They are the hardest core audience of all. Every night, they want a brand new story. It’s been tremendously helpful to my storytelling,” Washington says, “if they don’t dig it, they let me know in a hurry.”
By John Masson

Joe Burke certainly isn’t the first attorney to grind out a seemingly endless series of 14-hour days. But not many can say they grind those days out in a place like Lashkar Gah.

Burke, ’89, served until recently as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State in Afghanistan. His year-long posting as the senior American civilian in the British-led Provincial Reconstruction Team for Helmand Province had him helping to lead a group of about 120 civilians and a similar number of soldiers and Marines with the overarching goal of connecting the Afghan government to the Afghan people.

It was a tall order at times, says Burke, who worked for 15 years as a commercial litigator before joining the State Department.

“There’s an endemic culture here, a way of thinking that if you’re in government, the government is designed to help you and your tribe,” Burke says. “The notion that you’re supposed to represent all the people? There’s no history, there’s no culture of that here.”

But during the time Burke was in Afghanistan, the Obama administration’s counterinsurgency strategy placed more emphasis on protecting the Afghan people—and, more important, empowering Afghanistan’s government to protect its own people—than it did on killing the enemy. So strengthening the bonds of trust between the people and the Afghan government became more important than ever.

Burke helped facilitate that trust-building by working closely with the provincial governor. One step down the chain, he supervised State Department colleagues in District Stabilization Teams in 10 of the 12 districts that make up Helmand Province.

“It’s starting to work. ... I can see the people are more connected to thinking the government can be a solution—even though they don’t have a history here of trusting the government,” Burke says. “Establishing that connection between the people and the government is key, because that connection will lead the Afghan people to reject the Taliban insurgency rather than depending on foreign troops.”

The challenges were unrelenting. Much of Helmand Province is unforgiving desert—the temperature one early May day in Lashkar Gah, west of Kandahar and about 400 miles southwest of the capital, Kabul, was 105 degrees. What little fertile ground is available—a narrow greenbelt on the banks of the Helmand River—helps the province grow poppies that produce half the world’s heroin.

Furthermore, Burke adds, the fates placed Afghanistan in the middle of one of the world’s most fractious regions, with nearby neighbors such as Russia, Pakistan, Iran, and India all jockeying for position.

During the summer, Burke began his next assignment: working at the U.S. Mission to the European Union in Brussels as an economic officer. While Belgium stands to be considerably more temperate in both climate and politics than his previous posting, he hasn’t forgotten Afghanistan, or the way he customarily kissed the photos of his wife and three small children before he strapped on his body armor and emerged into the desert heat of Lashkar Gah.

“This is not Philadelphia in 1776, not by a long shot,” Burke says. “But we’re trying to plant some seeds so the government can begin to represent all the people—to give the people an opportunity to have a government that isn’t perfect, but is at least trying.”

Michael P. McGee, a principal and public finance lawyer in the Detroit office of Miller Canfield, has received a 2011 Outstanding Service Award from the Michigan Municipal League for his longtime commitment to the league and Michigan’s communities. At Miller Canfield, McGee has served as bond counsel and underwriters’ counsel for hundreds of transactions in various areas, including economic development, transit, and transportation.

C. Daniel Motsinger, a partner at Krieg DeVault, was elected chair of the board of directors of the American Board of Certification of Bankruptcy and Creditors’ Rights Attorneys for 2011. His experience in creditors’ rights, bankruptcy, and commercial law spans more than 25 years, and he has been certified in business bankruptcy by the ABC since 1994.

Daniel B. Tukel, shareholder and chair of Butzel Long’s Labor and Employment Law Department, is a winner of the Thomas M. Cooley Law Review 2011 Distinguished Supreme Court Brief Award, presented in June. The award is given in recognition of the most scholarly briefs filed before the Michigan Supreme Court, as determined by a panel of jurists. The brief for which he was honored addressed the issue of the proper venue for a discrimination claim alleging violation of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act.

George Vincent, managing partner and chairman of the board of directors at Dinsmore & Shohl, was selected as the 2011 chair of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber.

Sara Zivian Zwickl of Zivian & Zwickl in Bingham Farms, Michigan, along with Robert Zivian, ’95, was featured in an article by the State Bar of Michigan about lawyers providing pro bono assistance in a family law case.

