Ready for the Real World
The Right Dean at the Right Time
10 Things I Never Imagined Doing As Dean—And What I Learned from Them

Almost 10 years ago, I began my deanship with ambitious aspirations for the Law School’s growth and development, primarily with respect to faculty enhancement, facilities expansion and renewal, and curricular reform. While I had a general sense of how to accomplish these objectives, I had very little understanding of how the journey would actually unfold. While in the main the journey proceeded in fairly predictable fashion (many faculty meetings; many more with alumni), there were a number of twists and turns along the way that I never could have predicted. And in many ways, it is these meanderings—some exhilarating, others humiliating—that I recall best as I look back on my tenure.

- The road not taken: I frequently tell Michigan Law students and alumni that the School will open wonderful and sometimes surprising doors for professional advancement, if only they’re ready to seize the opportunity. I rue the day when I failed to practice what I preach. President Obama was the University’s commencement speaker in May 2010, just after Justice John Paul Stevens announced he would soon retire from the Court. After a photo-op with all of the campus deans, President Obama asked the group, “Which one of you is the Law School dean?” After I identified myself, he continued, “Soon there will be a new opening on the Supreme Court, and I’ll need to come up with some good candidates; perhaps I should speak with you about that.” I hesitated awkwardly, and then replied something namby-pamby like “Sure, I’d be happy to do so.” I will always regret failing to respond with the words that were screaming through my brain: “Thank you, Mr. President, I accept.”

- Michigan Law and boyhood dreams: I grew up near Los Angeles as a Dodgers fan, with Sandy Koufax’s famous Yom Kippur/World Series story being told around the dinner table, and with Sandy adorning the first-ever sports poster in my room (only to be largely obscured some years later by Farrah Fawcett, but c’mon, who can blame me?). But it was Michigan Law that eventually introduced me to my boyhood idol. I first met Sandy at a dinner hosted by his high school teammate and close friend Fred Wilpon, U-M ’58, at his Mets’ brand-new CitiField, while we celebrated the establishment of a Collegiate Professorship (to which Fred generously contributed) in honor of Branch Rickey, ’11, and his breaking of baseball’s color line by signing Jackie Robinson.

We were joined at the dinner table by Branch’s grandson Branch Ill and Jackie’s widow, Rachel, and I listened carefully to cull Sandy’s secret to success from his riveting stories. I met Sandy again while hosting him in Ann Arbor along with Attorney General Eric Holder, prior to the AG’s delivery of a stirring commencement address at which Sandy’s grand-niece walked to receive her degree. It is perhaps my greatest honor to now hold the Branch Rickey Collegiate Chair; through it I feel an emotional connection to one of the great and underappreciated pioneers of racial integration, who also happened to sign my boyhood idol to his first baseball contract.

- Slick moves in fundraising: My very first official day on the job, adjunct professor Tim Dickinson, ’79, entered my office and said he wanted to be the first person to give me a discretionary gift to support my wish list. I thanked Tim effusively, and watched him take out his checkbook. He asked me to whom the check should be made out, and I said (and I quote): “Uh, mmm, ah, hmmm, that’s a good question… I have a gut feeling it should not be me; can you maybe come back tomorrow?”

This awkward moment was perhaps surpassed by the time I was in the middle of a $1 million pitch to an octogenarian alumnus and was doing a pretty damn good job of it too… until I realized that the sound of the air conditioner was actually the alumnus softly snoring.

Here’s one that wasn’t my doing. President Mary Sue Coleman hosted a fundraising dinner for me and the medical school dean at an alumnus’ home in Florida. She gave an impassioned speech about the importance of private philanthropy for the Law School’s building project and for the new Mott Children’s Hospital. And then she inadvertently summed up her pitch: “So please give generously to our Law and Medical schools; you can either help to educate lawyers or help to save the lives of babies.” I don’t think the lion’s share of the gifts that evening came our way.
• **Comparative law and medicine:** The first time I visited Beijing as dean, I was supposed to stay for two days. I ended up staying more than a week. Who knew you can self-diagnose appendicitis on the internet? Fortunately, my colleague Prof. Nico Howson, being our resident China expert, knew exactly where to take me…to the general practice floor in a maternity hospital, the Beijing United Family Hospital. Actually, it was a wonderful experience, if one has to have one’s stomach cut open. My friend and Assistant Dean for International Affairs Virginia Gordan was also with me, and she and Nico took turns nursing me back to health and purchasing surprisingly cheap first-run American movie DVDs for the big-screen TV in my private room. They even threw me a birthday party, complete with a cake I couldn’t eat and two adorable little Chinese girls just the same age as my own, who Nico claimed were family friends. All in all, it was better than the previous time I tried to visit Beijing, when I found out at the airport in Los Angeles that I had forgotten my passport and had to ask Professor Mark West to re-route his own flight to Asia so he could bring it to me (why do you think I voted for him to succeed me as dean?).

• **Cruising to…Qatar?** Given the breadth of our alumni base, I expected (and greatly enjoyed) many trips to the corners of Europe and Asia, and wish I could also have visited our alumni in many other continents around the globe. But I never would have predicted a decade ago that I’d take a field trip to Doha and consider the possibility of a collaborative educational program with the Qatari government in their Education City. To be clear, the persistent rumor that I tried to move the entire Law School to Qatar just to secure cheaper building costs was somewhat exaggerated. I recall wonderful visits with foreign dignitaries who shared the laudable aspiration of improving their citizenry through higher education. And I also recall sand. Lots and lots of sand. Which, in the end, is what the Qatari proposal was built on.

• **Highest court in the land at the Big House:** I’ve been fortunate to spend time with many Supreme Court Justices in their beautiful Courthouse. South Hall’s groundbreaking and dedication gave me the opportunity to host two on even more hallowed turf. Both Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. and Associate Justice Elena Kagan began their respective games rooting for our opponents—Roberts for Notre Dame because he grew up a Fighting Irish fan in Indiana, and Kagan for the Air Force Academy because, as she put it, “the same person signs our paychecks.” I never did get the Chief to sing “The Victors” or don his ceremonial winged construction helmet, though he was an exuberant sports fan until the last 11 seconds of the game. I did, however, enjoy roaming the Michigan sidelines for half a quarter with Justice Kagan, whom I had to restrain from running onto the field to overturn a holding call.

• **Will the real unicorn please whinny?** For years I heard competing groups of alumni from different years at the School claim credit for sneaking a unicorn into Dean Stason’s courtyard to advertise the Crease Ball. And for years I chalked the conflicting stories up to a combination of faulty memories and the natural human tendency to believe “I was there.” But when we did research for the 150-Year history of the Law School sesquicentennial commemorative, we discovered that there actually were two different unicorn stories, the first involving a sorry-looking horse and the second an even sorrier-looking donkey. I guess history really does repeat itself (though I still say, a donkey? Really?).

• **Can’t we all just get along? Yes, actually:** Starting the deanship just after the Grutter decision meant I was immediately thrust into an impassioned policy and legal debate that divided our student and alumni body just as much as the national polity. Given the Court’s decision, I generally fielded questions and challenges from those on the political right, and I hope I helped people find some common ground sufficient to recognize the difficulty of the issue and the reasonableness and good faith of those on both sides. I would not then have predicted that the rest of the protests I would face as dean would come from the political left, from students and alumni disappointed with certain of my Commencement speaker invitations. I tried to turn each of these concerns and protests into teachable moments, convening town halls and smaller meetings in an effort to enhance appreciation for the value of reasoned discourse even on some of the most contested issues of the day. Wherever members of the Michigan Law community stand on the political spectrum in general and these issues in particular, I hope we can all stand together to support the notion, central to the ethos of higher education in a democracy, that collegial conversation is the best way forward.

• **Beams and bricks and mortar, oh my:** As dean I knew I’d be responsible for directing the efforts to design and build a new building and commons and renovate much of the rest of campus. I had no clue that I’d end up becoming an expert on the difference between split- and seam-faced granite, or on the color and warmth of reading lights, or on bi-level acoustical properties. I also had no clue that I would end up inadvertently creating a hidden wall cavity in which I could, if I wanted, hide a body or two (and no, I’m not telling you where it is). Of course, using the space thusly would probably hurt the rankings.
• Emails I never imagined sending: I think this one speaks for itself:

Date: Thu, 12 Aug 2010 17:23:54 -0400
To: lawall@umich.edu
From: Evan Caminker <caminker@umich.edu>
Subject: strong candidate for “strangest thing I have ever had to request as dean”

We’ve had a couple of incidences this week where some occupants—and I am reasonably confident it was two different people—sitting in the western-facing bank of offices in the Stacks Building have emptied leftover coffee from their cups by pouring it out their office windows. Perhaps one could engage in reasoned debate over the propriety of that means of liquid disposal anytime between 1958 and 2010. Perhaps.

But of course now there are construction workers milling about underneath those windows, and there are some fairly obvious reasons to want to keep them whistling while they work, and yet several of them are a bit disgruntled about their recent exposure to raining coffee. There is also new and as-of-yesterday-unstained stonework under many of those windows, and one day soon there will be a beautiful glass roof. I understand old habits die hard. But for those of you who currently inhabit those offices—and let me add those of you who later this month will be re-inhabiting those offices, and those of you who might one day in the future inhabit those offices, and those of you who might at any time visit those offices—let’s please refrain from tossing coffee, or anything heavier than a lofty idea or the occasional invective, out the Stacks windows.

Best, Evan

While I remain pleased and proud of the School’s many tangible accomplishments over the past decade—from facilities renewal to faculty development to reformed curricular strategies—it is the more quirky recollections such as these, sublime and truly ridiculous, that populate my reflections. Perhaps that’s the Michigan Difference—we are serious, without taking ourselves too seriously. Our community is quirky, in a good way—how else does one characterize a Lawyers Club gargoyle carrying a football? And our community is all the more lovable for being so.

And in hindsight, these and other stories constitute more than a list of stray recollections. Each in its own right generates or reflects an important lesson about leadership, or life—including, for example, an invaluable lesson I learned from Sandy Koufax. When I asked him who was the most important batter for him to get out during a game, he gave an answer I didn’t expect: the hitter who went to the plate right before Hank Aaron. Most other pitchers focused on the big guys, trying to strike out the likes of Aaron, Willie Mays, and Mickey Mantle. What Koufax knew was that keeping the lesser batters from reaching base was vital; against the mighty Aaron he would win some and lose some, but dammit if he’d lose to Aaron with any runners on base.

I thought I was asking him a question about baseball strategy, but I heard his response in the form of a life lesson. By sitting out the Yom Kippur game when I was a child, he taught me that you should stand up for your beliefs. This more recent lesson is more instrumental, but equally compelling: Think strategically; take your time, and don’t let your ego or a spur-of-the-moment impulse dictate how you play the game. Try to improve your weaknesses, but play to your strengths. When you lose, try to lose small; when you win, win big. And remember that baseball—like the pursuit of a degree, a career as a lawyer, or life itself—is a long season.

As my own career as dean approaches its end, I wish all of you—and this outstanding Law School—many wonderful seasons to come.

Sincerely,

Evan Caminker
Dean and Branch Rickey Collegiate Professor of Law
5 Quotes You’ll See…

In This Issue of the Law Quadrangle

1. “Opaque campaign finance rules are particularly troublesome in judicial elections—the public confidence in the court’s independence takes a big hit.” (p. 11)

2. “When I’m in the field, helping underserved communities in whatever way I can or working on a project that feels truly important, I regain my motivation and focus.” (p. 13)

3. “I love our students; our students are wonderful. Even when they’re a pain in the ass, they’re wonderful.” (p. 46)

4. “I remember the day Hitler invaded Poland in 1939. I was in a restaurant in a seashore community having lunch with my father. The news came over the radio, and my father said, ‘We are now at war.’” (p. 66)

5. “I thought that if I didn’t make a real, concerted move to break into entertainment, I may never get there or be as fulfilled occupationally as I could be.” (p. 69)
Mark West Named 17th Dean of Law School

Mark D. West, currently the associate dean for academic affairs at the U-M Law School and a highly regarded scholar whose research focuses on the Japanese legal system, will be the 17th dean of the Law School beginning September 1, 2013. The appointment of West, the Nippon Life Professor of Law, was announced in January by Provost Philip Hanlon.

“Mark West brings to the deanship the valued strengths of brilliant scholarship and strong academic administration,” said U-M President Mary Sue Coleman. “His global knowledge and experiences will be of great benefit to the future direction of Michigan Law. His overall expertise and insight make Mark an exceptional choice to lead one of the nation’s premier legal education programs.”

West will succeed Dean Evan Caminker, whose 10-year tenure will end on August 31. During Caminker’s time as dean, the Law School has expanded its physical space, as well as the depth and breadth of its academic offerings. The Law School has grown to include the new South Hall academic building, as well as the Robert B. Aikens Commons and Kirkland & Ellis Café. Caminker has been widely praised for the completion of the structures, not just because of their architectural grandeur but also because he was responsible for getting them built during an economic downturn.

Caminker predicted that West, with whom he has worked closely, will do a superb job at taking the School forward. “Mark West will be an outstanding new dean for the Law School. I’m confident he has the leadership skills and vision necessary to maintain and enhance the School’s greatness and reputation in the years ahead,” Caminker said.

West earned his JD from Columbia University School of Law, where he was a notes and comments editor of the Columbia Law Review, and his BA from Rhodes College. Prior to West’s career in academia, he practiced in the firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP in New York and Tokyo. He also clerked for the Hon. Eugene H. Nickerson of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

In the past decade, West has authored or coauthored five books, including Law in Everyday Japan and the casebook The Japanese Legal System. In books and articles he has explored such diverse topics as shareholder derivative suits, the evolution of corporate law, the education and career development of Japanese lawyers, and the ways in which Japanese court opinions frame love, sex, and marriage. In addition to teaching Japanese Law, he regularly teaches Criminal Law to first-year students. He also teaches Enterprise Organization, a course that draws on his background as a transactional lawyer.

West has organized major conferences, presented research widely around the world, and has been a consultant to the World Bank and to various government offices in the United States and Japan. He has been an Abe Fellow at the University of Tokyo Faculty of Law, and has studied and taught at Kyoto University, where he was a Fulbright Scholar and Fellow of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. From 2003 to 2008 he was director of the University of Michigan Center for Japanese Studies, and from 2003 to 2007 the director of the Law School’s Center for International and Comparative Law.

Colleagues say West’s range of experiences as a scholar and administrator will serve him and the School well. “I am delighted that Mark West will be the next dean of the Law School. He is a first-rate scholar, widely acclaimed for his creative, interdisciplinary, and comparative scholarship, and an accomplished administrator with energy, enthusiasm, and a comprehensive and far-reaching vision for the future of our School,” said Ellen Katz, the Ralph Aigler Professor of Law, who chaired the search committee for the new dean.

West has two children: a son who is a sophomore at the U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance, and a daughter who is a first-year student in the U-M College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.—KV
Bridget McCormack campaigned hard, fought back against an expensive ad campaign against her, and got a little help from *The West Wing* on her way to becoming the state’s newest Supreme Court justice.

McCormack was the cofounder and codirector of the Michigan Innocence Clinic, as well as the associate dean for clinical affairs, at Michigan Law. Last year, she became one of the nominees for state Supreme Court nominated by the Democratic Party.

It was an exhausting campaign for the mother of four teenagers; she still had to get the kids to school and to swim practice, even while trying to win a statewide office. Now that she is on the court, her biggest job, she says, remains “being CEO of my household.”

She also is making the transition from being an advocate to a jurist. “I’m definitely not going in with guns blazing, with some big agenda. I believe a constitutional democracy works best when it is following the rule of law. Sometimes the rule of law might not be exactly the law you would have wished for, but the court’s job is to uphold it anyway,” McCormack says.

While she hadn’t served as a judge prior to running for the Supreme Court, she points out that, historically, law schools have been feeders to judgeships. Both jobs, she says, involve the deciphering and understanding of appellate decision-making.

On the path to winning the eight-year seat, McCormack was the only candidate to receive 10 out of 10 newspaper endorsements. Her profile grew even more when she enlisted the help of cast members from *The West Wing* to create a video in support of her candidacy and as a public service announcement to remind people to vote the nonpartisan section of the ballot.

Martin Sheen’s President Bartlet character says on the video: “If people fail to realize that a straight ticket doesn’t count in nonpartisan races, if they just casually vote the party line, then their interests will continue to go unrepresented.”

The video came about with the help of McCormack’s sister, actress Mary McCormack, who portrayed Deputy National Security Adviser Kate Harper on *The West Wing*. More than a million people have watched the video on YouTube.

McCormack also drew unwanted attention. A D.C.–based organization, The Judicial Crisis Network, spent $1 million on an ad against McCormack just in the final week leading up to the election. The ad said McCormack “volunteered to help free a terrorist.” In reality, McCormack and her clinic students were among a group of hundreds of volunteer lawyers enlisted by the Center for Constitutional Rights to provide legal representation to Guantanamo detainees so the government could proceed with their cases. The prisoner assigned to her clinic was released from Guantanamo by the Bush administration without McCormack ever having met with or spoken to him.

Because of Michigan’s campaign finance laws, the group does not have to reveal the identities of its funding sources. The anonymity troubles McCormack. “Opaque campaign finance rules are particularly troublesome in judicial elections—the public confidence in the court’s independence takes a big hit,” she says.

McCormack, who is married to Michigan Law Professor Steven Croley—currently on leave from the Law School while he serves as deputy White House counsel—will continue to be a lecturer at the Law School, as time permits. This term, she is teaching a course on a topic she understands very well: judicial elections.—KV
Bruce A. Courtade, ’88, has been sworn in as the 78th president of the State Bar of Michigan. Courtade is a shareholder with Rhoades McKee PC, in Grand Rapids, where he practices in the areas of commercial litigation and construction law.

For 2012–2013, Courtade leads an organization of more than 42,000 members. He said he hopes to stress the importance of educating the public regarding the rule of law and our justice system.

“Unless people understand the importance of our courts and justice system, they will not understand the threat posed to our way of life by the underfunding of our third branch of government, or the serious damage to our society when ‘equal access to justice’ is not a reality, and not even an aspiration, but simply something that sounds good in a speech or looks good on a bumper sticker,” said Courtade, who resides in Grand Rapids with his wife, Jenny, and his daughter, Jessica.

A frequent guest lecturer to law school classes on ethics and professionalism, Courtade has been active in advancing the legal profession and community. He has been involved in State Bar work for more than a decade and has served on many of its committees and groups, and received the State Bar’s John W. Cummiskey Pro Bono Award in 1991. Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert P. Young Jr. officiated at the September 2012 swearing-in ceremony for the presidency.
Michigan Law students well prepared for new pro bono rules

By Lori Atherton

Michigan Law 2L Megan Sanders enjoys pro bono work because it reminds her of why she came to law school in the first place.