Jose D. Padilla has been named to the national board for the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education by United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. Padilla also was named one of 100 influential Hispanics in the nation in the October 2010 issue of Hispanic Business magazine. He is vice president and general counsel of DePaul University in Chicago.


Emil Arca has joined Hogan Lovells US LLP as a partner in the firm’s New York City office. He previously was a partner with Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP for 16 years. His practice is focused on international debt capital markets and structured finance transactions originating in emerging markets throughout the world.

Robert A. Boonin, attorney and shareholder with Butzel Long and a frequent speaker on labor and employment matters, was featured at the Society for Human Resource Management’s Annual Conference & Exposition in Las Vegas in June. He also is chair-elect of the Wage and Hour Defense Institute.

Robert M. Heinrich has joined Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP as a partner in its Trusts and Estates Department. He will be located in Honigman’s Oakland County, Michigan, office. Heinrich will concentrate his practice on estate planning and wealth management for high-net-worth individuals.

Thomas O. Bean has joined Verrill Dana, LLP as a partner in the firm’s Litigation and Trial Group, based in the Boston office. He represents companies and individuals in business disputes, companies experiencing financial distress or dealing with suppliers or customers in financial distress, and commercial lenders.

Eric Brunstad, a partner at Dechert LLP, was awarded his LLM from the Yale Law School in June, was accepted into Yale’s JSD program, and anticipates completing his dissertation by the spring of 2013. He has taught a variety of courses at Yale during the past 20 years, including bankruptcy, secured transactions, and federal jurisdiction, and also has taught at Harvard Law School. He is currently working on a revised course book on secured transactions with J. J. White, ’62, the Robert A. Sullivan Professor of Law.
Megan P. Norris was re-elected to serve a two-year term as managing director of Miller Canfield in Detroit. She is a principal at the firm and is leader of the Labor and Employment Law Group. Norris is a nationally recognized expert on the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Kevin Tottis has been named to the Executive Committee of the Association Internationale pour la Protection de la Propriété Intellectuelle’s U.S. Group. He also chairs the Copyright Law Committee of the American Intellectual Property Association. He heads a commercial and intellectual property boutique firm in Chicago.

Reginald Turner, a member of Clark Hill in Detroit, has been appointed chair of the American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession. The commission is a partnership between corporate legal departments and law firms working together to create leadership and economic opportunities for diverse lawyers within the ABA and the legal profession.

Bradley C. Weber, a partner in the national law firm of Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell, has been elected chairman of the Dallas Bar Association for 2011. He works out of the firm’s Dallas office.

1988
Cathy Ann Bencivengo has been nominated by President Obama to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. She is a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of California, based in San Diego, a position in which she has served since 2005. Prior to joining the bench, she spent her entire legal career at the law firm now known as DLA Piper US, LLP, beginning as a litigation associate in 1988 (when the firm was known as Gray Cary Ames & Frye), and becoming a partner in 1996. At the law firm, her practice focused on intellectual property litigation, and she served as national co-chair of the firm’s Patent Litigation Practice.

Mark H. Brain has been appointed a judge of the Maricopa County (Arizona) Superior Court. He previously served as a commissioner for the same court, presiding over juvenile cases. Prior to his appointment as a court commissioner, he worked for the law firm of Fennimore Craig from 1988 to 2002 and the firm of Peshkin & Kotalik from 2002 to 2006, specializing in civil matters.

Gabriel (“Jack”) Chin has joined the faculty of the University of California at Davis School of Law after eight years on the faculty of the University of Arizona College of Law. His teaching and research interests are immigration law, criminal procedure, and race and law. He previously held faculty appointments at the University of Cincinnati College of Law and Western New England College School of Law and has been a visiting professor at New York University School of Law.

Douglas Graham has been appointed vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary of Oil-Dry Corporation of America in Chicago.

1989
Jennifer L. Sherman has been appointed chief administrative officer of the Federal Signal Corporation, Oak Brook, Illinois. In addition to her current duties as senior vice president, general counsel, and secretary, Sherman is responsible for the Corporate Services Department encompassing all legal, human resource, government affairs, and IT functions. She resides in Hinsdale, Illinois, with her husband, Douglas Cherry, ’89, and their five sons.

Paul Thompson has joined the law firm of Dorsey & Whitney LLP as a partner in the Corporate Practice Group in the firm’s Denver office. His practice focuses on U.S. and cross-border banking and credit finance matters, cross-border joint ventures and acquisitions, and U.S. securities matters. He previously was a partner at Holme Roberts & Owen LLP, where he led the International Practice Group.

Christine M. Castellano has been appointed vice president, international law, and deputy general counsel of Corn Products International Inc., a global ingredient provider to the food, beverage, brewing, and pharmaceutical industries as well as numerous industrial sectors. In April, she also received the American Bar Association International Law Section’s Outstanding Corporate Counsel Award.
In Good Hands

By Lori Atherton

There’s no typical workday for Michele Coleman Mayes, ’74. It would be misguided to expect otherwise from the executive vice president and general counsel of Allstate Insurance Company.

“I wear multiple hats, depending on the needs of the company,” she says. “It varies, and that’s what makes it challenging. At the end of the day, I’m here to assist my clients to achieve their business objectives in a way that manages risks.”

Mayes joined Allstate in 2007 and took the helm of one of the largest legal departments in the country, comprising nearly 600 lawyers and an equal number of professional and support staff. The size of the legal department and the complexity of the legal issues, coupled with the opportunity to work for an iconic brand and try different initiatives, was intriguing to Mayes.

“I like challenges, and this is an industry I knew little about,” she recalls. “The joke was, I didn’t even own a car, because I lived in New York City for years and didn’t need one.”

Mayes began her career with the U.S. Department of Justice, serving as assistant U.S. attorney in Detroit and Brooklyn. She transitioned into the corporate sector six years later, working first at the Burroughs Corporation (later Unisys), then Colgate-Palmolive Company and Pitney Bowes before joining Allstate.

Becoming a general counsel, Mayes says, “was not my idea.” A former Burroughs officer planted the seed by asking if Mayes had considered the role. “She piqued my interest, and from that discussion, I started to think about it more reflectively.”

She made her aspirations known to her then-boss, who, according to Mayes, said she wasn’t ready for the role. He promised to help prepare her, and when he moved from Unisys to Colgate-Palmolive in 1991, he asked Mayes to join him. For the next 11 years, she held various positions that afforded her the legal and business experience needed to become general counsel.

“What I really enjoy is dealing with people and all the relationships I must have in order to perform this role well,” says Mayes, a member of Allstate’s senior leadership team. “I really get a charge from being the leader of the department. I work with many in-house lawyers who are trying to manage their careers, and I like helping them to develop the risk appetite and courage to do what they can do instead of just what they are doing.”

Mayes shares her insights in the forthcoming book Courageous Counsel: Conversations with Women General Counsel in the Fortune 500, of which she is coauthor with Kara Baysinger, a partner at SNR Denton. The book includes profiles of about 40 women, including Mayes, whose reason for participating “is to inspire people and change expectations. There are currently 94 or 95 (female) GCs in Fortune 500 companies. That shouldn’t be the pinnacle.”

Mayes—who earned her undergraduate degree at U-M in 1971—says of her time at Michigan Law: “It was a very rigorous experience that prepared me well for both life’s uncertainties and also all of its positives. You can never underestimate honing the skill of critical thinking. Really being able to dissect what’s being told to you to see if it stands up to scrutiny—that’s the training you receive from institutions such as Michigan.”

Gregory T. Everts has been named the dean and Mitchell Franklin Professor of Law at Tulane University School of Law. Previously he was associate dean for academic affairs and law professor at the University of Illinois College of Law. A leading scholar of constitutional and family law, Meyer represented the United States as the national reporter on family law at the past three congresses of the International Academy of Comparative Law and has lectured and published extensively on family law.

James R. Marsh has been honored by Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (New York) with its first Child Advocacy Award. Marsh is the founder and former executive director of Children’s Law Center in Washington, D.C. A managing partner of The Marsh Law Firm PLLC, he is a commentator and author on legal issues affecting children.