“I get a little lost in the day-to-day grind of being a law student,” says Sanders, the president of Michigan Law's Pro Bono Advisory Board. “But when I’m in the field, helping underserved communities in whatever way I can or working on a project that feels truly important, I regain my motivation and focus.”

Sanders wants to pursue a career in public interest law—providing legal assistance to the underserved at a legal aid or other direct-service organization—so her impressive resume of public-interest work also is helping to prepare her for her post-law school life.

She is one of many students at Michigan Law who has a strong focus on pro bono work, a foundation that will serve these students well as they enter a workforce that increasingly puts an emphasis on real-world experience and pro bono activities.

Under a new rule adopted by the New York Court of Appeals, for instance, lawyers who seek admission to the New York State Bar after January 1, 2015, must first complete 50 hours of qualifying pro bono work, which is defined as law-related work performed under the supervision of a faculty member, licensed attorney, or judge. The requirement, which does not have to be fulfilled in New York, is aimed at addressing the legal needs of those who couldn’t otherwise afford an attorney. Current 3Ls are not affected by the rule, but 1Ls and 2Ls, like Sanders, could be impacted if they choose to practice in New York.

Amy Sankaran, ’01, director of externship and pro bono programs at Michigan Law, said the New York ruling is “broadly drawn,” so the impact on Michigan Law JD students likely will be minimal.

“New York is very expansive and generous in what they count as pro bono work,” she says. “It could have been much more onerous.”

While Michigan does not count work for which students receive academic credit or compensation as pro bono service—such as clinics, externships, judicial internships, or pro bono work completed as a summer associate at a law firm—these types of work qualify as pro bono service according to the New York Bar. This is good news for Michigan Law students, Sankaran says, “because there are very few students who don’t complete a qualifying summer job, externship, or clinic by the time they graduate.”

Sanders has made a point of getting as much experience as possible through her pro bono work. She is, for instance, a volunteer with the Mississippi Center for Justice, where she assists Whitney Barkley, ’09, the Center’s pro bono counsel, in drafting legislation and conducting legal research.

As a 1L, Sanders had an internship with the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, where she also did legal research and aided Spanish-speaking clients with their VAWA (Violence Against Women Act), U visa (for victims of crimes), and asylum claims.

Last summer she was a law clerk with Bay Area Legal Aid, working in San Francisco’s housing law unit and Oakland’s consumer law unit. She also is cofounder and co-president of MLaw’s Poverty Law Society, the sponsoring student organization for the Mississippi Center for Justice pro bono project.

Pro bono opportunities abound at Michigan Law, many of which are sponsored by student groups and could fulfill the New York Bar requirement. Among the offerings are the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Project, the Family Law Project, the Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse, and the Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project. Ineligible toward the requirement are programs such as FAIT (Future Advocates in Training), a popular project in which students coach mock-trial teams at a local high school.

“Michigan provides excellent opportunities for students to become pro bono advocates,” Sanders says. “Pro bono work is for everyone, and many of my classmates, public interest-oriented and otherwise, take advantage of these valuable opportunities.”

Since fall 2009, Michigan Law students have been encouraged to participate in pro bono activities through the Pro Bono Pledge, a voluntary program in which they commit to performing 50 hours or more of qualifying pro bono work during their three years at the Law School. Graduating students who have fulfilled the pledge receive a certificate of pro bono service from the dean, recognition at an annual pro bono banquet, and recognition at the Honors Convocation.

“It’s voluntary, but we certainly encourage students to participate in the program,” says Alyson Robbins, public interest director in the Law School’s Office of Career Planning. “As a law school, we generally encourage students not to graduate without having done some type of public interest work. The point is to train students that pro bono work should be part of their career, no matter what they do.”

For more information on Michigan Law’s Pro Bono Program, visit www.law.umich.edu/careers/probono. For information on the...
International Affairs Dean Gordan to Retire

The end of the current academic year will mark a change for Michigan Law’s international programming with the retirement of longtime Assistant Dean for International Affairs Virginia Gordan.

But things that won’t change—because they are practically woven into the Law School’s DNA—are the School’s globally recognized commitment to international law and the depth and breadth of its international programming.

“Michigan Law’s expanding global engagement and soaring international reputation are due in large part to Virginia’s efforts as our first assistant dean of international affairs,” said Dean Evan Caminker. “She has been an invaluable adviser to me, with respect to efforts to create high-quality programming that is intellectually, academically, and professionally meaningful.”

Gordan expanded the School’s long-standing strengths in international programming, building on a foundation of internationalism almost as old as the Law School itself.

In the fall issue of the Law Quadrangle, we will have more about Gordan.—JM

Bickner’s ‘Leadership by Generous Example’

Top fundraising volunteer prepares to step down

By Rebecca Freligh

By nightfall on September 7, 2012, Bruce Bickner, ’68, was exhausted. He had hosted the ceremony dedicating South Hall under a blazing late-summer sun. He had emceed the program for a festive dinner in the Robert B. Aikens Commons. He had talked with dozens of elated alumni and friends. Through it all, the Law School’s top fundraising volunteer grinned like the happiest guy on the planet.

“Everyone was excited about the building,” he says. “Their enthusiasm is real; they recognize how these facilities will expand the opportunities for our students and faculty for decades to come.”

That more than 500 donors have embraced the building project is due in no small part to Bickner’s leadership. He chaired the Law School’s campaign steering committee from 2002–2008 and has since chaired its Development and Alumni Relations Committee, which finished the building fundraising and will transition back to a new campaign steering committee this fall.

Dean Caminker says Bickner has put in countless hours on behalf of Michigan Law and as an adviser to President Mary Sue Coleman, calling the alumnus a great partner and friend.

“Bruce is an effective leader for many reasons,” says Dean Caminker, “but foremost are leadership by generous example, an unflappable demeanor, and tireless devotion to Michigan Law.”

Named campaign chair by former dean Jeffrey S. Lehman, ’81, Bickner began to work with Caminker when Lehman departed for the Cornell presidency in 2003. In the early days with the new dean, Bickner soon saw that Caminker needed only experience to be a great fundraiser. In 2007, when Caminker opted for a new architect, Hartman-Cox, and a new location for the proposed academic building, across Monroe Street, Bickner says, “It was a relief for everybody.”

Bickner, a lead building donor, always touted the project as a vehicle for teaching and learning, not just bricks and mortar. But even that successful appeal threatened to run aground in the economic storms of 2008. Did he ever think the campaign would fail?

A long pause, then measured words. “Certainly you consider that as a possible outcome. You just have to double your efforts and say this is going to be tougher and take more time.”

A retired DEKALB and Monsanto executive, Bickner learned about giving back from his parents, educators who put in a combined 83 years of service to the Chicago Public Schools. He shares that core value with his wife, Joan, who saw the same generosity modeled in her Iowa farm family and who is a dedicated fundraising volunteer for and donor to the School of Kinesiology.

When Caminker exits the dean’s office on August 31, Bickner also will step down, convinced that the Law School is well poised for the next campaign. Lest alumni forget the value of giving during one’s lifetime, he reminds them, “The joy of giving really comes from seeing people benefit from your gift.”

Joan and Bruce Bickner
Roopal Shah, ’95, Named New Assistant Dean for International Affairs

By Katie Vloet

Roopal Shah—a 1995 graduate of the Law School who has a background practicing law for the government and in the private sector, as well as starting a nongovernmental organization in India—has been named the Law School’s assistant dean for international affairs.

“One reason I was drawn to Michigan as a law student was that Michigan was well regarded in the international community,” Shah said. “Since then, the Law School has done even more to increase international coursework, added the International Transactions Clinic, and helped students find work abroad for the summers. It’s exciting to me that Michigan is heading in the right direction, and that we have an opportunity to impact broad international happenings—not just in the law, but in treaties, global leadership, and other areas as well.”

Shah will replace Virginia Gordan, the longtime assistant dean for international affairs, who is retiring, and who helped to build Michigan Law’s global engagement and international reputation.

“Virginia has been at the very center of the strengthening of our international and comparative law programs and activities,” said Steven Ratner, the Bruno Simma Collegiate Professor of Law and a leader in the field of global law. “Finding a worthy successor was a challenge, and it required a worldwide search. The level of interest in the job and the extraordinary candidates who applied show how well Michigan is regarded in international law.”

Shah, he said, “has everything we want in this position, from her varied work experience to her strategic vision for where we need to go in the future. She really wants our students to be leaders around the world, and she wants to help get them there.”

After graduating from Michigan Law, Shah clerked for the Hon. David Alan Ezra of the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii, then worked as an associate at Shearman & Sterling in Washington, D.C. She followed that with a job as an assistant U.S. Attorney in the border crimes, major narcotics, and terrorism divisions in San Diego; there, she conducted 24 criminal trials from jury selection to verdict, attaining convictions in 22 of them.

In 2001, she cofounded and served as executive director (2007–2010) of Indicorps in Ahmedabad, India. The nonprofit works to provide Indians from all over the world with a channel to reconnect with the country of their heritage and with the means to contribute to its development, while fostering a new generation of socially conscious global leaders. Among its accomplishments was the successful partnership with community-based organizations to create sustainable rural initiatives, such as a clean drinking water project that reaches more than 70,000 people in 120 villages. She remains on the board of directors.

She also served in 2012 as a consultant to Ashoka, a nonprofit that supports social entrepreneurship, and in 2007 as a member of the professional staff at the University of Michigan Provost’s Office, where she provided strategic guidance on efforts such as the “Expect Respect” campaign.

As a student at Michigan Law, she was a two-term president of the Law School Student Senate. One of her legacies is the institution of a “Day of Service” as part of every new Law School student’s orientation. She also advocated for grading reform, a new approach to the mandatory 1L legal writing program, and other innovations. Then-Dean Jeffrey Lehman, ’81, created the Dean’s Exceptional Service Award and awarded it to her in 1995.

“Roopal was a distinguished student when she attended the Law School, and she has been a highly accomplished alumna since her time here, making her mark in important ways around the world,” Dean Evan Caminker said. “I have no doubt that she will continue to build Michigan Law’s global reputation, and that she will do so with the great energy and verve she has brought to the earlier chapters in her career.”

In addition to Shah’s professional achievements, she also is a fearless adventurer. She has run the Marine Corps marathon twice and, when she lived in San Diego, surfed every day for more than 400 days, “even when the rain was terrible, when the waves were over six feet tall, and when we really shouldn’t have been out there,” she said.

Shah said she looks forward to returning to Ann Arbor. “One of the things I have loved from a lot of the places I’ve been is the idea of building and being in community. Ann Arbor is exciting because there already is a strong sense of community.”

True to her community-building instincts, she also is excited about helping the Law School “continue to build on and extend its global networks, and ensure that it is just as engaged, connected, and energized as our community in Ann Arbor.”
Dean Caminker, in his office, with South Hall in the background. He is credited with having the vision for the new academic building, as well as getting it built during an economic downturn.
The Right Dean at the Right Time

By Katie Vloet  Photo by Leisa Thompson Photography

A few days after Evan Caminker was named dean in 2003, he offered to resign.

While interviewing for the deanship, he had distilled a three-point agenda for President Mary Sue Coleman and then-Provost Paul N. Courant: 1) design, raise funds for, and oversee the expansion and renovation of the Law School’s beautiful-but-outdated facilities; 2) increase the size of and bring greater attention to the reputation of the faculty; and 3) see the school through the likely fallout following Grutter v. Bollinger—the case that challenged the use of affirmative action at the Law School and that, at the time, was widely expected to overrule the 1978 Bakke decision and preclude race-conscious admissions.

Coleman and Courant recommended to the Board of Regents that Caminker be named the 16th dean of the Law School. After regental approval, the University sent out the press release on a Thursday. The following Monday morning, the Supreme Court announced its decision: The justices rejected the University’s undergraduate admissions policy in Gratz but upheld the Law School’s admissions policy in Grutter.

University officials gathered on the campus Diag at noon to meet the press. Caminker, who as associate dean had been asked to work on the University’s legal defense of the case, walked the couple of blocks north from Hutchins Hall to attend. He spotted President Coleman.

“I told her I was quitting,” Caminker says. “I told her I had wanted to accomplish three things as dean, and I accomplished one of them over the weekend. I said, ‘That’s the best bang for the buck you’re ever going to get from a dean.”’

“Michigan, these past 10 years, has had a real superstar dean. The school has been very lucky, and legal education has been very lucky.”

SUPREME COURT ASSOCIATE JUSTICE ELENA KAGAN
Coleman, of course, rejected the jesting resignation, and Caminker began his 10 years in the job as dean ready to focus on other goals and ambitions. Now, he is completing a tenure that has been filled with a string of accomplishments, many of which were completed under difficult economic and societal circumstances.

Through it all, Caminker has built a reputation as a fair-minded, thoughtful, and unflappable leader who also has the tenacity to push forward on difficult projects in spite of numerous obstacles.

“I think he’ll be regarded as perhaps the outstanding dean since the second World War. He has done so many things of scale and significance during a very, very difficult time for law schools,” says Richard Pogue, ’53, chair of the Law School Dean’s Advisory Council and former managing partner at Jones Day.

Caminker came to Michigan in 1999 from the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law, where he served on the faculty from 1991 to 1999. He arrived with a wealth of experience from his work in the academic, governmental, public interest, and private sectors. From May 2000 through January 2001, he served as deputy assistant attorney general in the Office of Legal Counsel, U.S. Department of Justice, while on leave from the U-M Law School. Earlier in his career, he clerked for Supreme Court Associate Justice William J. Brennan Jr. and Judge William A. Norris of the Ninth Circuit of Court of Appeals. He practiced law at the Center for Law in the Public Interest in Los Angeles and with Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering (now WilmerHale) in Washington, D.C. His academic writing was widely published and highly regarded.
Caminker knew he faced many challenges when he began his job as dean, notwithstanding the Grutter decision. The global, national, and statewide economies faltered. The planned addition to the Law School became infeasible and unreasonably expensive and either had to be scrapped or significantly changed in location, scale, and details large and small. Applications dropped because of web- and media-chatter that denounced legal education as too costly and not financially worthwhile.

Meanwhile, faculty still had to be hired and promoted. Caminker needed to make decisions about everything from roofing materials to the skits in which he would participate for the students’ Culture Show video. He ultimately had to shepherd changes in the Law School’s admissions policy after Michigan voters approved Proposal 2 in 2006, a state constitutional amendment which, among other things, prohibited the consideration of race in admissions decisions. He conducted interviews with Supreme Court justices in front of standing-room-only crowds, and served as an auctioneer for the Student Funded Fellowships auction. He met with top donors, and gave the winning answer at the Knowledge Bowl contest between students and faculty. (Do you know which U.S. president was the last to argue a case before the Supreme Court?).

“He’s left a school that is so much improved in terms of what we can offer our students that it’s night and day and makes us so much more competitive,” says Barrie Loeks, ’79, formerly the co-CEO of Sony’s Loews Theatres, founder of the Star Theatres movie theater chain and now a lecturer at Michigan Law. “I think his deanship is a high point in the Law School’s history—a period of time when the Law School was really transformed programatically, and of course physically.”

Through it all, say those who worked closely with Caminker, he managed to keep up with all the ongoing changes in the economy, technology, and legal profession and even to stay ahead of the game.

“He’s playing one dimension ahead of the rest,” says John Nannes, ’73, a partner in Skadden’s Washington office. “In a world where everyone is playing checkers, Evan is playing chess.”

Nearly any assessment of Caminker includes the observation that he is thorough in his efforts to understand things from all sides, whether it involves people, issues, or the construction of a five-level building.

“Evan has had to be a finance person, he has had to deal with the media in terms of rankings by U.S. News and others that have made the quality of legal education into something like a sport, he’s had to think very deeply about innovations in the curriculum,” says John Denniston, ’83, a venture capitalist with Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers. “With the building projects, he went to accelerated design and architecture school. He’s also great at management, great at recruitment of faculty, great at navigating the School through a period of declining demand for law schools in general.

“I think we were incredibly lucky, the whole University of Michigan community,” Denniston says, “to have had Dean Caminker at the helm during the past 10 years. I think he’ll be remembered as one of the finest Law School deans we’ve ever had.”
When Caminker became dean, he inherited a plan that his predecessor, Jeffrey Lehman, ’81, had developed with architects: a 170,000-square-foot addition to the Law School to be built on the southeast corner of the Law Quadrangle. But as Caminker worked with both alumni and the architectural team, he grew increasingly concerned that the then-envisioned project was not right for the School at that point in its history.

As Caminker told readers of this magazine in 2007, the building project “would have required a financial investment that was sobering, [with early estimates of] $135 million, and which [had] since ballooned via construction cost increases to over $175 million, with further significant annual increases in the offing. This was clearly stretching the School’s capacity, notwithstanding the support of many generous alumni and friends who have already invested in the building expansion.”

On top of the costs, Caminker was concerned that the length of time of the construction project—six years—would’ve been too disruptive to students. The School would have had to enroll four classes of entering students who would endure disruptive construction without enjoying the fruits thereof before leaving. He also wanted to secure the spot that then was a parking lot on the southeast corner of State and Monroe streets before it was snatched up by another part of the University, thus leaving the Law School landlocked.
After concluding that the inherited plan would be the wrong move for the Law School, he set out on a listening tour with alumni and other interested parties, many of whom were fans of the initial building design and who supported the concept of “completing the Quad” north of Monroe. Caminker’s task of persuading them was tricky, but he knew it had to be done. He listened to people’s views, explained the problems with the venture, and ultimately convinced the constituencies that the project faced significant challenges and was not ideal.

“Evan deserves a lot of credit for having the foresight to change the direction of a building plan that had already been launched,” says Bruce Bickner, ’68, chair of the Development and Alumni Relations Committee, which helped guide the fundraising for the new building. “He really put a lot of effort into making sure that he heard people’s concerns about the original plan, and he took the time to explain to donors why the original plan wasn’t the best way for the Law School to expand.”

It was time to find a plan B or to scrap plans for an expansion entirely. Caminker chose the former, which meant starting over with a new architect, a new site, and a new approach. The southeast corner of State and Monroe invited the new academic building, and the unused grassy plot between Hutchins, the Reading Room, and the Stacks Building seemed a great home for a new commons area. Caminker became the fundraiser-in-chief, head decisionmaker and cheerleader, and architect-in-training for these academic and community buildings.