David Meyer has been named the dean and Mitchell Franklin Professor of Law at Tulane University School of Law. Previously he was associate dean for academic affairs and law professor at the University of Illinois College of Law. A leading scholar of constitutional and family law, Meyer represented the United States as the national reporter on family law at the past three congresses of the International Academy of Comparative Law and has lectured and published extensively on family law.
Ron Wheeler’s recent paper, “Does WestlawNext Really Change Everything: The Implications of WestlawNext on Legal Research,” made the Weekly Top 5 Papers on the Social Science Research Network (SSRN) for the week of March 11, 2011, and was published in the summer 2011 issue of Law Library Journal. The article can be found at ssrnblog.com/2011/03/11/weekly-top-5-papers-march-11-2011/. Wheeler is an associate professor of law and director of the law library at the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Christopher A. White has been named managing director and head of investment banking at Janney Capital Markets in Philadelphia. He has extensive Wall Street experience and has been involved in all aspects of business operations, including investment banking, sales and trading, research, and general management. He joins Janney from Cowen Group Inc., where he held a number of senior management positions, including chief of staff and chief operating officer.

1991

Stephen L. Scharf was hired by Brooks Kushman as a senior attorney based at the firm’s Southfield, Michigan, headquarters. Scharf will further expand the firm’s trademark practice with his more than 20 years of IP law experience and specialized focus on domestic and international trademark matters, including trademark registration, enforcement, protection, and dispute resolution.

Daughter of the Killing Fields

After the country’s ruling regime held her captive, killed her parents, and executed people in front of her and other imprisoned children, one might assume that Theary Seng, ’00, would want to stay far from Cambodia. Yet she has chosen the country of her birth as her permanent home, and is the founder of the Cambodian Center for Justice & Reconciliation and the founding president of CIVICUS: Center for Cambodian Civic Education. Her goal with the two organizations is to pursue justice for people who were victimized by the Khmer Rouge or whose family members were buried in the regime’s “killing fields.” Seng also hopes to see a revitalization of her homeland.

“Cambodia has been known for its killing fields and only for the killing fields. But within the past several years it is also known for its beauty, for its history, its temples, for tourism.”

The southeast Asian country also is known for the Khmer Rouge Tribunal (also called the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, or ECCC). The court tries serious crimes perpetrated during the 1975–79 Khmer Rouge regime, which was responsible for the genocide of an estimated 1.7 million people.

“Yes, we are trying crimes that were perpetrated against Cambodians,” says Seng, who moved with surviving family members to Grand Rapids when she was nine and to southern California after that. “But they were really crimes against humanity, against human dignity.”

Seng—author of the memoir Daughter of the Killing Fields (Fusion Press London, 2005), which will be available for the first time in North America in an updated version to be published by Seven Stories Press (NYC) later this year—became the first victim of the Khmer Rouge to apply and be accepted as an ECCC-recognized civil party. In 2008, she testified against the most senior surviving Khmer Rouge leader, Nuon Chea, also known as Brother Number Two because he was second in command to Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot. Seng testified at the pretrial hearing of Chea, whose UN trial for crimes against humanity began during the summer.

“Under the reign of Mr. Nuon Chea,” Seng said in her testimony, “when I was seven years old—my brother Daravuth [who also was imprisoned] even younger at four years old—I was put in prison where there was no due process. Arbitrary arrest, no charges made or given, arbitrary detention, inhumane conditions, shackles. The graves were my playground.”

Seng’s training as a lawyer has given her a keener insight into the tribunal process in Cambodia, as well as a platform for speaking to broad audiences. Her memoir and her testimony have made Seng one of the most visible Cambodians to speak on behalf of the Khmer Rouge’s victims. She speaks frequently at international conferences and in the media, including CNN, the BBC, and many documentary films.

“When I was at Michigan Law School,” she recalls, “I knew I wanted to be back in Cambodia. Part of wanting to be a lawyer was wanting to give voice to the entanglements back in Cambodia.”—KV
1992

**Greg Gulia**, a partner at Duane Morris and head of the firm’s international trademark practice, entertained the crowd at the firm’s International Trademark Association reception held at the Grand Hyatt in San Francisco in May. A professional musician, Gulia sang and played harmonica for the more than 600 trademark lawyers and others in attendance.

**Charles K. Maier** has been elected vice president of operations for the Minneapolis-based law firm of Gray Plant Mooty. His wide-ranging legal practice includes complex business litigation, disputes involving closely held and family-owned businesses, and product liability cases, among others.

**Daniel D. Quick**, a member at Dickinson Wright PLLC, was named chair of the Civil Procedure and Courts Committee of the State Bar of Michigan for 2011–2012. He also was elected to a three-year term on the Oakland County Bar Association Board of Directors. He specializes in commercial and intellectual property litigation.

1993

**Jeffrey D. Moss** has joined Dawda Mann PLC in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, as a member, practicing in the areas of tax law, business and medical transactions, estate planning, and tax-exempt nonprofit matters.

**Chris Nicastro** was named vice president, general counsel, and secretary for Bridgestone Americas Inc. in Nashville, Tennessee. He and his wife, **Linda Popovich Nicastro**, ’93, live in Brentwood, Tennessee, with their three sons.

**Kathryn R. L. Rand** became dean of the University of North Dakota School of Law on July 1, after serving as interim dean for the past two years. She is the 16th dean and the first woman to serve in that capacity in the law school’s 112-year history. She is a leading scholar in the area of Indian gaming law and is an elected member of the American Law Institute.

1994

**Jeannette E. Albo** has joined the Miami office of Jackson Lewis LLP as of counsel. She will continue to represent management exclusively in the area of employment litigation.

**Otto Beatty III**, co-owner of Columbus, Ohio–based E.E. Ward Moving & Storage Co. LLC, an agent of North American Van Lines Inc., and Specialized Transportation Inc., has been selected to join the National Minority Supplier Development Council Inc. Centers of Excellence (COE). The COE program enhances successful business relationships between corporations and Minority Business Enterprises by strengthening corporate minority supplier development processes. The COE provides corporations with access to exemplary Minority Business Enterprises, thereby aligning corporate desires to better serve their diverse markets and customers.

1995

**John Babala** has joined the international law firm of McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP as a partner in the firm’s corporate practice in its Los Angeles office. He serves as outside corporate counsel to companies operating in a broad array of industries, and works on mergers and acquisitions, private equity transactions, and capital markets and securities, as well as general business matters.

**Stephen Penner**, a deputy prosecuting attorney with the Pierce County Prosecutor’s Office in Tacoma, Washington, in May obtained a four-count murder conviction against the getaway driver for the man who murdered four Lakewood Police officers in November 2009. In addition, the fourth title in his children’s book series, *Professor Barrister’s Dinosaur Mysteries*, was released by Ann Arbor publisher Nimble Books LLC.
Robert Zivian of Zivian & Neilson in Bingham Farms, Michigan, along with Sara Zivian Zwiclk, ’82, was featured in an article by the State Bar of Michigan about lawyers providing pro bono assistance in a family law case.

1996

Nathaniel (Nate) Cade Jr. has joined the Milwaukee office of Gonzalez, Saggio & Harlan LLP as a partner in the firm’s Litigation Practice Group. He handles products and professional liability cases, as well as complex commercial litigation, construction law, and insurance defense matters. He also serves as the firm’s general counsel because of his ethics and risk-management experience.

Amy J. Durant of Bodman PLC’s Ann Arbor office participated in a panel discussion on “Hot Topics” as part of the retail lending track at the Michigan Banking Association BEST (Bankers Education Summit & Trade Show) Conference.

Rafael R. Lagos has been appointed as an associate justice of the Sandiganbayan, an anti-corruption court, by the president of the Philippines.

Michael J. Thomas has authored an article, “Bar Admission Reform Through Selective Litigation: My Michigan Example,” which appeared in a July 2011 issue of the weekly New Mexico lawyers’ publication the Bar Bulletin. The article summarizes his efforts, which led the Michigan Supreme Court to amend the bar admission rules to allow a resigned State Bar of Michigan member to gain admission on motion on equal terms with others having sufficient practice experience. Thomas is a senior attorney at the Carrillo Law Firm, P.C., in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Read more in an alumni profile about Thomas in the March 2011 issue of Amicus, the Law School’s online newsletter.