“He did something you don’t expect to see in a dean; he became really immersed in the design project. He threw himself into it, heart and soul,” says Bickner, a retired DEKALB and Monsanto executive.

The economy did not cooperate. Banks failed, stock markets bottomed-out, the housing bubble burst—all resulting in the biggest financial crisis since the Great Depression. Yet Caminker plugged away at talking with donors about the new academic building, as well as the proposed new commons to be situated between Hutchins Hall and Legal Research, and the benefit they would have to students.

“In my view, the Law School had perhaps the most magnificent set of academic buildings in the country when viewed from the outside, but their size, layout, and lack of functionality created obstacles for our 21st century pedagogic vision,” Caminker says. “Given our ambition to remain one of the world’s greatest training grounds for lawyers and civic leaders, failure to revamp our facilities was simply not an acceptable option.”

“He was just an incredible model of a fundraiser. He started off by getting to know us. He really built a friendship,” says Diann Kim, ’83, who, along with husband John Frank, also ’83, made a gift of $2 million to the building project (read more on page 57). “It was really wonderful. As opposed to so many things where you get somebody who says, ‘Hi, give me money’, his approach was, ‘Hi, can we do this together?’ I really feel like he was a partner in this gift.”

By now, this story really holds no suspense; we know the new academic building and commons were built, that they are beautiful, that students and faculty love holding classes and conversations in them. But even with the generosity of donors, the building fundraising effort was never easy. Caminker and the School’s development team, as well as advisers such as the members of the Development and Alumni Relations Committee, made it a reality.

“Evan was the best professional partner I can imagine in this endeavor, which, of course, was made all the more challenging by the uncertainties in the economy,” says Todd Baily, assistant dean for development and alumni relations. “His vision for South Hall and the Aikens Commons was to provide first-class facilities to our Law School community, and he was tireless in this pursuit.”

Top: Chief Justice Roberts (third from left) helps break ground for South Hall in 2009, along with U-M Regent Kathy White, Campaign Chairman Bruce Bickner, ’68, U-M President Mary Sue Coleman, Dean Caminker, and Regent Andrew Richner, ’86. “That four justices of the U.S. Supreme Court—Elena Kagan, Anthony Kennedy, Antonin Scalia, and Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr.—have visited Michigan during Evan’s tenure speaks both to the quality of Michigan Law and the reputation of the dean in the legal community,” Coleman said. Above left: Dean Caminker tours the then-under-construction Kirkland & Ellis Café with Steve Tomlinson, ’84, and Sandy Perl, ’90, partners at the firm. Above right: Dean Caminker celebrates the grand opening of South Hall and (below) the Aikens Commons and Kirkland & Ellis Café.
“Evan is just beyond reproach. He is the leader a public institution should have.”

SARAH ZEARFOSS, ’92, SENIOR ASSISTANT DEAN FOR ADMISSIONS, FINANCIAL AID, AND CAREER PLANNING

Since prior to Caminker’s becoming dean he was a very engaged professor, perhaps it is no surprise that once he was dean he continued to focus a good deal of his attention on the advancement of pedagogy within the Law School.

The number of clinics expanded from six to 14, “in large part because of Evan’s support for and commitment to clinical education,” says Bridget McCormack, associate dean for clinical affairs through much of Caminker’s tenure and now a Michigan Supreme Court Justice. Caminker also brought in highly regarded new faculty, including several with a global focus. He ensured that the School maintained its longstanding strength in doctrinal classes, while also adding more practical courses that teach the skills and competencies that law firms increasingly expect of graduates. And he supported adding a new legislation and regulation class to students’ 1L requirements to, he says, “help our new students see not just how laws are made, but how agencies and the whole apparatus of government goes about ensuring those laws are implemented and obeyed.”

“I think he’s done really good things with the curriculum,” says Robert Fiske Jr., ’55, HLLD ’97, senior counsel in Davis Polk’s Litigation Department. “He’s made it more practical so it’s more in tune with what the legal community is looking for.”

“He’s an intellectual, but he’s been able to emphasize the practical aspects of legal education,” says Pogue. “That is something that will really benefit graduates when they enter the job market.”
While many aspects of his job competed for his attention with the day-to-day academic life of the School, he still managed to attend scholarly events when time allowed and to maintain his participation in the intellectual life of the community.

“Despite all the time Evan obviously had to spend raising funds for all of these projects, he still managed to attend a large number of faculty presentations. He gave some fine, scholarly lectures himself while he was dean,” says former Dean Ted St. Antoine, ‘54, the James E. & Sarah A. Degan Professor of Law Emeritus.

Students who have worked with him know he’s been vitally interested in making sure they receive a great education at the School, and he values their thoughts on making the experience even better. “Dean Caminker has had an enormous impact on the quality of student life at Michigan Law. I have been consistently impressed with his willingness to not only seek out student input, but to also incorporate that input into the final result. He is always looking for ways to make the Law School experience even better, and in doing so, he is thoughtful, diplomatic, and approachable,” says 2L Liz Och, president of the Law School Student Senate.

He also built close relationships with many faculty members. “It’s not that I’ve always agreed with everything he’s done. Is there anyone about whom that can honestly be said?” says Don Herzog, the Edson R. Sunderland Professor of Law. “But I think all the faculty would say he’s remarkably fair-minded, careful, thorough.

“People often marvel at how much he has thought through every issue. He’s been very good about coming to the faculty and asking about our opinion on things. People feel like you’re allowed to agree with Evan, or you’re allowed to disagree with Evan.”

He also genuinely is interested in hearing his colleagues’ thoughts, opinions, and ideas, faculty members say.

“It always amazes me, with all the things he has on his plate, that he’s completely committed to what you’re working on with him,” McCormack says.
Adam Dubinsky, ’07, knew Caminker well. They spoke at many of the same events; Dubinsky recorded the dean gamely making fun of himself in a Mr. Wolverine video in which Caminker was brushing his hair and reading men’s style magazines; and they roasted each other at one event, until Caminker put the one-upsmanship to an end by duct-taping Adam’s mouth.

“I remember the dean calling me the Carson Daly of the Law School,” Dubinsky recalls with a laugh, referring to the television personality from *The Voice,* “because I’m always hosting events and nobody has any idea why.”

And therein lies one of the sources of Caminker’s likability: his sense of humor. “He does write the most hilarious emails on Planet Earth,” Diann Kim says.

That quality even helps to compensate for some qualities that otherwise would be less-than-lovable. “He will joke about his tendency to micro-manage,” McCormack says. “He has a good sense of humor about it.”

But there’s another side of his personality that has inspired at least as much devotion: his warmth and innate goodness. Take Dubinsky, for instance: Caminker would joke with him when the time was right, but also was very caring and thoughtful when Dubinsky was scheduled to have heart surgery right after graduation.

Humor and humility

“It’s so hard to be effective and also pleasant. I think he managed it so well because of his humility on top of his confidence. I don’t know anybody who doesn’t like him.”

ADAM DUBINSKY, ’07

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Left: As associate dean for academic affairs in 2003, Caminker serves as an auctioneer for the annual Student Funded Fellowships Auction. Right: He makes more sales for SFF in 2008.
Kim and Frank, too, were touched by Caminker’s warmth. While he was talking with them about making a gift to the Law School, they also learned that he was caring for his dying uncle in their home town. “In every way, you felt like, ‘Here’s a really good person,’” Kim says. “You feel like you know the measure of the man who’s going to take care of your gifts.”

Sarah Zearfoss, ’92, senior assistant dean for admissions, financial aid, and career planning, says Caminker is “100 percent beyond reproach. You always know he’s going to do the right thing.”

Loeks says Caminker’s combination of intelligence and kindness “is so rare in this world. … I’m not sure I’ve ever heard a mean word cross his lips. Everyone wants him to be successful, partly because he’s very selfless and always giving credit to everyone else.”

Adds Nannes: “He’s one of the poster children for the notion that you don’t have to shout to be heard.”

Bickner talks about how Caminker had to navigate differences with some alumni who disagreed with the Law School on issues such as the Grutter case and the School’s admissions policy.

“I saw him as a good listener and as a quick study with empathy and understanding of people’s opinions,” says Bickner. “He’s always very respectful of people, whether they agree or disagree with him.”

Och, the LSSS president, says “the best (and most counterintuitive) evidence of how great Dean Caminker has been in this role is the fact that most students have absolutely no idea what the dean does. The moments that do stand out are illustrative; rarely does one find an administrator so willing to dance on a table to raise money for public interest students. We will certainly miss his enthusiasm and leadership.”

Och and several other students and recent alumni also pointed out that they would miss having a bragging right over their friends at peer schools: having the dean who was named in the Above the Law blog in 2006 as the “Hottest Law School Dean.” (Caminker, consistent with his penchant for sharing credit, characteristically described the award as a “team effort.”)

Try to find something that people don’t like about Caminker; you’ll find it’s no easy task. Some will say his attention to detail is sometimes a bit too attentive, but then they’ll also talk about times they’ve appreciated his scrutiny. His late-night/early-morning emails are legendary, but even those are described more with admiration than scorn.

There is one negative, though, about which nearly everyone seems to agree. It relates to his clothing. Specifically, outerwear. More specifically, a pink-and-teal ski jacket with an elastic-banded bottom, purchased in 1986 for a clerkship ski trip.

“Well, the ugliest thing you’ve ever seen,” says one administrator.

In 2008, Professor Ellen Katz stole the jacket from Caminker’s office and contributed it to the Student Funded Fellowships auction. “Hello? The 80s are over,” declared the auction-item listing. Katz added: “The fashion faux pas that makes you cringe each time you see him in it. The reason why you almost went to Yale and why you pray for spring.”

A group of students bought the jacket for $1,000. Caminker offered to buy it back from them but was told that they, uh, lost it. To this day, despite several investigative efforts over the years, he—and apparently everyone else willing to talk—has no idea what happened to it. But a few people who chose to remain anonymous dropped hints about a particular evening bonfire.

Rest in peace, awful jacket, 1980s-2008. You were color-challenged and outdated. And, it turns out, highly flammable.
“Current and future generations of Michigan Law students and faculty owe a debt of gratitude to Evan Caminker for his leadership as dean. In the face of challenging economic times, Dean Caminker oversaw a critical physical expansion and renovation of Law School facilities, including the stunning South Hall, while building upon the academic strength of the program.”

U-M President Mary Sue Coleman

The question everyone is asking Caminker now is, What’s next? At press time, he planned to take a yearlong sabbatical and then return to the faculty.

“I love the Law School, and I love Ann Arbor. I’m just not sure exactly what the future holds,” Caminker says. “Both of my predecessors [Deans Lee Bollinger and Jeffrey Lehman, ’81] left for other posts in higher education and became presidents of Ivy League universities, so obviously some of my colleagues tease that the pressure is on.”

He adds that there are many ways to continue contributing to the legal profession and the academy, but, for now, he really wants to carve out some time to sleep and, perish the thought, even read a book for pleasure.

And he’ll spend more time with his family—“that verges on cliché, but it’s true,” he says—including his wife, their 10- and 7-year-old daughters, and their pet rats, Vicky and Vali (as in “Hail to the victors, valiant …”).

One of Caminker’s predecessors, Ted St. Antoine, ’54, says that being dean “is a job you really enjoy more in hindsight.” It’s difficult for Caminker to believe that is true—he has often said that he enjoys every minute of the job, though perhaps with a bit of a knowing smile—but he acknowledges that some of the more challenging aspects of the job may become even less pronounced “as my memory recedes.”
He also hopes that some elements of the deanship will not become distant memories. For instance, he has loved attending Michigan football games with alumni and friends of the Law School. He loves the camaraderie of the games, as well as the burst of school pride one feels when sharing a win with 110,000 people along with a few good friends.

During that deanship-interview conversation more than a decade ago with President Coleman, she asked not only about his primary objectives, but also if Caminker had any questions for her.

He asked her, “As dean, do I get good football tickets?” She laughed in a way that suggested she had heard that question many times before, and she asked if he had serious questions. “Yes,” Caminker replied. “When I step down as dean, do I get to keep my good football tickets?”

This time, Coleman laughed appreciatively, Caminker recalls, and she said, “I’ve never heard that question before. Clearly, you think several moves ahead.”

Even now, he isn’t sure of the answer. He’s still hoping the answer is yes, as do a number of his alumni friends, who look forward to singing “The Victors” by his side.
Ready for the REAL WORLD

By Mary Jean Babic
Illustration by Rachel Ralston
Like many first-year law students, Taylor Garrett, ’03, assumed that after graduation he would head off to work at a law firm. He couldn’t quite see the path that led there, but he took it as a given that sooner or later he’d end up on it.

Then he learned of the Program for Law and Development in Cambodia at Michigan Law. Intrigued, he applied to the program, and was selected. That summer, Garrett found himself working with a legal aid organization in Phnom Penh and realizing, he says, “that my law degree could do other things.” His second summer, through the Program in Refugee and Asylum Law, he worked in Zambia. This was followed by an externship in South Africa.

Now, nearly 10 years out of law school, Garrett has never held one of those traditional law firm jobs he once thought was inevitable. His work with refugee and asylum law has taken him to Thailand, Ethiopia, and South Sudan, through jobs with Jesuit Refugee Service and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Since 2009, he’s been a foreign service officer with the United States Agency for International Development, working on crisis response, stabilization, and governance programs in Southern Africa, based in Pretoria.

“There are lot of people like myself who go to law school and want to join firms and become partners; that’s kind of the goal they see,” Garrett says. “I try to tell people that there are other options for them.”

For many alumni who practice law in public-interest fields, the real-world experience they gained in law school was critical to their paths. Whether opening their eyes to opportunities they hadn’t considered previously, or reaffirming the passions that drove them to law school in the first place, the clinics, externships, and fellowships they participated in link directly to the careers they enjoy today.

While these attorneys found their callings in public interest, practical experience can be a leg up for any recent grad entering a tough job market.

The employment numbers are much better at Michigan than the national average, with 92 percent of those looking for employment finding full-time work that required a law degree nine months after graduation in 2012. Good grades and a top-tier degree will always be advantages, but practical experience can help job-seekers distinguish themselves in a highly competitive market.

“YOU OWE IT TO THE WORLD TO BE YOUR FULLEST SELF”

Second-year student Andrew Dalack is taking that idea so much to heart that, he jokes, he’s losing his hair from his packed schedule. Knowing from his first day of law school that he wanted to do criminal defense work, he’s availed himself of as many opportunities as possible to expand his skills. Last semester he participated in the Criminal Appellate Practice Clinic, which gave him the chance to present oral arguments in court, appealing the conviction of a man in an unarmed robbery case. This semester he’s externing at the federal public defender’s office in Detroit, as well as working at the Detroit civil rights law firm of Goodman & Hurwitz. All this while keeping up a full course load.

“It’s necessary to distinguish yourself in some way, just because it is so competitive,” says Dalack. Committed as he is to criminal defense work, he admits to pangs of uneasiness about forgoing on-campus interviews and potentially big private-firm salaries. “Some of my peers will end this summer with more money in their respective checking accounts than I’ve ever had in my savings account,” he says. But he’s evaluated the risks of his career choice and he says he’s OK with them; he accepts that he’ll probably just live with some anxiety until he lands his first job.

Jackie Payne, for one, can empathize. She is the director of Move to End Violence, a program within the NoVo Foundation, based in Washington, D.C., whose goal is to stop violence against girls and women. Payne, ’97, has built a successful career in women’s rights and social justice, but she well remembers the challenges of getting off the ground.

Payne entered law school blazing with passion for social justice; her first summer she worked for an LGBT nonprofit in the San Francisco area. During her second summer, she worked for a major labor law firm in Chicago. At that point, she considered hiring on at a private firm after graduation to pay down her loans more quickly, and switching to the plaintiff side at some point down the road. It seemed, overall, a sensible plan.
All such thoughts, however, fled her mind completely after a transformative externship in South Africa in the fall of her third year. It was 1996. South Africa, having recently dismantled apartheid and elected Nelson Mandela president, was writing its new constitution. Payne helped work out how provisions that protected gender justice and tribal rites would operate together when there was a conflict between the two. She witnessed Mandela’s signing the constitution in Soweto.

“The opportunity to work at that moment in history on such an incredible question, it was such a powerful experience,” Payne says. Long interested in gender and racial equality, Payne gained insight into how poverty and class also impact justice. “I got caught up in the energy of President Mandela’s belief in making things possible. It was course correcting for me, to get out of the law school environment and remind myself what I went there for in the first place.”

Rather than going to work at a law firm, as she had initially planned, she decided—based on her experiences in South Africa—to take another path.

Right around graduation day, Payne landed a Legal Aid job in Chicago. After two years in Chicago, she went to D.C. and eventually got a job as policy attorney for NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund. She worked there for four years, then hired on as director of government relations for Planned Parenthood Federation of America. She’s been in her current position since 2009.

“I am so privileged to have worked in jobs that I’m passionate about,” she says.

Last year, Payne went back to South Africa, and guided her husband and son around her old stomping grounds. The memory of standing in Nelson Mandela’s presence remains an inspiration, and she encourages law students drawn to less traditional paths not to waver.

“You owe it to the world to be your fullest self, and not anything less than that,” she says.

Michigan offers a host of public-interest resources, such as clinics, fellowships, career planning services, the Pro Bono Program, the Organization of Public Interest Students, like-minded faculty members, the indispensable Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP).

Evan Cass, a December 2011 grad, is a staff attorney at the Children’s Law Center in D.C., representing kids in abuse and neglect cases. He entered Michigan Law after two years of working in social services organizations and was dedicated “to doing something in the public interest,” he says. Indeed, Michigan’s reputation as a school with much to offer in that regard had attracted Cass in the first place.

“I really tried to get a lot of practical experience, because I knew in public interest work, that was highly valued,” says Cass. Making professional connections also didn’t hurt. But the benefit of out-of-class work went beyond the tangible. “I needed something to solidify my in-class experience, something to remind me, what is this all about? Why am I here?”

Cass joined the Child Advocacy Law Clinic and worked with the Detroit Center for Family Advocacy. He handled eight cases, went to court about every other week, and co-wrote a brief for the Michigan Supreme Court. “It was an amazing hands-on, practical experience, and very closely shadows what I’m doing now,” Cass says. “Kind of shockingly so.”

In Ann Arbor, he “fell into this wonderful community of public-interest students,” and lived with two simpathic classmates. “Instead of doing OCIs (on-campus interviews), we went on a camping trip together.” He adds, “I’ve chosen to prioritize my desire to work in a field I am passionate about over the size of my salary. I am incredibly grateful for LRAP because it makes this choice possible.”

{See related story, p. 33}
One can, of course, still pursue a career at a law firm and also do public interest work. Monica Klosterman (née Costello), ’08, came to Michigan Law knowing that she wanted a career in litigation. Work at two clinics confirmed that instinct, while also “expanding my view of the areas that I wanted to focus on in my pro bono work.”

A special education teacher before law school, Klosterman learned from her 2L work in the Child Advocacy Law Clinic and her 3L experiences in the Poverty Law Clinic that she wanted to engage in pro bono work that focused on kids in the foster care system and those with special needs.

“I’m really fortunate to work at a firm that is so supportive of pro bono work,” says Klosterman, an associate in the Los Angeles office of Latham & Watkins LLP, whose practice primarily involves environmental and complex commercial litigation matters. “I’ve done pro bono work on a variety of matters, including asylum cases, an education reform case, and a number of matters for the Alliance for Children’s Rights focused on protecting the rights of impoverished children in the foster care system, one of the most vulnerable populations in need of legal services.”

For Klosterman, the coupling of her work at the firm and her pro bono duties is just the right mix. “I love litigation work, and I love the work I’m able to do on behalf of children,” she says. “I learned a lot in the clinics at Michigan, and there is a direct link between my clinic experience at Michigan and the work I do today.”

“YOU’RE GIVEN A LOT OF MEANINGFUL WORK TO DO”

Sharon Brett, ’12, says that decisions regarding career, debt, and salary are complicated and particular to each person. In Brett’s case, highly particular. Entering law school, Brett knew not only which area of law she wanted to practice—the rights of people within government justice systems—but where she wanted to practice it: the special litigation section within the civil rights division of the U.S. Department of Justice. And this fall, after completing a clerkship with Magistrate Judge John M. Facciola of U.S. District Court in D.C., that’s where Brett is headed; she was one of four out of 600 applicants chosen for an honors program that hires new attorneys at the DOJ.

Brett had become acquainted with the special litigation section before law school while working for the Vera Institute of Justice. The section has “an eclectic docket,” as Brett puts it. It enforces federal statutes that affect prisons, juvenile facilities, and other state-run institutions; that ensure open entrances to reproductive health clinics; that prevent police misconduct; and other topics. “They were working on issues I cared about it in a really positive and forward-thinking way,” Brett says.

Mono-focused to an unusual degree, Brett regarded clinics and externships not as ways to explore what she wanted to do but to get to where she already knew she wanted to go. “As a public-interest student going into law school saying, ‘I want to do X,’ to get out and not do X would be a failure.”

During her first summer, she worked for the ACLU National Prison Project. The second summer, she did an internship for the public defenders’ office in D.C. Then at the beginning of her third year, the opportunity for an externship at the Department of Justice presented itself.

The DOJ externship, she says, proved more significant than her two summer internships. Working in the fall, when most other law students are back in class, “you’re given a lot more meaningful work to do,” she says. “It taught me a lot about the law, about the office, and it was completely worth my time.” She also developed strong relationships with attorneys and supervisors in the office who went to bat for her when she applied to the honors program.
“I CRAFTED MY OWN CURRICULUM TO SUIT MY CAREER NEEDS”

Brett’s advice to students is to think creatively to get the most out of their law school experience. “I didn’t take a lot of ‘required’ classes in my 2L and 3L years. I took classes that interested me and were in the field I wanted to work in,” she says.

“I crafted my own curriculum to suit my career needs, and that was really valuable.”

Yet things change over time; what seems important right after law school may be very different a decade out. A high law-firm salary may no longer be worth the enormous time and stress required to make partner. Garrett observes, “Only a couple of people in my section at law school are still at firms. The rest are corporate counsel or doing all kinds of different things.”

If, firm jobs become scarcer, even for those who want them, many young attorneys may look elsewhere for their livelihoods. “Maybe the only silver lining is that they won’t get pushed into something that’s not best for them,” Payne suggests. “It may be an opportunity, even if it doesn’t feel like one.”

Law School Unveils Online Debt Wizard Calculator

The Law School in February unveiled the first-of-its-kind Debt Wizard, an online calculator that provides a simple method for students to explore different ways to service their prospective law school debt. The calculator provides insight into how students can afford potential careers by showing the options they have depending on: job goals, potential salaries for those careers, housing costs in various geographic markets, and payments they can expect to make under four different repayment plans.

“This is our effort to represent 11,000 possible repayment paths, which in turn can serve as a basis for exploration of law school and career choices,” said Dean Evan Caminker. “We hope this model will allow law school applicants to begin developing a sense of how location, housing costs, career type, level of law school federal loan debt, and level of income interact in monthly budgets during the initial period following graduation.”

With the calculator, current and potential law students may choose from a few variables: type of post-graduate employment, geographic market, and law school debt level. Choosing one of each variable produces a graph that displays a rich array of data illustrating 12 possible levels of annual salary (based on National Association for Law Placement (NALP) data for law grads across the nation). As one moves the cursor over each of the four approaches, a rollover box appears that shows a monthly breakdown of net income and the estimated amount necessary to manage law school debt plus housing; the percentage of monthly net (post-tax) income that the debt-plus-housing amount represents; and the remaining monthly income available.

The results neither predict nor promise, particularly with regard to the likelihood of obtaining any given job, which will vary widely among law schools and between individuals. The calculator is intended to help current and potential students to understand their options.

“In today’s economy, prospective law students are rightly focusing on finances,” said Sarah Zearfoss, ’92, senior assistant dean for admissions, financial aid, and career planning. “The Debt Wizard helps to fulfill our obligation—speaking both generally as an institution of higher education and specifically as a public university—to provide some tools to grapple with the considerable complexities.”

For more information, please visit the Debt Wizard at www.law.umich.edu/financialaid/debtwizard.—CB
Ruth Ann, Feleke Kyle, and Mary Claire at the Logues’ Ann Arbor home.
A Family for Feleke

By Katie Vloet
Photography by Leisa Thompson and Kyle Logue
BEFORE THE LOST VISAS AND PASSPORTS, before the treacherous travel and the frantic search for prednisone somewhere in the middle of Ethiopia, before one father asked another to keep his son on the other side of the world—before all of that, Kyle and Ruth Ann Logue had a conversation.

Ruth Ann had heard from a friend about an 11-year-old boy in Ethiopia who had been diagnosed with Hodgkin’s lymphoma—a cancer of the immune system—and who had been offered free treatment near Detroit. A donor had put up money for the plane ticket. As the Logues understood it, the boy would just need a place to stay for about five weeks and transportation to a clinic in the Detroit area for radiation treatments for 15 days.

They looked at a photo of the boy online and learned more about his story: because the boy had been sick on and off since age 5, his father had been forced to sell the family’s two oxen to pay for chemotherapy, but treatments still were stopped early. His prognosis if he stayed in Ethiopia did not look good. Already the parents of five children, the Logues quickly developed a soft spot in their hearts for the boy, named Feleke (feh-LEH-keh). But a place in their home?

Kyle is the Wade H. and Dores M. McCree Collegiate Professor of Law at the U-M Law School, where he teaches tax, torts, and insurance law. Ruth Ann is a trained nurse who was home-schooling two of their kids at the time; another was in high school, one was a junior at U-M, and the oldest was a 1L at Michigan Law. The couple was always driving one of their children to practice, picking up another from an after-school activity or a church event. They had plenty on their plate.

But maybe, Ruth Ann thought, she could enlist the help of friends who could help with the transportation. OK, they thought. This will be tough, but for a few weeks, we can do it.

So, on a bitterly cold night in January 2012, Dr. Rick Hodes from the mission in Ethiopia where Feleke had been diagnosed flew with Feleke to Detroit Metro Airport and drove him to Ann Arbor.

Feleke saw snow for the first time that night, amazed by the white blanket that covered the ground. He was terrified of the passing cars on the interstate, fearing the whoosh of wind would blow him into the air.

He couldn’t convey any of this at the time, though. He could only say a few words in English then, so he thought it, silently, in the back seat of the car on his way to Ann Arbor.
Sickness and a Hope for Health

Feleke was just 5 when his family first realized he was sick. Dental pain led his family to get him injections at a clinic near their village, Dafe Jema. When Feleke was 7, his father noticed swelling in the boy’s neck; doctors could not identify the problem. He was not treated.

At 11, Feleke’s neck grew larger. His fellow students laughed and called him “fat neck.” Usually a top student who loved school, he now returned home every day in tears.

His father knew treatment was necessary and that they would need to travel to Addis Ababa—which is 80 miles from Dafe Jema as the crow flies but eight hours as the human travels. The doctors decided he needed chemotherapy for what they identified as a malignant tumor. Feleke’s father did what he had to do to raise the money: sold the family’s two oxen, the ones used every spring to plow the fields in preparation for planting.

Feleke hated the hospital and the treatments; once, a chemotherapy IV missed a vein and ended up burning all of the tendons in his left hand and causing damage that may be permanent. The treatment was halted early when the money ran out. As Feleke waited—his chemotherapy incomplete, his illness worsening—his family heard about the Mother Teresa Medical Mission. There, they were told, Feleke could be seen by Dr. Rick Hodes, an American doctor who had been treating patients in Ethiopia for more than 20 years.

The family took Feleke to see Dr. Rick, as he is known, and it is safe to say that the encounter saved Feleke’s life—or, at least, began the process of saving it. A visiting oncologist, Dr. Jeff Forman, as well as a biopsy sent to a lab in the States, confirmed Hodes’ diagnosis: Feleke had Hodgkin’s lymphoma on one side of his neck. He began receiving treatments at the mission.

The next step in saving Feleke’s life: Dr. Forman offered to treat Feleke for free at his practice in Michigan. Dr. Rick set an impressive fundraising machine at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee into motion and found a donor who would pay the airfare. Then the Logues heard about Feleke and agreed to take him in for his treatment. Their time with him, they figured, would be meaningful but would end in several weeks.
The "Detroit area" became Farmington Hills. Five weeks turned to six, seven, 12. Fifteen treatments grew to 23. All the while, Feleke's place in the Logues' home—and hearts—also grew.

A network of Ethiopians who live in Ann Arbor brought food, translation help, a dose of the familiar. Feleke learned to sled, and shouted, "Oh, my goodness!"—a phrase he'd heard from Ruth Ann—as he raced down a hill. "His first English sentence," Ruth Ann recalls.

The Logues' two youngest children, Mary Claire, now 10, and Caroline, 14, helped him communicate in the early days by getting markers and paper for him to draw his village and his chickens. They, in turn, drew pictures of their family's house and barn. Thomas, a 16-year-old who plays high school basketball, shared with Feleke his appreciation for U-M sports, and Feleke became a big fan of basketball star Trey Burke and football star Denard Robinson.

In time, he shared stories from home—an encounter with a hyena, how to cook corn over an open fire. He had some testy moments—the occasional hunger strike at dinner, for example, in silent protest of the lack of his favorite foods on the menu—as he adjusted to a new culture, new household rules, life with a new family. But he also was very loving with his new siblings and with the people he called Mama and Dad. He loved playing soccer, taking swimming lessons, and making a robot at an engineering camp.

And, of course, the treatments continued. Back and forth, back and forth they went. Dr. Forman's office in Farmington Hills, northeast of Ann Arbor, was the destination on 23 days during those first weeks because the lymphoma had progressed more than the doctors originally thought. Through it all, the Logues were awestruck by Feleke's fortitude and courage during the treatments, by the maturity he showed.

Feleke's return flight to Ethiopia had to be postponed because his treatments and CAT scans were stretching out longer. He missed his family—parents, 10 brothers and sisters—terribly, but kept up with the family through one of his brothers by cell phone.

As Feleke's neck began to shrink, his spirits grew. Ruth Ann taught him, as well as Mary Claire and Caroline, at home. His vocabulary expanded each day. He looked for broken things to fix in the home and in the garage. He repaired a fan, a record player, radio—whatever he could get his hands on—building on a skill his father had taught him in Dafe Jema.

Meanwhile, a Logue family friend, Steven Weinberg, a student in the U-M Medical School, planned to travel to Ethiopia to work with Dr. Rick Weinberg—the son of Susan Weinberg, a 1988 Law School graduate and former director of the Office of Career Services—offered to make the journey to Dafe Jema and connect with Feleke's family. (Indeed, the Weinberg family played a large role in this journey of the Logues and Feleke; Steven had known Dr. Rick for a while, and he helped the Logues to make the decision, over coffee at Sweetwaters in Ann Arbor's Kerrytown, to house Feleke in the first place. Dr. Neal Weinberg—Steven's dad and Susan's husband—is Feleke's pediatrician.)

Steven made the trip to Dafe Jema, taking with him photos of Feleke, the Logue family, and America, along with a video of Feleke speaking English (to impress his family) and telling them he was OK. Steven Weinberg sent back snapshots of Feleke's family from Dafe Jema.

He also sent a video that would change the Logues' lives forever.
A Father’s Plea

At first, the translator did not want to say what Feleke’s father, Biru, was asking on the video that Weinberg sent to the Logues. He looked at Kyle and Ruth Ann with big eyes. Finally, he explained that Feleke’s family, the Biru Kumbis, wanted Feleke to live with the Logues. Forever.

The family in Ethiopia was thrilled with how well the treatments were working, and they worried that if Feleke should need treatments in the future, they would not be able to afford or access the care he needed.

“They made their position clear: We love Feleke and miss him very much, but we want you to keep him in America where he can be close to the American doctors and go to an American school, if you are willing to let him live with you,” Kyle says.

Well.

“We sat down with Feleke at the kitchen table and asked him, ‘What do you think about that?’” Ruth Ann says. “I thought he was going to say he didn’t want to stay. I know he missed his family, especially his mom, who was sick and hadn’t seen him for two years before he left Ethiopia. And I told him he wouldn’t be able to get back every year, but we’d get him there as often as possible.

“He looked really thoughtful, and said, ‘Yeah, I want to stay.’”

They talked to their children about it as well and asked what they thought about the idea of Feleke staying. After an emotional discussion, and a candid confession of concerns all around, a consensus was reached that this would be best, though not without some sacrifices. The two youngest girls, for example, have had to share a bedroom so that Feleke could have a room to himself, an arrangement that is dutifully accepted though periodically (and reasonably, Kyle says) revisited by the interested parties.

The Logue family in Ann Arbor had figured out that they could make this work. But Kyle needed to talk with another family before he could move forward. He needed to see the Biru Kumbis of Dafe Jema, Ethiopia, to talk face-to-face with Feleke’s parents and ask them,
To get to Dafe Jema, Kyle, son Thomas, and Feleke took a 15-hour plane ride to Addis Ababa, with stopovers in Amsterdam and Khartoum. From Addis, Feleke went ahead to be with his family, while Thomas and Kyle explored the country. Also during this time, Kyle was able to meet and conduct research with a former student—Professor Taddese Lencho, Michigan LLM ’99—who now teaches and writes about tax law in Addis. When all of this was done, Kyle and Thomas made the journey to Dafe Jema.

The Logue team needed a knowledgeable, experienced, and trustworthy driver. And they found one, in Shimeless Fisseha, a prominent geophysicist at Addis Ababa University, recommended to them by his sister, Dr. Senait Fisseha, who happens to be a physician at the U-M Hospital and an assistant professor at the Medical School. Shimeless’s Land Cruiser took the Logues over the one main road between Addis and Adama, which is a main route for infuriatingly slow trucks that haul cargo, made more dangerous by the Ethiopian drivers trying to get around them.

“Ethiopian drivers, however, fear nothing, not even oncoming traffic. They will happily pass a long line of large trucks, even on a curve and even across a bridge. It doesn’t matter, so long as they see some theoretical daylight between them and where they are heading,” Kyle wrote on his blog, dafejema.blogspot.com.

Luckily, Professor Fisseha knew the terrain well. He also shared some unnerving stories about a time that he and an American researcher were among Somalis on the same day that Somali pirates were killed by American Navy Seals. He recalled how they had lied and told the Somalis that his friend was German. “We planned to use France in the unlikely event we found ourselves among Somali pirate sympathizers,” Kyle later wrote.

They picked up two of Feleke’s older brothers during the drive, one of whom is a police officer in the town of Dera. For all its horsepower, the car eventually got stuck so deep in a mud ditch that a group of men and boys came “to offer advice and then to offer their shoulders,” Kyle reported. Rather than the unfriendly encounters they had feared, they had instead met a group that would help them on their way. One of Feleke’s brothers taught Kyle to say “thank you” in the local Oromo language, which made the villagers gasp and then laugh.

When the Land Cruiser could no longer take them through the rough terrain, they rode small horses that the Biru Kumbis had sent for them. An hour later, they approached the family’s home, and immediately spotted Feleke in his Angry Birds T-shirt; it was clear to Kyle that he had enjoyed the week with his family.

The family greeted the visitors with a seat of honor, on a University of Michigan blanket that had been brought to them by Feleke (as a gift from Susan Weinberg), and a meal of doro wat, a spicy chicken dish. Kyle, Thomas, and Feleke handed out gifts: T-shirts, a solar-powered radio, backpacks. They talked about Biru’s new cattle, which friends and family of the Logues had chipped in to replace.
The visit would be short. Everyone wanted their pictures taken with the Logues, and they were especially fascinated by the 6-foot-4 Thomas. Kyle and Biru, the two dads, sat down together over a beer and talked, through an interpreter, about what should happen next.

Biru, as well as Feleke’s mother, Elfinish, assured Kyle that keeping Feleke in the States was what they wanted. They wanted what was best for their son.

Kyle and Ruth Ann had begun the process of becoming Feleke’s legal guardians in probate court. They had Biru’s signature and now needed to have Elfinish sign the papers as well. She inked her finger and made her mark on the document.

Before long, it was time to say goodbye. Feleke hung his head as he said goodbye to his sisters, brothers, and parents. He may have cried, Kyle says, but if so he kept it hidden and maintained his composure. Kyle asked him one more time: Are you sure you want to come with us? Feleke nodded.

Before they mounted the horses to return to the car, Biru asked for his photo to be taken, sitting on one of the horses. In the photo, his back is straight and his expression serious. “I think he realized,” Kyle wrote on his blog, “this would be a picture that Feleke would someday treasure—his father on a horse, dignified and in charge, almost majestic.” They headed back to Addis.

Kyle later wrote on his blog: “So there you have it. The lives of the Biru Kumbis and Logues have been changed forever, inextricably intertwined. There really isn’t any going back.

_We, all of us, are on a journey together now, and we’re not sure where it will lead._"
At first, at least, it led to a scary incident—or, rather, a series of them: It turns out that Thomas is severely allergic to horses. He learned of this, unfortunately, on the return horseback ride to the car from Feleke's village. By the time the group got back on the road, hives, red and teary eyes, and pure misery had hit Thomas full-force. Kyle called Dr. Rick on the cell phone he had rented from one of Dr. Rick's kids, and Dr. Rick advised that Thomas needed to take Benadryl and 40 mg of prednisone. No problem—except they were in a remote part of Ethiopia.