1997

Clayton Marsh has been named deputy dean of the college at Princeton University after serving as university counsel since 2002. Marsh will direct a number of academic programs and initiatives, and advise undergraduates interested in pursuing independent concentrations.

Matthew Miner was named partner at White & Case in Washington, D.C., in May. He focuses his practice on white-collar enforcement and compliance matters, as well as congressional inquiries and committee investigations. Previously, he was Republican staff director for the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee.

1999

Benjamin A. Zainea was elected to the management committee of Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones. He specializes in general business law, real estate law, estate planning, banking law, securities and finance, mergers and acquisitions, franchise law, tax law, and sports and entertainment law in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

2001

Khalilah V. Spencer has been named partner with Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP and practices in the litigation department in the firm’s Detroit office. She advises and represents corporate clients in a wide range of commercial litigation matters, including automotive supplier contract disputes and Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) arbitrations and class actions.

2002

Joshua B. Dobrowitsky has been elected principal of Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C., a national intellectual property law firm. His practice in Troy, Michigan, involves preparing and prosecuting patent application in various technical arts, including wing and control surface design, aerodynamic testing, automotive design, biomedical systems, internal combustion engines, home improvement items, and electro-mechanical systems.

Benjamin Mizer has been appointed senior counsel in the Office of Legal Counsel at the U.S. Department of Justice.

2003

David Blanchard has been promoted to a principal of Nacht, Roumel, Salvatore, Blanchard & Walker. He focuses his practice on federal and state court litigation and appeals in employment, civil rights, government fraud and abuse, police misconduct, and criminal defense matters. He is president of the Michigan Employment Lawyers Association and president of the Washtenaw Association for Justice.

Spencer P. Goodson has been hired by Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman, the largest health care focused law firm in the country, in its Indianapolis office. Goodson’s practice focuses on the areas of business transactions and services, as well as health information systems. He often advises clients on issues pertaining to technology and intellectual property.

2004

Diego Bernal won a June election to become a member of the San Antonio, Texas, City Council. He has been the staff attorney at the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund in San Antonio for the past six years, previously worked as a social worker, and has released two well-received hip-hop albums.
Serving Those Who Served the Country

By Sandra Svoboda

Most of Brian Pandya’s appearances in federal court involve biotechnology or computer software. Sometimes, though, he deals with very different issues: military injuries dating as far back as the Second World War.

Pandya, ’04, is an associate with Wiley Rein law firm in Washington, D.C., where he specializes in patent work. He also volunteers with a Federal Court Bar Association program to screen cases for veterans who want to challenge the denials of their medical claims from the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). If the cases have sufficient merit, a volunteer from the Federal Circuit Bar Association then represents the injured servicemen and women in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

“It’s a good way to get experience working before the Federal Circuit, and it’s all the better because you can help people that served in the armed forces,” Pandya explains. “They served the country and a lot of them need help afterward getting the benefits they are owed by the government.”

His pro bono clients are veterans of conflicts as early as World War II and up to the recent Afghanistan and Iraq deployments who have had their disability benefits denied by the CAVC.

“The big challenge is trying to establish a connection between the injury they may have suffered when they were in the military and their condition today,” Pandya says. “That’s what makes these cases interesting.”

In screening the cases, Pandya must find a procedural error in the court’s decision for the appeal to proceed since the appellate court doesn’t determine errors of fact.

“You hate to see a case where the veteran has a meritorious claim and you think the CAVC made a mistake denying the benefits but there is no legal issue to raise to get the case up to the Federal Circuit,” he says.

While some of the cases end with heartbreaking denials, Pandya is encouraged by what he calls a growing awareness and changing mindset in the military of the long-term effects of service-related injuries.

“A lot of what you see is somebody who suffered an injury while they were serving, not a battlefield injury but maybe they jumped out of a helicopter, injured their back, and had more pressing things to think about when they were on the battlefield,” he says. “When they were discharged, they never got the condition treated, and now, 30, 40 years later, they have debilitating arthritis. I think, from what I’ve seen, people are now more conscious of such injuries.”

Pandya, a mechanical engineering major at Penn State University, grew up in western Pennsylvania. While at Michigan Law, he met his wife, Julie, and they now live in Arlington, Virginia, with their son. His volunteer work recently was recognized by the Federal Circuit Bar Association with his 2011 Pro Bono Advocacy Award.