By some miracle, the Logues' web of friends with ties to Ethiopia—the ones they had met since Feleke's arrival—came through again. Two of them, who live in Ann Arbor, were visiting nearby Adama, Ethiopia. They were able to get the medication for Thomas.

After this adventure, Kyle, Thomas, and Feleke returned to the hotel in Addis, exhausted and, in Thomas's case, feeling rotten. They slept, and, the next morning, Kyle started to assemble everything they would need for the trip home, scheduled for August 12. Passport, money, credit cards, visas. They were in the money belt. Which was … wait, where was the money belt?

With an epic sinking feeling, Kyle realized that it was gone. Everything was gone. Their IDs, their money, their ability to get back to Ann Arbor. All of it had been taken from their hotel room during the confusion of arriving, paying for their stay, and having the room cleaned.

Thankfully, Kyle is clear-headed and resourceful. And, thankfully, Ruth Ann had made copies of all of the original documents before the trip; those were still in Kyle's suitcase. Still, the flight scheduled for the next day had to be postponed.

What followed was a series of phone calls: To the U.S. Embassy (closed on weekends); to the emergency number for the embassy (a young marine who guards the door said, "Sir, I think you'd best hunker down till Monday and try again then"); to the credit card companies, to deactivate the stolen cards; to a friend in Ann Arbor, who helped them change the day of their flights.

A visit to Dr. Rick and his passport expert offered little hope; they would need Feleke's father to navigate the unreliable bus system from Dafe Jema to Addis so he could be present for the issuance of a new passport. They went to the police station with one of Dr. Rick's sons to report the theft, but they were told there, as at the U.S. Embassy, to return on Monday.

In a driving rainstorm, they went to the embassy first thing on Monday. They were told to come back later in the day; then, they were told it would take several weeks for Feleke's new passport—after Kyle's classes at the Law School were set to begin.

Another person jumped in to help: Kyle's former student, Taddese Lencho. He drove them to the police station, the embassy, to get passport photos taken, to another police station, back to the first station to have the report amended, and through a series of roadblocks and frustrations.

They were getting bad news everywhere they turned. Finally, Kyle called Ruth Ann and asked her to reach out to everyone they knew with connections to Ethiopia, the federal government—anything. This was a good time to work with professors who are politically connected in Washington; they learned that the embassy would stay open late for them, but that they needed the police report translated and to get larger passport photos. Finally, some help, but also more hoops to jump through.

Somehow, Biru, Feleke's father, was able to make it to the immigration office; Thomas was sent on an earlier flight than Kyle and Feleke, though he was without an exit visa and had to navigate a flight transfer (which he did); and, finally, Kyle and Feleke got the paperwork they needed to return to Ann Arbor on an August 18 flight.

At long last, his adopted family having gone a great distance and through miles of red tape to make him a part of their lives,

Feleke was on his way home.
It’s a Thursday evening at the Logue house on Ann Arbor’s north side, nearly a year after Feleke first stepped into the home, fascinated by the refrigerator and shower, and unsure of what anyone was saying to him. The Logues have become his permanent legal guardians, and Feleke has been approved by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service for an F1 student visa, renewable as long as he remains a student, with the Logues as his sponsor.

Feleke waves his arms in excitement—“Mama, daddy, I got 100 points on my spelling test today at school,” at Christian Montessori in Ann Arbor, where he is in a class with fourth, fifth, and sixth graders, and where he has a half-tuition scholarship.

They ask about the words he spelled, and he rattles off: f-r-i-e-n-d, c-a-s-h-i-e-r. Ruth Ann explains to him what a cashier is: “You know when you go to the store with Mama? It’s the person I pay.” Kyle tells him he did a good job spelling friend, especially since the vowels are tricky.

Feleke remembers another word from the test, and spells it with confidence, a word he now knows well in two languages:

A Home, A Family

Top: A healthy Feleke swings from a rope in the Logues’ barn and plays on the family’s farm with Mary Claire. Above: Kyle helps Feleke with his reading, which is improving rapidly. Below: Feleke spends a leisurely weekend day with members of his U.S. family: Ruth Ann, Kyle, and Mary Claire.
At the age of 99, the Georgian manse of Phi Delta Phi lives on like a roguish old gentleman, enjoying the peace of old age but still smiling over memories of a wild youth.

Phi Delta Phi, the oldest of the three international law fraternities, was founded at Michigan in 1869. But the house at 502 E. Madison wasn’t built until 1914. (It was then, and remains, the only “Phid” chapter with its own residence.) The Phids were always a little older and more sophisticated than the undergraduate societies, and they soon became notorious for social outlawry.

That reputation was sealed during the Prohibition days of 1921, when the Phids imported a troupe of Broadway chorus girls for an unsanctioned party. Dean Henry Bates disciplined 26 Phids but kept the matter quiet. /The Detroit Times/, which trumpeted “wine, women and song days … at U. of M.”

That put U-M President Marion LeRoy Burton on the defensive. “The university cannot be aloof in these matters,” he said. “There are a few students who still think they are independent of the community. For those who persist in this attitude, there is no room in the University of Michigan.”

In fact, the erring Phids stayed in school, and the house continued to make room for independence. After West Quad was built across the street, its youngsters often bore the brunt of Phid rowdiness. One such incident nearly got out of control late one Friday night in 1941.

It started with a beer-soaked Phid football game under West Quad’s windows. When the Quaddies yelled for quiet, the Phids screamed back, and before long the cops were pulling the two groups away from an incipient brawl. /The West Quad men pointed at one future attorney as the lead instigator; according to the official report, they “were unanimous in their opinion that this one fellow managed to shout the filthiest language they had ever heard, which is saying a lot.”

Of course, Phid was hardly the only fraternity to get in trouble. The difference was the Phids’ special ability to get out of it. The transcript of a disciplinary hearing in 1949 shows the authorities had their hands full against Phids well trained in legal argument—especially in the era when many law students had survived combat against Germany or Japan.

Every “mixed” party on campus—meaning a party of both sexes—had to get the University’s approval, with no intoxicants allowed. In this instance, police had found all three violations:
the Phids were hosting women (including at least one member’s wife) and drinking beer with no authorization for a party.

Hauled before the Committee on Student Discipline, the Phids faced the formidable Grover Cleveland Grismore (JD, 1914), professor of contracts in the Law School. Grismore was clearly in a mood to teach the house a lesson. But Bill Porter, ’49, president of Phid, and Robert Fisher, ’49, the house manager, were unfazed:

Porter: “What is the gist of the complaint?”
Grismore: “You have violated University regulations.”
Porter: “There is no charge of immorality or anything like that?”
Grismore: “No—you held a mixed, liquor party.”
Porter: “Now, the word ‘liquor’—does that include beer?”
Grismore: “Beer is liquor.”
Grismore: “You have served liquor in the house in the shape of beer time and time again?”
Porter: “What do you mean ‘served?’”

Grismore: “I can’t think you believe it is proper for men, even if they are 30 years old, to take women into their living quarters. I just can’t believe that.”

Fischer: “Properly chaperoned?”
Grismore: “Were they properly chaperoned?”
Porter: “Yes, sir. If it hadn’t been for the war, most of us would have been practicing for two or three years, had a home by now. [This] was no different than having some couples over to the house for bridge.”

Grismore: “You don’t mean to say the fraternity is equivalent to a private home?”
Porter: “It is to me. That is our private home.”
Grismore: “Now, Mr. Porter, don’t try to tell me that kind of a thing. … Can’t you fellows realize that the reputation of the whole University is jeopardized when you do that kind of a thing? People are bound to see girls going in and out of your house. They know it is a men’s fraternity house. What are they going to think when they see girls coming out of it in the middle of the night?”
Porter: “What time is ‘middle of the night,’ sir?”

The Phids walked away with no more than a warning and minor fines.

Women were admitted in the 1970s and soon made up half the membership. Contrary to what Professor Grismore might have predicted, the gates of hell did not open. What the members call “Phid-cest” has occurred, of course, with results ranging from strained relations in the communal kitchen to marriage. As for the actual rate of, shall we say, liaisons, reports vary. “It wasn’t happening as much as you would think,” says MaryAnn Sarosi, ’87, a three-year Phid who would later become the Law School’s assistant dean for public service. “People thought: ‘This may not be the wisest.’”

Phids now content themselves with only one big party per semester. Possibly the social whirl has slowed because it takes more energy than it used to just to keep the old house standing. The four old columns had to be replaced with metal sheathed in wood. The pipes are iffy. The porch on the west side had to be rebuilt. Every year brings the renewal of defensive measures against bats escaped from the attic.

“It always felt like you were in a fraternity movie, where somebody was constantly going to tear down the house if you couldn’t raise just enough money to keep it going,” says Dan McCarthy, ’07, who put in time as house manager. “It was a matter of trying not to let things totally fall apart on you within the limited budget that you’ve got.”

Phid networks survive via phone calls, Facebook, recommendations, and reunions. And Phid friendships last. Barney Eskandari, ’06, lived in the house only one year, but his Phid friends are among his closest. “They’re all great people,” he said. “Most Phi people are. It was probably one of the best places I ever lived.”
White Retires After 48 Years

Professor J.J. White, the Robert A. Sullivan Professor of Law, retired at the end of the fall term after 48 years of teaching at the Law School. White, ’62, built a reputation not just as an expert in the field of commercial law, but also as a tough, fair, and often very funny professor.

Online professor guides from former students describe him as “entertaining, curmudgeonly,” and “one of the best professors I’ve had at the Law School.” “He puts you through the wringer each time he calls on you in class,” wrote one alum, but he also “truly cares about you as a student and person,” wrote another.

White’s book Uniform Commercial Code (with Summers and Hillman) is the most widely recognized treatise on the subject. He also is the author of several casebooks on commercial, bankruptcy, and contracts law.

We sat down with him in the office where he has worked for 45 of his years at the Law School and asked him for his thoughts about changes, his teaching style, and mud wrestling.

How did you get to the Michigan Law School?
My grandfather graduated from Michigan in 1908 and I was attracted by its reputation. It helped that I had a Weymouth Kirkland scholarship that paid all of my tuition and a stipend for living expenses. The scholarship, named after a founder of the current Kirkland & Ellis and given by Colonel McCormick of the Chicago Tribune to honor his lawyer, was available to anyone who was a resident of “Chicagoland” and went to school there. Mr. McCormick had an expansive view of Chicagoland; it went from the Missouri River to Lake Huron, so as a resident of Iowa who was going to school at Michigan, I qualified.

What changes have you seen in the Law School in 48 years?
You miss many of the big changes because they occur incrementally. So how are things different? The number of women students has increased dramatically. When I came here, the numbers were minuscule. The other difference of 1964, the numbers were minuscule. The other difference of in 1964, the numbers were minuscule. The other difference of women students has increased dramatically. When I came here, the numbers were minuscule. The other difference of in 1964, the numbers were minuscule. The other difference of women students has increased dramatically.

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I always throw away my notes after each class, and that has been a problem because as you get older, you forget things more easily. But it has helped me to stay fresh and come at the material a little differently each year.

One big change in the students between the time I was in school here and now is, there aren’t any dumb students here anymore. I was in school just after the time when the drill was to admit anyone and then flunk out one third of the class after the first year. Then a handful of students had a hard time getting through school. All of our students now are easily smart enough to do good work in any course. The people at the top are smarter than they were then.

What are the virtues of the Socratic method?
My hope with calling on students during class has always been that the practice will encourage careful preparation and that it will prepare them for probing questions from judges, colleagues, and even clients. Even in a Socratic discourse, you can help a student along by various tricks. What I’ll do is call on a student; if they stumble, I’ll say to the person next to them, “Give her a hand, will you?” and later I try to go back to the first student and give them another chance. I believe that it is better for our students to learn how to deal with hard questions here, where there’s no cost, except a bit of embarrassment, to their being wrong.

How do you compare law practice to teaching?
I practiced law for only a couple of years, and I never regretted coming back here to teach. Not one minute. I loved teaching, and I got to like writing. Hanging out in the lounge with my colleagues is also great fun. [Professors] Frier and Miller continue to try to teach me medieval and ancient history, and that’s enjoyable—because of, or perhaps despite, their personalities.

Tell us some of your memorable interactions with students.
We used to have a talent show in the Lawyers Club Lounge every year, and I was in it a number of times, almost always making an ass out of myself. One time, I was in a mud wrestling contest. I wore an old suit, and it was completely wiped out. One time, I did a dance with four women students; since I can’t dance, I’m sure that was an embarrassment.

I love our students; our students are wonderful. Even when they’re a pain in the ass, they’re wonderful.

See a video interview with Professor White at www.law.umich.edu/quadrangle.
Payton Retires; Was One of First Female Faculty Members

By Katie Vloet

As one of the first two female faculty members hired by the Law School, Sallyanne Payton was in a new position: "I had not been in a place where that ground had not already been broken," she says.

The year was 1976, and the Law School had some catching up to do. It began with the hiring of Payton and Christina B. Whitman, ’74. But Payton never felt like an outsider, even on a faculty that had for so long been made up only of men.

“The law faculty community was warmly welcoming,” recalls Payton, the William W. Cook Professor of Law, who recently retired.

Payton came to the Law School after earning her law degree at Stanford in 1968, then practicing at Covington and Burling in Washington, D.C., as part of the first cohort of West Coasters who were brought into D.C. firms, she says. It was still a few years before air travel made the boundaries of the country seem closer together, and “East Coasters still thought of Californians as exotics,” Payton says. Covington taught Payton to be a transportation and development lawyer, which gave her the background needed for her next job.

In 1971, Payton went to work for President Nixon as part of the recently formed White House Domestic Council staff. "I was ousted as a Republican when I went to work for the Nixon White House. Many of my friends were shocked," she says.

Payton’s work focused on presidential projects involving infrastructure investments in the District of Columbia, including rebuilding the riot corridors in D.C., getting the Metro subway system built, and laying the groundwork for home rule for the District. Building on this experience, in 1973 she became chief counsel of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration at the U.S. Department of Transportation. Even now, she considers her work on the National Mass Transportation Assistance Act of 1974 to be among her biggest accomplishments.

In 1975, Payton met future-First Lady Rosalynn Carter, “and I observed that she was probably going to get her husband elected president.” Payton decided it was a good time to think of her next career move, somewhere other than Washington.

Several law schools were interested in her, but she liked Michigan because the state is the “center of thinking about heavy-iron infrastructure, with transportation at the heart of it all.”

She was introduced to things in Michigan that she never was exposed to when living on the coasts: the battle between labor and management, a less adventurous but very industrious spirit, an intense localism. A long-distance bicyclist, she enjoyed exploring hundreds of miles of roads on the weekends, past barns, sheep, and inland lakes. “I began to understand America when I moved to Michigan.”

She taught administrative law, acquired a new specialty in health law, and became “completely fascinated” by legal reasoning and the common law system. She worked with computer science experts at the University through the years to try to figure out how to create reliable computerized representations of legal information in order to democratize access to the laws.

Payton also returned frequently to Washington to consult on projects and serve on boards. In 1993, she was an adviser to the Clinton Health Care Reform Task Force, which led to her election as a fellow of the prestigious National Academy of Public Administration.

Now, she is finding herself even busier in retirement than when she was teaching fulltime. She has undertaken the study of the neuroscience of the Negro spiritual, working with scientists, musicians, and practitioners of integrative medicine to study how and why the Negro spiritual reduces stress.

The idea came from the military’s use of the Emotional Freedom Technique, in which patients with post-traumatic stress disorder tap the acupressure points on their bodies while replacing traumatized thoughts with reassuring thoughts. At a conference, Payton saw a presentation of the tapping technique, and wondered if it could be used in civilian populations. Then she realized that the basic method of replacing trauma with reassurance is similar to that of old-fashioned Negro spirituals and gospel hymns, which, she says, have historically been used to help people cope with adversity. Instead of simply recalling and rehearsing painful experiences, Payton says, “a spiritual typically moves upward, as in, ‘Sometimes I’m up, sometimes I’m down, but thank the Lord I’m heavenward bound. Glory Hallelujah.’”

“I’m doing a presentation about this at a conference in June, and everyone will enter the room humming, just like in an old-fashioned rural black church,” Payton says. “I don’t know what our research will reveal, but I am intrigued by the idea that the traditional Negro spiritual may have wisdom to offer to cutting-edge neuroscience.”
No point is ever moot when you’re preparing to argue before the United States Supreme Court.

Hence the widespread practice of running through your arguments—mooting—in front of various audiences ahead of the big day in Washington. That’s what happened during a recent afternoon in Ann Arbor as a panel of nine stern-faced Michigan Law professors assembled on the podium at the front of Honigman Auditorium.

Before them stood Michigan Law Professor David Moran, ’91, counsel of record in the double-jeopardy case Evans v. Michigan. “You’re just getting prepared for oral argument, to get you to think of all the possible questions the justices might ask,” said Moran, who cofounded the Law School’s Innocence Clinic. “You want to do enough moots on each case so that you’re never surprised.”

The mooting and all of Moran’s other preparation worked; on February 20, the Court ruled in favor of Lamar Evans, whose case Moran presented in November.

Evans v. Michigan sought to determine whether a defendant can be tried again after the trial judge erroneously holds a particular fact to be an element of the alleged crime, then grants a directed verdict of acquittal because the prosecution failed to prove that fact. Professor Richard Friedman was one of Moran’s co-counsels on the case.

The case originated in Detroit, where two police officers saw a vacant house burning. Then, the officers said, they spotted Evans walking along carrying a can of gasoline. The officers claimed Evans made an incriminating statement after they detained him.

The problems arose after prosecutors chose to charge Evans with “burning other real property,” because the burned house had been vacant at the time of the fire. The defense argued that the charges actually required prosecutors to prove that the building wasn’t a dwelling house, and the judge agreed—then determined that the prosecution had failed to prove that element. With that, she granted Evans’ motion for a directed verdict of acquittal.

Prosecutors appealed, and the Michigan appellate courts decided the trial judge erred. But they also said the double-jeopardy clause didn’t bar a retrial. And it was that question that ended up at the U.S. Supreme Court.

In preparing for oral arguments, Moran had the professoriate of a top-tier law school on hand to ask him the pointed questions. “Chief Justice” (aka Dean) Evan Caminker led the charge, joined by professors Nicholas Bagley, Scott Hershovitz, Joan Larsen, Julian Davis Mortenson, Paul Reingold, Margo Schlanger, Sonja Starr, and Christina B. Whitman, ’74.

The moot was sponsored by the Criminal Law Society and American Constitution Society. A dozen Michigan Law students, who had been taking Moran and Friedman’s seminar on the case, “An Insider’s View to Supreme Court Practice,” mooted him previously; they also attended the arguments in Washington.

In the end, Moran said, the Supreme Court “reaffirmed the principle it had recognized for over a century: an acquittal, whether by a judge or jury, is final and the State cannot put a citizen through the ordeal of a retrial following an acquittal simply by identifying errors in the trial leading to the acquittal. “To put it simply, it’s the State that puts people on trial, and the Double Jeopardy Clause stands for the proposition that it is the State, not the citizen, who must bear the risk that mistakes are made during that trial.”—JM
Schlanger’s Paper Tackles Prison Overcrowding

Professor Margo Schlanger cites a basic starting point in her paper on the continuing court battle about overcrowding in California’s prisons: “No floor sleepers.”

Which is to say, if you’re incarcerated in California, you should at least have a place to lay your head.

Both county jails and prisons in California have long operated under that rule. In the jails, sheriffs have shortened misdemeanor sentences and reduced bail for minor offenders in response, reducing crowding. But the state prisons, which house felons, don’t have that authority. So, with the spike in California’s state prison population in recent decades, overcrowding and attendant breakdowns in decent medical and mental-health care rapidly followed.

Lawsuits argued that conditions in the overcrowded system constituted unconstitutionally cruel and unusual punishment, causing hundreds of preventable deaths, and in 2011, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a district court order requiring the state to limit prison overcrowding to about 137 percent of design capacity by the middle of this year—an order that requires a reduction in prison population of more than 60,000 prisoners from the peak, in 2007.

What has happened since, Schlanger writes, is a fascinating interplay between the political process and the litigation that was designed to force reform. She examines the history of such litigation since the mid-’90s Prison Litigation Reform Act, the litigation history of this particular case, earlier court orders addressing prison and jail overpopulation, and the possibility that solving the crowding problem at the state level might simply push the problem down to the county jail level—making it even more difficult to combat.

“This was the most important prison case in the Supreme Court for at least the past 10 years,” Schlanger says. “It’s a huge case.”

And it’s far from over. The prison system remains under the supervision of the federal court, and the state is required to report at regular intervals its population reduction progress. The current prison population in California is about 120,000, with an additional 8,700 prisoners housed at private facilities out of state. The state hit its first several population benchmarks but has explained to the court that further population reduction would, in its view, violate state law or undermine public safety. The state claims that notwithstanding the court’s earlier contrary view, it can run a constitutional prison system given its current population levels. Governor Jerry Brown has sought a softening of the order, but so far the Court has agreed only to delay, not alter, the final population target.

“So the standoff in this case has ripened,” Schlanger says. “California has challenged the district court to a game of chicken; we’ll see how the court responds.” If the district court denies California’s motion to modify the population order, that denial will go right back to the Supreme Court; unlike in most cases, appeal to the high court is direct.

Schlanger says she intends to keep a close eye on the situation. The paper, “Plata v. Brown and Realignment: Jails, Prisons, Courts, and Politics,” is scheduled for publication in 2013 by the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review. For the latest version of the paper, visit margoschlanger.net.—JM
FACULTY NEWS

Another Busy Year Ahead for Avi-Yonah

Whether he’s pumping out scholarly papers or flying off to all corners of the globe to participate in high-level discussions about international tax, it’s obvious that Professor Reuven Avi-Yonah doesn’t find the work taxing.

“I switched from history to law to make a difference in the real world,” Avi-Yonah says. “I believe tax is an important part of the relationship between citizens and the state that requires constant attention if we want to get it right.”

Avi-Yonah, the Irwin I. Cohn Professor of Law and director of Michigan Law’s International Tax Program, has in the past year written about a wide range of tax issues: capital flight from the United States, the country’s proper role in setting world tax policy, what the Obama administration should do about corporate and international tax reform during its second term, and international tax competition.

In total Avi-Yonah authored or coauthored nine papers during 2012, and won the prestigious Richard Pugh Distinguished International Tax Award. He also helped SJD student Assaf Prussak, who earned his International Tax LLM at Michigan in 2012, write a paper that later captured a top writing award from the U.S. branch of the International Fiscal Association.

In between the papers were a number of conferences, symposia, and other scholarly gatherings, including a noteworthy one in Beijing in December during which every foreign invitee speaking was a Michigan Law graduate. The conference, hosted this year by the China Youth University for Political Science and Peking University, was the latest Chinese iteration of the Sino-U.S. International Tax Forum, a cooperative effort among Michigan Law, Peking University, and Renmin University of China.

His pace isn’t likely to slow this year, either. He’s already scheduled to teach or give lectures in Milan, Vienna, Lisbon, Oxford, London, Montréal, São Paulo, and Tel Aviv.

And that’s not all.

“I have a long article forthcoming in the Tax Law Review on taxation and migration and several short pieces,” he says. “And I have a book to write—an update to my 2007 tax monograph.”

So, clearly, he won’t be bored between plane rides.—JM

Jones Named Thurnau Professor by University

Martha S. Jones—a member of the Law School’s Affiliated LSA Faculty—has been honored as a Thurnau Professor by the University. Colleagues say that Jones—also associate professor of history and associate chair of the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies—is an innovative, collaborative, and visionary teacher whose interdisciplinary research infuses her teaching. One colleague says her teaching “represents the very best of Michigan’s concern for undergraduate learning, for civic engagement, and for rigorous research.”

Jones, who is codirector of the Michigan Law Program in Race, Law & History and the Law in Slavery and Freedom Project, combines a caring, student-centered approach with insistence that students have a responsibility to plunge into primary sources and argue for their interpretation, colleagues say. Pushing beyond conventional classroom boundaries, she creates experiential learning projects that connect primary research with community involvement. Her public exhibits, such as the recent “Proclaiming Emancipation” project that commemorated the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, provide experiences where students discover how vivid the past can be.

Each year, Thurnau professorships recognize and reward a select group of tenured faculty members for their outstanding contributions to undergraduate education. The professorships are named after alumnus Arthur F. Thurnau and supported by the Thurnau Charitable Trust, which was established through his will. Recipients receive $20,000 to support teaching activities, including travel, books, equipment, and graduate student support.
Starr Research Shows Gender Disparities In Federal Criminal Cases

If you’re a criminal defendant, it may help—a lot—to be a woman. At least, that’s what Professor Sonja Starr’s research on federal criminal cases suggests.

Starr’s recent paper, “Estimating Gender Disparities in Federal Criminal Cases,” looks closely at a large dataset of federal cases, and reveals some significant findings. After controlling for the arrest offense, criminal history, and other prior characteristics, “men receive 63 percent longer sentences on average than women do,” and “[w]omen are…twice as likely to avoid incarceration if convicted.” This gender gap is about six times as large as the racial disparity that Starr found in another recent paper, “Racial Disparity in Federal Criminal Charging and Its Sentencing Consequences.”

Other studies have shown gender disparity in criminal cases, but not as pronounced as Starr’s findings. This is because she is looking at “a larger swath of the criminal justice process” in her analysis, she says. The paper states, “Existing studies have typically focused on single stages of the criminal process in isolation”—in particular, the judge’s final sentencing decision. These studies compare actual sentencing outcomes after controlling for the recommended sentence associated with the defendant’s ultimate conviction.

The problem with this, Starr says, is that “the key control variable is itself the result of a host of discretionary decisions made earlier in the justice process”—including prosecutors’ charging and plea-bargaining decisions. Starr’s research incorporates disparities found at those earlier stages, and finds that “more disparity is introduced at each phase of the justice process.”

After estimating the amount of disparity left unexplained by the arrest offense and other control variables, the paper explores “why these gaps exist—and, in particular, whether unobserved differences between men and women might justify them.” Starr explores several potential mitigating factors, such as the “girlfriend theory” (that women “might be viewed as…mere accessories of their male romantic partners”), the role of women as primary caregivers to their children, and the “theory that female defendants receive leniency because they are more cooperative with the government.” Although each of these theories found some support in the data, none appeared capable of explaining anything close to the disparity that Starr found.

Starr emphasizes that it is not possible to “prove” gender discrimination with data like hers, because it is always possible that two seemingly similar cases could differ in ways not captured by the data. Given the size of the apparent gender gap and the richness of the dataset (which allowed many alternative explanations to be explored), however, Starr says that there is “pretty good reason to suspect that disparate treatment may be one of the causes of this gap.”

If men and women are being treated differently by prosecutors and judges, what should be done about it? Starr leaves that question to policymakers, but she does note that the solution “is not necessarily to lock up a lot more women, but perhaps to reconsider the decision-making criteria that are applied to men. About one in every 50 American men is currently behind bars, and we could think about gender disparity as perhaps being a key dimension of that problem.”
Editor’s Note: Professor Ellen D. Katz writes and teaches about election law, civil rights and remedies, and equal protection. She and the Voting Rights Initiative at Michigan Law filed a brief as amicus curiae in Shelby County v. Holder, on which the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments February 27. Here, she examines why Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act bears consideration in the case, which involves a challenge to Section 5 of the act.

Four years ago, when the Supreme Court last considered the constitutionality of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA), Justice Kennedy questioned why “[t]he sovereignty of Alabama is less than the sovereign dignity of Michigan,” and why the government of one is “to be trusted less” than the government of the other. Should the Justices now strike down the statute, as many think they are poised to do, the reason why will likely be their belief that places like Alabama are no longer any different from places like Michigan—or, better yet, Ohio, where Section 5 is wholly inapplicable. Voters may confront difficulties in Alabama, the Justices would posit, but these difficulties appear no worse than those faced by voters in those states left unregulated by Section 5. Therefore, Section 5 must be invalid. Q.E.D.

Sounds plausible perhaps, but take a closer look. As an initial matter, it is not at all clear that the Court needs to compare covered and non-covered jurisdictions in order to assess the constitutionality of the VRA. The issue presented in Shelby County v. Holder is not whether the Justices think Alabama is worse than Ohio, or even whether Congress might permissibly conclude that it is. Instead, Shelby County presents a different question: whether Congress has the power to extend a remedial regime that everyone agrees it lawfully adopted based on its conclusion that the regime continues to do critical work in the places where it operates. That conclusion should not be suspect, much less invalid, simply because problems have since developed in other jurisdictions that Congress might also appropriately regulate.

The Justices are nevertheless likely to view a comparative inquiry as relevant to the question presented in Shelby County, and with good cause. Congress’s decision to reauthorize the regional provisions of the VRA rests on its belief that the statute remains necessary, and a comparison of covered and non-covered jurisdictions provides one lens through which to assess that decision. Thus, although Shelby County does not require a comparative inquiry, it invites one.

Such an inquiry, however, must take seriously Section 5’s status as an operational statute. The Court, to be sure, has made clear that Congress now needs evidence of rampant unconstitutional conduct in order to adopt new civil rights legislation, but Section 5 is not new. If the problems that prompted Congress to enact the VRA in the first instance persisted wholly unchanged today, Section 5 should be discarded as ineffective. To require such evidence as a prerequisite to reauthorization (as opposed to initial enactment), therefore makes little sense. It would allow Section 5 to continue only if the statute had been a failure.

No one thinks the statute has been a failure. What is disputed is the scope of its success. Critics of the VRA claim that conditions have improved in places like Alabama because the problems Section 5 targets have been solved, and decidedly not because Section 5 actively shapes public conduct in covered jurisdictions in significant and productive ways. In other words, those who insist that similarities between Alabama and Ohio render Section 5 invalid discount and often disregard Section 5’s blocking and deterrent effects.

There is, however, extensive evidence showing that Section 5 significantly shapes governance decisions in covered jurisdictions. Hundreds of proposed changes to election laws have been blocked by the Department of Justice; hundreds more have been withdrawn or altered in the course of Section 5 review; and many more changes were never proposed because local officials knew they would not be Section 5 compliant.
Given these blocking and deterrent effects, we should expect to find fewer instances of discriminatory practices in places subject to Section 5 if, as critics of the VRA contend, places like Alabama are truly no different from places like Ohio. Covered jurisdictions should look markedly better than jurisdictions not subject to Section 5 insofar as public officials nationwide have comparable inclinations to engage in discriminatory practices and confront comparable opportunities calling for such judgments.

And yet, places like Alabama do not look better than places left unregulated by the statute. A study I did with students here at the University of Michigan Law School suggests that voting problems remain more prevalent in places covered by the Act than elsewhere. Our examination of claims brought under the core permanent provision of the VRA—known as “Section 2”—shows that plaintiffs have been more likely to succeed and succeeded more often in covered jurisdictions than in non-covered ones, and that this disparity is even more pronounced when Section 2 challenges were brought against local voting requirements and procedures. We found, moreover, that courts hearing Section 2 claims in covered jurisdictions were more likely to find certain conditions linked to voting discrimination, including things like intentional discrimination, extreme racial polarization in voting, and a lack of success by minority candidates.

The court of appeals in Shelby County called the regional disparity our study identified “particularly dramatic” in light of Section 5’s blocking and deterrent effects. Section 2 and Section 5, of course, are not coextensive, but a large number of electoral practices run afoul of both provisions. Where they do, Section 5’s preclearance requirement typically blocks implementation of the offending practice and eliminates the need for plaintiffs to challenge it under Section 2. Thus, although the precise effect of Section 5 cannot be quantified, the court of appeals was surely correct that it “reduc[es] the need for section 2 litigation in covered jurisdictions.”

But even with this “reduced” need, Section 2 plaintiffs have been more likely to succeed and, in fact, have succeeded more often in covered jurisdictions than in non-covered ones. Making the disparity all the more dramatic is the fact that covered jurisdictions are home to less than one quarter of the population, and, by a lopsided margin, contain far fewer local governmental units. Our Section 2 results also suggest that intentional discrimination may be more pervasive in covered jurisdictions than a cursory comparison of covered and non-covered jurisdictions suggests. As the court of appeals observed, Section 2’s results tests “requires consideration of factors very similar to those used to establish discriminatory intent-based circumstantial evidence.” Because courts need not find intent to find a Section 2 violation and have an obligation to avoid resolving constitutional questions when they are able, some adjudicated Section 2 violations capture conduct that is also unconstitutional even though the decisions do not explicitly say so.

Our Section 2 study did not examine claims that were settled or decided without a published decision and accordingly addressed only a portion of the Section 2 claims filed or decided since 1982. And yet, as the court of appeals found, available data suggest that a fuller accounting of Section 2 litigation would reveal an even greater disparity in successful plaintiff outcomes between covered and non-covered jurisdictions. Where, moreover, the disparity is less pronounced (as, for instance, it has become over time), the Section 2 data still attest to Section 5’s continued importance. Even a rough equivalence in outcomes is significant, given Section 5’s blocking and deterrent effects and the disparities in population and relative numbers of political subdivisions.

The question whether places like Alabama are really any different from places like Ohio is sure to occupy the Court’s attention in Shelby County. The answer should be pursued with a clear understanding of what a comparison of covered and non-covered jurisdictions can be expected to yield. Section 5 is an operational statute with significant blocking and deterrent effects. Conditions in covered jurisdictions cannot be examined meaningfully or compared responsibly to those in non-covered regions unless these operational effects are considered. It is willful ignorance to do otherwise.

This article originally appeared on SCOTUSblog (Feb. 15, 2013), www.scotusblog.com/2013/02/shelby-county-v-holder-why-section-2-matters/.

Ellen D. Katz is the Ralph W. Aigler Professor of Law. She writes and teaches about election law, civil rights and remedies, and equal protection. Her scholarship addresses questions of minority representation, political equality, and the role of institutions in crafting and implementing anti-discrimination laws. Her research and scholarship about the Voting Rights Act is highly regarded and frequently cited.

Left and above: Large crowds gather outside the Supreme Court on the day of the Shelby County arguments.
Pay it Forward
Consider a Gift to the Loan Repayment Assistance Program

Then-U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, ’81 (at left) talks with Greg Yankee, ’08, policy director for the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts, at the June 2012 celebration of the largest single conservation easement ever made to the U.S. The easement, finalized in December, includes 90,000 acres of Colorado land owned by New York hedge-fund manager Louis Bacon. Salazar, who grew up in the area, said the land would be the foundation of the new Sangre de Cristo Conservation Area. Yankee, an advocate of the Debt Management Program (or Loan Repayment Assistance Program), says he couldn’t have done the work he wanted to do without the program’s help.

Greg Yankee, ’08, is no stranger to mountaintops. As policy director for the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts, he works with landowners to protect the open spaces that make Colorado the special place it is. And Greg has a message that should be shouted from a mountaintop: Michigan Law’s Loan Repayment Assistance Program deserves your support.

LRAP is a loan repayment assistance program that helps Michigan Law graduates to follow the career paths of their choice without regard to educational debt. To qualify, a graduate must be employed full time in a law-related job. The program contributes the difference between the graduate’s loan payment and what the graduate can afford to pay, until his or her income is sufficient to pay off the loan.

Greg says without that transitional support, he couldn’t have taken his job—a job he cares about passionately. When he was looking at law schools, Greg received full-tuition offers from several schools, but he wanted to be part of the Michigan Law community. Even with the big debt that he would accumulate, LRAP (also referred to as the Debt Management Program) allowed him to rest assured that a public-service career was possible for him. In all, he has received about $22,000 through LRAP toward the repayment of his $120,000 loans.

Since its creation, the program has assisted hundreds of graduates who pursue careers in positions that aren’t at the top of the pay scale. Like Greg, most of those alumni say they couldn’t have done the work they wanted to do without this help.

Today the LRAP is more important than ever, as the shifting employment market also forces increasing numbers of Michigan Law graduates to consider alternatives to large-firm practice and high-paying work for their first job after graduation.

You can help. Two alumni who did are Robert B. Fiske Jr., ’55, and Wayne C. Witkowski, ’72 (see story, page 56), who both endowed loan assistance programs for Michigan Law graduates in government service.

A gift of any size to the Loan Repayment Assistance Program is welcome and appreciated. Think of it as giving a scholarship at the back end to a graduate who needs it. Think of it as paying it forward. Give us a call at 734.615.4500, and we’ll be pleased to work with you.

Sincerely,

Todd M. Baily
Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations
Students Say Thanks

Football isn’t the only rite of fall for Michigan Law students. In November, the annual Student Thank-a-Thon brought a record 287 participants to the Robert B. Aikens Commons to write thank-you notes and emails to more than 1,000 Law School donors to scholarships, faculty support, programs, and the Law School Fund. The students also jotted down what they love about Michigan Law. Some of their responses appear on the next several pages.