Manu Bhardwaj accepted a position as senior advisor in the U.S. Department of State, focusing on international communications and information policy. Prior to this assignment, he was also a political appointee in the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Rebecca Chavez has been promoted at The Kitch Firm in Detroit. She is an associate principal and concentrates her practice on corporate transactions.

Seth A. Drucker has been named partner with Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP. He practices in the Commercial Law, Bankruptcy and Reorganization Department in the firm’s Detroit office. His practice focuses on representing secured and unsecured creditors, debtors, and landlords in commercial bankruptcies, and advising clients regarding industry-specific bankruptcy issues.

Daniel W. Linna Jr., a partner with Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn LLP, recently participated in a webinar entitled “Joint Defense Agreements: Benefits, Pitfalls and Best Practices.” The webinar was presented by the Commercial Litigation Committee, Business Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan. He represents clients in a variety of commercial disputes in state and federal courts, including bankruptcy courts.

Natalia Medley has been promoted to a counsel in the firm of Crowell & Moring LLP, based in the firm’s Washington, D.C., office, where she specializes in the Torts and Product Risk Management groups. Prior to joining the firm, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Noel Anketell Kramer in the District of Columbia Superior Court and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.
Angela Walker has been promoted to a principal of Nacht, Roumel, Salvatore, Blanchard & Walker. She litigates employment discrimination cases in state and federal court and devotes a significant portion of her practice to counseling employees and job seekers about disability accommodations, medical leave issues, and discrimination issues. She is the president of the Washtenaw County branch of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan.

2005

Erin L. Dickinson, an attorney in the Akron, Ohio, office of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP, was selected to participate in the Ohio State Bar Association’s Leadership Academy.

Christina A. Doyle was promoted at The Kitch Firm in Detroit. She is an associate principal with the firm and focuses her work on the defense of hospitals and health care providers in professional malpractice litigation, primarily in the areas of obstetrics, gynecology, and neonatology.

Leah Goodman has been elected to the City Council in Warrenville, Illinois. Her four-year term began May 2, after she won the April election for the seat. Alderman Goodman is also a cofounder, along with Sue Wang, ’05, of Clarity Law Group LLC, a law firm representing small businesses and startups at flat rates, which was profiled by The Washington Post last year.

Fadi Shaheen, LLM, SJD, is a new faculty member at Rutgers School of Law–Newark. He has been an associate in the Tax Group at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP. His scholarship and teaching interests are international taxation, U.S. taxation, tax policy, and tax and economics. His most recent publication is “International Tax Neutrality: Revisited,” published in Tax Law Review (2011).

2006

Chad Doobay, an associate in Katten Muchin Rosenman’s Public Finance Department in Chicago, has been honored with the firm’s Pro Bono Service award in recognition of his pro bono representation of asylum seekers, including individuals from Chad, Kazakhstan, and Zimbabwe, among other countries. He is also a member of the Leadership Council of the National Immigrant Justice Center, a Chicago-based organization that advocates for immigrants and refugees.

2008

Lyzette M. Bullock, an attorney in Quarles & Brady’s Phoenix office, has been elected to a two-year term on the board of directors of the Maricopa County Bar Association. She is a member of the Commercial Litigation Group and her practice focuses on general litigation, including contract disputes and criminal defense.

2009

Jason Miller, an associate in the litigation practice of Sherman & Howard in Denver, has been named to the seven-member Board of Appeals in the City of Lakewood, Colorado.

2010

Pat Mobley, who served as a 2010 summer law student in Legal Services of Eastern Missouri’s Children’s Legal Alliance, has re-joined the nonprofit organization as a Skadden Fellow. As part of this unit, he will provide educational advocacy services for children with special needs.

Matthew J. Neale has joined Miller Canfield as an associate in the Kalamazoo, Michigan, office. He focuses his practice on corporate law, specifically startups, mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructuring, and venture capital.