The people! Everyone is so kind, but also so incredibly smart and motivated. It’s really a special place.

JENNA HACKENDAHL, 2L
Wayne Witkowski couldn’t forget the faces. Sad faces, angry faces, frustrated, teary, hopeless faces. Faces of candidates for admission to the District of Columbia bar—who, because of student loan defaults, risked failing the fitness review and losing out on bar membership.

Witkowski saw many such faces when he served on the D.C. Court of Appeals Committee on Admissions. He wanted to help, and he saw his law school as a place to make a difference. Through a bequest of the bulk of his estate, he has endowed a fund that ultimately will provide financial support, including student loan repayment assistance, for Michigan Law graduates who work in government service.

“I realized that the Law School had only so many resources,” says Witkowski, of Fairfax, Virginia, “and I figured if I could pitch in with my resources, I wanted to do that.”

Witkowski was working toward a PhD in engineering when he decided to pursue law instead, inspired by the social ferment of the 1960s. “I felt like I could do more to contribute to society by being a lawyer than by being an engineer,” he recalls.

Even before he set foot in the Law Quad, Witkowski had set his sights on doing civil rights work. His first job offer came from the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division, and he seized the opportunity. In this first stint at the Justice Department, he handled voting rights and employment discrimination suits, developing particular expertise in school desegregation cases. Knowing he had an impact on young lives was especially rewarding.

“I have always said that after my last breath, when I am at the gates, if I’m asked why I should be admitted, I will point to that work,” he says.

The native Detroiter grew increasingly interested in municipal law, viewing the school desegregation work as part of a larger and more complex fabric of needs. Witkowski joined the District of Columbia’s law office as a civil litigator, where a career highlight was his solo defense in a three-month trial of a case brought by the contractor for part of the Mall Tunnel near the U.S. Capitol.

“At that time, there was a lot of talking about our declining central cities,” says Witkowski, reflecting on what drew him to the work. “The city is like a big civil rights engine, trying to help its people. Working as a lawyer, I was contributing to that.”

In 1994, after more than 20 years of civil trial work, Witkowski transferred to the D.C. government’s Legal Counsel Division, where he served as the division’s deputy attorney general and also as the government’s legal ethics officer—a role he says he grew into.

“Initially, I was not very self-confident and somewhat intimidated by what I knew I did not know,” he says. “Midway into my career, I started growing in confidence, and became more finely tuned to and aware of the ethical responsibilities I had as a government lawyer.”

Recently retired, Witkowski is enjoying leisurely mornings, travel, and lots of culture. Believing law schools should offer more training in professional responsibility, he’d also like to teach ethics.

“It’s how you won a case that’s important,” he says firmly, “not just that you did.”
Building Support

Scott A. Wolstein, ’77

Scott Wolstein’s first legal action was a breach-of-contract suit against U-M, filed in his third year of law school. At issue? His and his roommate’s tickets to the Michigan-Ohio State game, for which the University had accepted payment but then refunded it, claiming the game was oversold.

For an Ohio native who’s a Michigan booster on every fall Saturday but one, those were fighting words.

Wolstein and his roommate didn’t succeed in getting a temporary restraining order to stop the game, but they got their tickets and a great story to tell. His affection for Michigan has grown over the years, especially since his son Harrison received his BBA from the Ross School of Business last year. Recently, Wolstein made a gift of $250,000 to the Law School’s building project.

“I have always admired the Law School, and it played an integral role in my career,” says Wolstein. “We all have an obligation to support the institutions that help us succeed.”

Wolstein began his career as an associate with the Cleveland law firm of Thompson Hine LLP. He left in 1981 to run his own company, Diversified Equities, which structured tax-advantaged investments in limited real-estate partnerships. In the mid-1980s, Wolstein moved into venture capital and real estate work, partnering on some projects with his father, the late Cleveland developer and philanthropist Bart Wolstein.

The Wolsteins merged their companies in 1993 and took the new entity public as Developers Diversified, a real estate trust that became one of the world’s largest retail real estate concerns. As CEO from 1993–2010, Scott Wolstein led the business’s growth from total assets of $400 million to more than $16 billion.

From 1979–1989, father and son owned another, smaller family business: the Cleveland Force indoor soccer team, building it into that rare thing in the United States, a highly successful soccer franchise.

“When we took over the team, it was drawing very few fans,” Wolstein recalls. “The joke around the office was that if someone called to ask what time the game was, we’d ask, ‘What time can you get here?’”

Since last June, Wolstein has been CEO of Starwood Retail Partners, a real estate platform in the regional mall business launched last year by Starwood Capital Group. He lives in Hunting Valley, Ohio, outside Cleveland, and commutes west to Chicago (where his operating team is) and east to Greenwich, Connecticut (where his acquisitions team is). He’s relishing the new job.

“Building a company is what I really enjoy—putting a team together, working on strategy, and evaluating investment opportunities,” he says of his return to the world of multimillion-dollar real estate ventures.

Spoken like a guy who once lived in a very prime piece of Ann Arbor real estate: the top floor of the Lawyers Club tower.
Twenty-seven attorneys from Miller Canfield—an international firm headquartered in Detroit—have made a gift of more than $250,000 to the Law School’s building project.

“It’s natural that Michigan’s oldest law school and Michigan’s oldest law firm should team up to support this magnificent addition to the Law Quad we all love,” says Michael P. Coakley, ’82, principal at Miller Canfield and leader of the firm’s Litigation & Dispute Resolution Group. Coakley was instrumental in coordinating this significant collective gift.

“Miller Canfield has been one of the top employers of Michigan Law School grads for many years,” says Michael W. Hartmann, ’75, principal and CEO of the firm. “It is an honor for Miller Canfield to have a ‘home space’ at the Law School in recognition of our alumni’s support of the project. Congratulations to Dean Caminker and the entire Law School community for completing this wonderful project.”

A dedication ceremony for a named space in the Law School will be held later this year.

Contributors to the gift were: James L. Allen, ’77; Eric V. Brown Jr., ’65; Harold W. Bulger, ’81; Michael P. Coakley, ’82; Thomas D. Colis, ’93; Gregory L. Curtner, ’70 (now with Schiff Hardin); William J. Danhof, ’74; Edmond F. DeVine, ’40 (deceased); Paul R. Dimond, ’69; Kelly M. Drake, ’01; Robert E. Gilbert, ’66; Gary R. Glenn, ’78; Saul A. Green, ’72; Michael W. Hartmann, ’75; Allyn D. Kantor, ’64; Thomas W. Linn, ’76; Anthony J. Mavrinac, ’93; Patrick F. McGow, ’92; Stephen G. Palms, ’76; Steven A. Roach, ’86; Richard C. Sanders, ’75; Larry J. Saylor, ’76; Erik H. Serr, ’66; Timothy D. Sochocki, ’78; Steven M. Stankewicz, ’82; Amanda Van Dusen, ’79; Carl H. von Ende, ’68.

Nancy and Arn Tellem of Pacific Palisades, California, have made an additional gift of $250,000 for the building project, bringing their total commitment for the building to $500,000.

“I have always been appreciative of the great education I got at Michigan Law,” says Arn, “and our family has grown even closer to the University since our son Eric became an undergraduate there. The Law School is a treasure, and we are proud to help maintain the strength of this wonderful institution.”

Arn is vice chairman of the Wasserman Media Group, a global sports and entertainment marketing agency. Known for his representation of basketball and baseball players, he has been named the most influential agent in sports by both The Sporting News and the Sports Business Journal. Prior to his career as an agent, Arn was a partner at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, specializing in sports law and commercial litigation. He also served as executive vice president and general counsel for the Los Angeles Clippers from 1982–88.

In September 2012 Nancy was named entertainment and digital media president of Microsoft. From 1998–2010, she was president of CBS Television Studios, the second woman to hold the top entertainment executive position at a major television network. At CBS, Nancy oversaw programming, development, production, business affairs, and network operations. She also helped create shows like Friends and ER.

The Tellems have three sons: Michael, Matty, and Eric.
Student Support

Italian Alumni Create New Scholarship

Seventeen Michigan Law alumni living in Italy have made a collective gift to establish the Italian Alumni Law Scholarship here. The scholarship benefits students who graduate from law school in Italy and provides up to $20,000 in U.S. dollars to pursue a master of laws degree at Michigan Law. The award will be made for the first time to a student earning the degree during the 2013–2014 academic year.

Italian students have had a presence at the Law School for 60 years, says Giuseppe Scassellati, LLM ’87, a partner in the Rome office of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP. While the Italian alumni contingent is relatively small—about 50—the group includes several prominent professionals and academics.

To mark the recent creation of the Italian alumni association, Scassellati proposed that a scholarship be set up at Michigan Law for holders of an Italian law degree who wish to pursue graduate study here. The idea caught on quickly: Within a few months, Italian alumni had given a total of $100,000, which will fund the annual scholarship in its first five years.

“This project will raise the Law School’s profile in Italy and provide a continuous link with the Italian legal community,” says Scassellati. “Most importantly, it will help the scholarship recipients to enjoy their experience in Ann Arbor, both academically and socially.”

Donors gathered on December 5 to celebrate the announcement of the scholarship at a reception at Cleary Gottlieb’s Milan office. Scassellati gave remarks, as did the U.S. Consul General in Milan, Lyle Scott. Dean Evan Caminker sent a video greeting to the group.

Other alumni who donated to the collective gift are: Flavio Acerbi, LLM ’05; Antonio Azzara, LLM ’00; Francesco Capitta, LLM ’05; Roberto Casati, LLM ’74; Massimo Coccia, LLM ’84; Mario Cuccia, MCL ’81; Antonella Giacobone, LLM ’88; Francesco Gianni, LLM ’78; Paolo Iannuccelli, LLM ’03; Pietro Merlino, LLM ’00; Emiliano Nasti, LLM ’10; Matteo Negrinotti, research scholar, 2008-2009; Gabriele Sabato, LLM ’09; Giuseppe Scotti, LLM ’06; Cesare Vento, LLM ’80; and Claudio Visco, LLM ’83.
Six Michigan Law alumni, all Winston & Strawn partners based in the firm’s Chicago office, have made a gift of $250,000 to support the building fund.

“I feel very connected to the School, as do many of my colleagues. For me professionally, Michigan has been such an important part of who I am,” says Rex Sessions, ’84, chairman of Winston & Strawn’s labor and employment relations department and one of the lead donors on the gift.

“Michigan is also among a handful of schools that are the most important to us from a recruiting standpoint, and we were very pleased to be a part of improving the school for current and future students.”

The partners say that they understood the need for Michigan Law to expand its academic space with the building of South Hall, and to create a gathering spot for students, the Aikens Commons.

“I wouldn’t change my time at Michigan at all, but I can appreciate that the upgraded facilities were necessary given the transformations that have taken place with the technology that you’re able to use in a classroom,” says George Lombardi, ’84, chairman of the firm’s 200-attorney intellectual property practice and another leading donor on the gift.

“I think everyone who went there in my era had a real affection for that building. They really blended South Hall beautifully with the architecture of the existing buildings.”

In addition to Sessions and Lombardi, other partners who contributed to the gift were Matthew Bergmann, ’94; Ronald Betman, ’86; Thomas Frederick, ’84; and Roger Lucas, ’92. The firm itself also contributed to the gift.

Winston & Strawn is among a small group of firms whose partners made substantial collective gifts to the Law School’s building fund; others include Kirkland & Ellis; Skadden; Weil, Gotshal & Manges; Dinsmore & Shohl; Faegre Baker Daniels; and Miller Canfield (see story, previous page).
Law School Fund/Building Support
Kathryn Weg Brandt, ’82, and James E. Brandt, ’82

When Kathy Weg and Jimmy Brandt first walked into the Law Quad that late-spring day in 1979, they knew they were embarking on a profession. They didn’t suspect they would soon meet a future spouse (among many other close friends), find the perfect place for a wedding, and experience the time of their lives.

Life is good when you’re a summer starter.

“Being a summer starter is a very magical thing to do, because you’ve got the whole Law School to yourselves,” says Jimmy, and Kathy wholeheartedly concurs. The Brandts live in Scarsdale, New York, where they have raised three children, now 26, 24, and 22.

Each has deep roots on the Michigan campus. Kathy, an Ann Arbor resident since age 14, earned her BA from the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and had long aspired to attend the Law School. Her father, John, is the former head of pulmonary medicine in the U-M Health System and an emeritus professor at the Medical School; her mother, Mary, also attended LSA. Jimmy, a native New Yorker, is the son of two Michigan alumni, Hubert, JD ’53, and Frances, BA ’52, who also earned a teaching certificate here.

After graduation, Kathy and Jimmy, who had married in the Lawyers Club at the beginning of their third year in law school, went to New York City, where both still practice law. Kathy began her career as a litigator for Baer Marks & Upham, but sought more flexible hours when the couple started their family. Her father-in-law, lead partner in the New York firm of Brandt, Steinberg & Lewis, suggested she work for him while she decided on her next career move.

“That was 24 years ago,” Kathy says with a laugh. “It has been a wonderful fit for me, because I’ve been able to do interesting work and balance it around my family.”

Jimmy started his law career with Cravath, Swain & Moore and in 1985 became the 15th lawyer in Latham & Watkins’ newly opened New York office, recruited by a friend (and a fellow Barrister, Jimmy is quick to point out). Today he’s the managing partner of the office, where he specializes in complex commercial and securities litigation.

As the place where the Brandts met, married, and attended annual Crease Balls—not to mention getting great legal educations—Michigan Law has always been a high philanthropic priority for the couple. Their name appears on the donor wall in the new South Hall, and they are longtime generous supporters of the Law School Fund, most recently with a gift in honor of their class’s 30-year reunion. The pledge of $50,000 to the Law School Fund brings their total giving to the Law School to over $200,000.

They are also keenly aware of the state’s long-term economic challenges and the effect on its public universities.

“Michigan needs the support so it can maintain its place,” says Kathy. “We think it’s a wonderful school, and we hope that future students will have the same opportunities we had.”
A Letter from Kerry Galvin, ’86, Law School Fund National Chair

Dear Michigan Law alumni,

Greetings on behalf of the Law School Fund! I’m pleased to have the opportunity to introduce myself in the pages of the Law Quadrangle and to tell you why I’ve taken on this national leadership role.

Like many of you, I began my legal career as an associate attorney in a law firm. And like many of you, I now work in house for a corporation. Currently I serve as senior vice president, general counsel, and secretary of Valerus Compression Services, a privately owned natural gas process and treating company in Houston.

Michigan Law has had an enormous impact on my life and my career. That’s why I’ve chosen now to volunteer on behalf of the Law School Fund, representing the Fund and its work to all alumni. I’ve made annual gifts to Michigan Law since my graduation in 1986, and the Law School Fund has always been my designation of choice. I think of these gifts as investments with a guaranteed return, not only helping current students, faculty, and programs, but also ensuring the continued strength of my degree.

It’s important to remember that the Law School Fund supports all the elements that traditionally keep Michigan among the world’s top law schools. These include students who have the potential to make great contributions to their workplaces and our profession; faculty whose teaching and scholarship put them in the first ranks of legal educators; solid educational initiatives like the Legal Practice Program; extracurricular activities like the Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition; and much more.

But the Law School Fund is also flexible enough to underwrite promising new initiatives—startup programs, if you will—and to help out under unforeseen circumstances. Here’s how important your annual gifts to the Law School Fund are: It would take an additional $70 million in an endowment to produce the more than $3 million that donors to the Fund give collectively each year. I find that an astounding statistic, and I hope it helps you understand just how much we need your support, each and every year.

I look forward to working with you in the years to come, and I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

Kerry A. Galvin
National Chair, Law School Fund

Kenneth B. McClain Room Dedication

The Kenneth B. McClain Room was formally dedicated November 16, 2012, named in honor of Ken McClain, ’82, who, with his wife, Cindy, provided important support for the Law School’s building project. The McClain Room is the workroom for the Innocence Clinic in South Hall. Dean Caminker called the space “the nerve center of the clinic” and expressed the hope that students who learn trial advocacy skills there would go on to be as successful and fulfilled in their careers as McClain. McClain praised his Michigan education, saying the great teaching and rigor of the curriculum inspired him to surpass his own expectations. He is a litigator and partner in the firm of Humphrey, Farrington & McClain in Independence, Missouri.

Ken McClain celebrates the dedication of the Kenneth B. McClain Room with his wife, Cindy (at right), and his sister, Arnella Park.

The Michigan network is truly an incredible force! The alumni are helpful and always willing to assist in any way possible.

JOE MORRISON JR., 3L
Recent Gifts

Joy and Leonard Baxt, ’72, of Washington, D.C., have made a gift of $100,000 in support of the Zell Entrepreneurship and Law Program. Len is chairman of Dow Lohnes PLLC, where he heads the firm’s corporate practice. He joined the firm in 1972 and has been a member since 1979. The Baxts made the gift in honor of the 40-year reunion of the class of 1972, for which Len served as a co-chair.

Marla Matz Feldman, BS ’78, DDS ’82, and Stewart Feldman, ’80, of Houston, have made a gift of $100,000 in support of the Zell Entrepreneurship and Law Program. Stewart is the principal in the Houston-based Capstone Associated Services Ltd. and RSL Funding LLC, along with the Feldman Law Firm LLP.

John (Jay) Hodgson, ’62, of Worcester, Massachusetts, has made a gift of $50,000 to the Law School Fund in honor of the 50-year reunion of the class of 1962. He is of counsel to the firm of Fletcher Tilton PC.

Marcia Nirenstein and David Miller, ’79, of McLean, Virginia, have made a gift of $50,000 in support of student scholarships. David is a partner in the Northern Virginia office of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, and Marcia is a partner in the Washington office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. (Pictured here with daughter Lindsey, LSA ’13.)

Nancy Quaife, BA ’66, MA ’67, JD ’78, of New York City, has made a gift of $50,000 in support of the building project. She works at Citibank, N.A., where she is director of Fair Lending Policy and Governance.

George Vincent, BA ’79, JD ’82, of Cincinnati, and his father, Dwight Vincent, BA ’52, JD ’57, of Dearborn Heights, Michigan, have made a gift of $100,000 to endow the Dwight H. and George H. Vincent Family Scholarship Fund. They established the scholarship in honor of their relationship and in recognition of the significant impact the University of Michigan has had on both of their lives. Dwight retired in 1995 from Clark, Klein & Beaumont (now Clark Hill), where he headed the labor law practice. George is managing partner and chairman of the board of directors of Dinsmore & Shohl LLP. George also serves on the Law School’s Development and Alumni Relations Committee.