Elizabeth J. Sanders has joined Miller Canfield, representing the Ann Arbor and Chicago offices as an associate in the Corporate Group. Her practice focuses on a full range of business services for various business enterprises, including multinational corporations, publicly held companies, and joint ventures.
IN MEMORIAM

1930s
William J. Heyns, ‘37 4/2/11
Lewis G. Kearns, ‘37 9/10/10
Robert F. Rouse, ‘37 10/25/10
Edward H. Dembowski, ‘38 7/18/11

1940s
Clayton Jay Burrell, ‘40 4/7/11
Eugene Gressman, ‘40 1/21/10
Hon. John Feikens, ‘41 4/15/11
Prentiss Godfrey, ‘41 3/16/11
Alfred M. Swiren, ‘41 6/16/11
Richard H. Wills Jr., ‘41 4/2/11
Edward Branchfield, ‘42 4/11/11
Ben Zion Gotlib, ‘42 2/24/11
Eric Stein, ‘42 7/25/11
Quentin A. Ewert, ‘46 3/19/11
J. Leonard Hyman, ‘46 7/18/11
Robert G. Bayley, ‘47 6/25/11
Thomas L. Dalrymple, ‘47 4/4/11
A. Ney Eldred, ‘47 6/30/11
George B. Woodman, ‘47 2/28/11
Warren E. Carbery, ‘48 7/5/11
Robert B. Duncan, ‘48 4/29/11
Bernard E. Longo, ‘48 4/5/11
James M. Wienner, ‘48 4/17/11
Gilbert A. Deibel, ‘49 7/20/11
Robert F. Ellsworth, ‘49 5/9/11
William F. Snyder, ‘49 6/6/11
Henry Arthur Supplee, ‘49 6/11/11

1950s
Hon. James T. Corden, ‘50 7/3/11
Albert J. Greffenius, ‘50 6/3/11
Max B. Kogen, ‘50 6/10/11
Ernest A. Mika, ‘50 6/3/11
John R. Carpenter, ‘51 4/27/11
Hon. Jon Jitsuzo Chinen, ‘51, LLM ’52 4/14/11
John Lambert, ‘51 5/4/11
Angus S. McSwain Jr., LLM ’51 5/29/11
Richard J. Bahls, ’52 5/9/11
Richard J. Darger, ’52 4/17/11
Harry Tomio Tamura, ’52 7/28/10
F. Stuart Wilkins, ’52 3/29/11
Gordon Harry Smith Jr., ’53 5/3/11
Frank L. Zagelmeyer III, ’53 6/5/11
Larry J. Burke, ’54 6/23/11
James T. Frost, ’54 12/7/10
Rinaldo L. Bianchi, ’55 12/27/10
Ronald V. DeBona, ’55 12/23/10
John M. Webb, ’57 4/25/11
Harrison P. Dilworth III, ’58 6/21/11
William W. Stodghill, ’58 4/18/11
Gerald D. Tupper, ’58 6/30/11
Edwin S. Bean, ’59 5/15/11
Joel K. Bohmert, ’59 6/17/11

1960s
Robert S. Bolton, ’61 6/9/11
Don Albert Davis, ’62 3/16/11
James M. Wilsman, ’64 4/15/11
Gerald J. Laba, ’65 7/4/11
George J. Glendening, ’66 7/5/11
John K. VanLoon, ’66 7/22/11
Richard S. Barker, ’67 5/18/11
Frederick Ethan Fischer, ’68 6/17/11
Robert Kenneth Keim, ’68 5/17/11

1970s
William B. Raymer, ’73 5/14/11
Michael R. Flaherty, ’76 3/19/11

1980s
Philip Grant Meyers, ’81 9/16/10
Lynda L. Lowry, ’89 11/24/10
J. Douglas Toma, ’89 5/4/11

1990s
Kevin M. Pimentel, ’99 6/25/10
Evidence and Torts met there. Senators spoke there. Once, *To Kill a Mockingbird* was screened there. Yet Hutchins Hall Room 150 was not exactly beloved. “Say goodbye to 150 HH on your way out—it will, thankfully, never be the same,” Michele Frasier Wing, ’98, director of finance and planning, wrote in a construction update at the end of 2009. The unattractive classroom has been transformed into what has become a hub of law student life: the Kirkland & Ellis Café, which serves cold and grilled sandwiches, salads, lattes, and more.