George and wife Kim Vincent, and Dwight and wife Cynthia Vincent. “My dad and I hope that our combined scholarship gift will encourage other Michigan Law families to consider collaborating to support the Law School in a way that is meaningful for them,” says George Vincent. “Joint gifts are a great way for classmates to get together to give back as well.”
Reunion Giving

Reunion giving, especially to the Law School Fund, is an important source of funding for all aspects of the Law School’s mission. By making reunion gifts, Michigan law alumni honor their classmates as well as the Law School.

Reunions were held September 7–9 (including the Emeriti Reunion) and October 12–14, 2012. Emeriti do not formally fundraise, but the group includes many generous supporters of the Law School.

Thanks to all donors of reunion gifts and to the volunteer reunion committees!

Class of 1962
Law School Fund (LSF) total: $291,456 Total all gifts: $300,531 42% participation

Class of 1967
LSF total: $229,866 Total all gifts: $508,313 37% participation

Class of 1972
Committee: Leonard Baxt and Paul Lee, co-chairs; Robert Brown, Lawrence Dam, Jeffrey Greenbaum, Jane Griswold, Carolyn Hansen, Michael Hardy, Diane Jensen, Robert Kass, Kenneth Kraus, M. David Minnick, Stephen Lindsay, Thomas Morgan, Janice Siegel, Miriam Steinberg, Kim Swanson, Larry Tittley, Mark Vander Laan, and Robert White.
LSF total: $189,447 Total all gifts: $1,766,392 33% participation
Class of 1977

Committee: Al Domanskis, Fred Fathe, Sam Field, Becky Frelig, Bruce Johnson, Harold Kennedy, Ed Marod, Mike Marrero, Gary Nickele, Mark Penskar, Charles (Buck) Schott, and George Vinyard.
LSF total: $207,049
Total all gifts: $1,685,010
28% participation

Class of 1982

Committee: Douglas Ellmann and John Lummis, co-chairs; Bijan Amini, James Brandt, Kathryn Brandt, Rachel Deming, Brian Dervishi, Thomas Eff, Timothy Hester, Catherine LaCroix, Kevin LaCroix, Diane Lehman Wilson, Rick Scarola, David Schreier, George Vincent, Richard Werder, and Sara Werder.
LSF total: $438,382
Total all gifts: $1,469,542
33% participation

Class of 1987

LSF total: $135,295
Total all gifts: $241,1763
26% participation

Class of 1992

LSF total: $47,800
Total all gifts: $202,100
16% participation

Class of 1997

Committee: Kat and Rob Olin, co-chairs; Rebekah Eubanks, Michael Leffel, Carrie Palmer, Stephen Ryan, and Yvette VanRiper.
LSF total: $53,442
Total all gifts: $101,142
15% participation

Class of 2002

Committee: Caroline Brown, Catherine Carrigan, Chandra Davis, Renee Dupree, Tamara Jain, Shana Salinas, Frederick Sandstrom, David Sikes, Irvin Tyan, and Beth Wickwire.
LSF total: $34,875
Total all gifts: $48,603
17% participation

Class of 2007

Committee: Adam Dubinsky, chair; Krista Adler, Lubna Alam, Laura Appleby, Timothy Caballero, Judith Cothorn, Kyle Faget, Diana Geseking, Osborne Hazel, Jeffrey Jacobi, Kelvin Lawrence, Grace Lee, Emily Litznerski, Joshua Meeuswe, Sheila Neba, Raman Santra, and Cristiana Schwab.
LSF total: $26,288
Total all gifts: $29,288
19% participation
Judith Liberman, LLM ’56: Remembering the Holocaust through Art

By Amy Wimmer Schwarb

Judith Liberman was born in 1929 in the city of Haifa—then part of Palestine and now part of Israel. Just 10 years old at the beginning of World War II, she was close enough to the Holocaust to know of its horrors, but too far removed to suffer its consequences directly.

“I remember the day Hitler invaded Poland in 1939,” Liberman says. “I was in a restaurant in a seashore community having lunch with my father. The news came over the radio, and my father said, ‘We are now at war.’”

Liberman, LLM ’56, would go on to become an artist renowned for her work inspired by the Holocaust. But as a child, she learned of the war’s atrocities through the incidental relationships of her young life: a Latvian schoolmate whose parents had been murdered, for example, and her childhood nanny, a Polish immigrant deeply concerned for the parents and brother she had left behind.

After World War II—just before Israel was about to become a state of its own—Liberman’s father sent her to the United States for college. She studied journalism at Syracuse University, earned a BA from the University of California at Berkeley, earned an MA from the University of Chicago, graduated with a JD from the University of Chicago Law School, and earned an LLM from the University of Michigan in 1956.

She enjoyed many aspects of Ann Arbor and Law School—including a favorite professor, Jack Dawson, who taught comparative law, and “all the beautiful houses with gardens in front.”
Not everything about Law School suited her, however. “My worst memory was doing my research, going up into the stacks through this narrow winding metal and wood staircase, and finding these tomes, these decisions of international courts, that were several inches thick and mostly in French,” Liberman says. “I think it was at that point that I realized I was in the wrong field.”

Liberman had come to Michigan after deciding to pursue a career as a law professor. But her education ended up being a roundabout way of finding her life’s work—not as a journalist, as her father had hoped, or as a teacher of law, as she had planned—but as an artist.

The work for which Liberman is best known depicts the Holocaust and is dedicated to the memory of her husband, Robert Liberman. They met at the University of Chicago, and he, too, received an LLM from Michigan in 1956.

Before his law studies, he was part of the U.S. forces that helped liberate Europe at the close of World War II. “He saw Dachau in 1945,” Liberman says of her husband, “and never forgot any of it.”

Liberman has produced work in whatever medium best fit her vision at any given time; she has worked in oils, acrylics, graphics, collage, wall hangings, mosaics, and ceramics. Her work appears in collections in such museums as the Yad Vashem Museum in Jerusalem; the Museum of our National Heritage in Lexington, Massachusetts; The William Benton Museum of Art in Storrs, Connecticut; The Temple Museum of Religious Art of Temple Tifereth Israel in Cleveland, Ohio; and the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida.

The Holocaust pieces were created several decades into her career. When she was just starting out in the 1960s, she completed a flowers series, several self-portraits, and a series she calls Mother and Child. Typically, she pursued each subject as a series so she could explore it in depth.

“Nin retrospect, I’m very proud of all of it,” she continues. “But my father never saw a connection between what I was raised to do—to serve Israel—and what I was doing.”

Liberman’s father—a Zionist Jew who had immigrated to Palestine from Russia in the 1920s—had hoped his daughter would absorb Western values through her schooling and then return to Israel as a journalist.

He died in 1968, not long before Liberman produced her first socially conscious work: a series about the war in Vietnam. “I think my father was very disappointed when I went into art,” Liberman says.

Her career took a detour beginning in the 1970s, when her husband suffered a heart attack and then a stroke. “He became terribly depressed, as a stroke will do to anyone,” Liberman says. “Looking back, between his stroke and his death, I created a lot of very careful artworks to cheer him up. A lot of landscapes, things like that. He loved those.”

Robert Liberman died in 1986. Within months of his death, his wife began producing her Holocaust work.

And that, at last, helped Liberman connect with her heritage, and her father’s vision for her life. Her mother lived long enough to see it—and appreciate its relevance.

“My mother was herself an artist and poet, but still, she was hoping I would pursue the path my father had chosen for me,” Liberman says. “My mother died in 1990, but she, at least, saw reproductions of some of my Holocaust work. When she saw it, she said, ‘At last, you are using your education.’ I think that’s where the circle was closed.”

1946
Edward S. Noble, retired from practice, received a certificate from the president of the Ohio State Bar Association honoring his 65 years of practice. He began law school in 1940; his legal education was interrupted by World War II, so he returned to law school in 1945. Upon graduating, he returned to his hometown of St. Marys, Ohio, and started a solo practice that has evolved into the firm Noble, Montague & Moul. He served on many local boards and started the St. Marys Community Foundation.

1959
John M. Barr, an attorney in private practice and Ypsilanti City Attorney since 1981, was honored by the State Bar of Michigan with the Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Service Award. The award acknowledges those who serve in public office in a way that strengthens the American system of justice under the law. He was recognized for his “utmost regard for the community” by advocating for justice, democracy, and fairness.

1961
William J. Giovan, partner in the Detroit firm of Charfoos, Giovan & Birach LLP, and retired chief judge of the Wayne County Circuit Court, has been elected chair of the newly established Wayne County Ethics Board.

1964
Albert S. Golbert received the 2012 Warren M. Christopher International Lawyer of the Year award. This award is presented annually by the State Bar of California to a California lawyer for achievement in international law. Golbert is a former senior partner of Bryan Cave and has been a certified specialist in taxation law for several decades. He practices international tax law in Los Angeles, and he has wide international experience, having practiced in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Australia, and the Far East.

1965
Joan V. Churchill, retired, was sworn in as the 33rd President of the National Association of Women Judges (NAWJ) at its 2012 Annual Meeting. She is the first immigration judge, and only the third administrative judge, to take the helm of the organization. She served on the Immigration Court for Washington D.C./Arlington, Virginia, from 1980 until her retirement in 2005, during which period she served five tours as a temporary member of the Board of Immigration Appeals. When she was appointed in 1980, she was the second woman to be appointed to that court, and she becomes the first NAWJ president from a court located in Virginia.

1966
Michael Harrison of Foster Swift was presented with the 2012 Glen L. Taggart Award for Community Contribution to International Understanding, an award given by Michigan State University. He was recognized for his longstanding passion for international understanding and cooperation through his work to assist Libyan students in East Lansing this past year. After the students were cut off from funding as a result of the civil war in their homeland, he worked to develop a support network of attorneys to handle political asylum matters and assist Libyans at MSU in other ways as well. Before joining Foster Swift in 2001, he served as a judge of the 30th Judicial Circuit of Michigan for nearly 25 years.

1967
Michael Adelman has accepted an invitation to become a fellow in the Mississippi Bar Foundation. The invitation to become a fellow is one of the highest honors a lawyer in Mississippi can receive and is based on career accomplishments as well as commitment to the profession and the public. No more than 15 lawyers may be selected for membership in a given year.

A. Vincent Buzard, leader of the Harris Beach Appellate Litigation and Advocacy Practice Group, became chair of the American Bar Association’s Council of Appellate Lawyers at the Appellate Judges Education Institute Summit. He is a member of the executive committee of the ABA Judicial Division’s Appellate Judges Conference and the executive committee of the Appellate Judges Education Institute. The council provides the opportunity to talk about appellate issues informally with the top appellate practitioners in the country, as well as appellate judges from state courts and from the federal circuit courts. Council members conduct a number of programs on appellate practice, the most significant of which is the Summit on Appellate Practice held every year. Buzard has chaired and moderated a number of programs on appellate practice at ABA meetings around the country.

1963
The Class of 1963 reunion will be Oct. 4-6, 2013.
Bruce Tuchman, ’89: That’s Entertainment

By Lori Atherton

As a child growing up in New Jersey, Bruce Tuchman, ’89, had “two abiding interests” for when he entered into adulthood: He longed to travel the world, and he dreamed of working in entertainment. It’s no surprise, then, that as the president of AMC/Sundance Channel Global Networks, Tuchman found a way to turn his passions into a career.

“I loved history and stories about other places in the world,” Tuchman recalls, “and I was fascinated by television and movies. At that time, broadcast media was very closely confined to national boundaries, but now you can go to so many places and watch TV channels, programming, and brands from all over the world.”

The concept of all of those networks showing their programming fascinated Tuchman. “I was eager to experience the incredible diversity of culture and life across the world,” he says, “so when I got to college I applied myself in international relations and put a lot of work into perfecting my Spanish-language abilities and going abroad.”

Tuchman studied at Boston University and, after earning his international relations degree, put his Spanish to use in the historic Mediterranean port of Alicante, Spain, where he began working for a group of Spanish toy companies. His goal was to further his international studies, however, so he applied to law school, taking the LSAT in a tiny elementary school on an American military base in Madrid. He was accepted to Michigan Law, which made an immediate impression on him when he came to visit.

After law school, Tuchman began working as a mergers and acquisitions attorney at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in New York, then relocated to the firm’s London office. While there, he earned a master’s degree in international relations from the London School of Economics.

Tuchman had been working at Skadden for five years when he, after returning to New York, decided in a now-or-never move to pursue his dream of working in the entertainment field. “I thought that if I didn’t make a real, concerted move to break into entertainment, I may never get there or be as fulfilled occupationally as I could be,” he says. He sent resumes to numerous entertainment companies, asking if there were any legal jobs available. He received a call from MTV Networks, which was getting ready to accelerate its launch of TV channels internationally and needed a lawyer to oversee the legal side of their expansion.

“I was thrilled,” says Tuchman, who served as vice president of business affairs and senior counsel of international development. “I was a young guy who loved music, and I was involved in the launch of MTV Asia, which got me started in the television business.”

From there, Tuchman moved to the business side of the company, and became general manager of Nickelodeon Global Network Ventures and then senior vice president of Nickelodeon New Media Ventures. He developed and oversaw Nickelodeon channels and new media projects in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, and Africa.

In 2001, he joined Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and became president of MGM Worldwide Networks, a division of MGM, where he developed and managed the company’s interests in cable, satellite, and other television networks globally. He was appointed to his current role with AMC Networks in 2011.

“When I look at the launch of cable and satellite TV systems across so many countries, it really started around the time I got into this business,” Tuchman says. “I went to India after law school in ’89, and there was no cable TV. Now, there are more satellite and subscription homes in India than there are in the United States, and this all happened in 10 to 15 years.”

Tuchman often speaks about his experiences with students in Michigan Law’s International Transactions Clinic (ITC), a clinic he would have taken had it been offered when he was in law school. “I think back to when I was a student, having accepted a job with Skadden following my 2L summer there, my desire to do international transactions, and appreciating how truly enriching it would have been to take a clinic like this. That’s why I wanted to get involved: to speak to the students about the real-world challenges I’ve faced, as well as some real-world things that have happened beyond the transaction and how to deal with them.”

The ITC has proven to be a great opportunity for Tuchman to encourage students to follow their passions—just as he did when he took a leap of faith and sent his resume to entertainment companies all those years ago—and to share his love for Michigan Law.

“Never give up, and never sell yourself short,” he advises students. “I was just a kid who dreamed of going abroad and getting into entertainment, but I didn’t have any way of getting there. What made all the difference is Michigan. It has opened up so many doors for me and still does to this day, and I’m eternally grateful for that.”
By Lori Atherton

Back when Curtis Mack, LLM ’73, was just beginning his time at Law School, his mother already wanted to know what he was going to do for the University, he recalls.

“My mother used to say to us, ‘It’s not about what folks give to you or about being successful for yourself; it’s about giving back to others,’” Mack says. “When I came to Michigan Law as a Cooke Fellow, she asked me, ‘What are you going to give back?’”

A self-described “poor farm boy who grew up on the southernmost tip of Georgia,” and whose school was a “tiny African American church started by my ancestors,” Mack says his mother (his father died when he was 18 months old) instilled in him the importance of an education and the value of helping others. He has taken those lessons to heart.

In addition to maintaining an active labor and employment practice at McGuireWoods in Atlanta, Mack gives back through his service to numerous organizations, including the We Are Family and Just the Beginning foundations, where he serves on the boards. An ardent supporter of U-M, he is also an Alumni Association board member and serves on the Law School Development and Alumni Relations Committee.

Mack regularly meets with students, most of whom he hasn’t met previously and who are referred to him, never passing up an opportunity, he says, to share his experiences, highlight the value of a Michigan education, or even help them land a job.

He recently helped a Michigan Law student who wanted to clerk for a federal judge Mack is connected to through the Just the Beginning Foundation. After talking with the student at length about her aspirations and why she wanted the clerkship, Mack was so impressed he put in a good word for her with the judge. The judge, too, was impressed, and hired the student on the spot.

“I feel good about the opportunity to help young folks like that student,” Mack says. “I’ve had such a great life for a kid who had so little. Why can’t I, and why shouldn’t I, have time to help others?”

Years ago, on a flight from Atlanta to Seattle, Mack was chatting with his seatmate when the conversation revealed an unlikely connection. It turned out that Mack’s fellow passenger was the son-in-law of Judge Sam Street Hughes of Lansing, one of Mack’s mentors while he was an undergrad at Michigan State University. Judge Hughes regularly visited Mack at his job in a Sears auto shop, offering advice and support and later writing a recommendation for him when he applied to law school.

“He was one of those great guys who made an impact on my life,” Mack said of the judge, who is one of the reasons Mack pays that help forward through his own mentoring of young people in need of guidance.

“There were so many people who were helpful to me when I was a young man, and I can’t forget that,” says Mack, who also is an adjunct professor of labor law at Michigan Law. “I always thought that if I were ever in a position to help someone, I would.”

Mack says he learned many of those lessons from fellow alum Stuart Dunning Jr., ’50, whom Mack met as an undergrad at MSU and got to know as a legal processor server for Dunnings’ office. “He was my adviser, mentor, and friend. He quietly demonstrated not only how to be a great lawyer, but taught me how to be an even better person.”
1968
The Class of 1968 reunion will be Oct. 4-6, 2013.

Michael Bixby was honored at the 2012 Academy of Legal Studies in Business (ALSB) Annual Conference in Kansas City with the Distinguished Career Achievement Award. The prestigious award has not been given since 2008. The purpose of the award is to recognize faculty members of the ALSB who serve as exemplars of excellence and are recognized as leaders and standard bearers. Professor Bixby was a full-time faculty member at Boise State from 1981–2011, teaching classes dealing with legal and regulatory issues.

Lee Hornberger, of the Arbitration and Mediation Office of Lee Hornberger, moderated the Mediated Settlement Services' in-service on "How Judges Treat Mediated Settlement Agreements" in Traverse City, Michigan, in October.

1969
William C. Oltman—recently retired from 35 years at the Seattle University School of Law—was honored with a professorship created in his name, The William C. Oltman Professorship of Teaching Excellence. It recognizes that the strength of the faculty depends on both scholarship and on classroom teaching. He came to the law school in 1974, shortly after its founding, and has taught property, trusts and estates, and community property.

1970
Richard J. Erickson, Florida State University Alumni Association national board member, has been appointed chair of the Scholarship Committee for 2012–13.

1972
Barbara Rom had an annual award named after her by the Eastern District of Michigan Chapter of the Federal Bar Association Bankruptcy Committee. The Barbara J. Rom Award for Bankruptcy Excellence honors individuals who have exhibited the highest level of overall excellence in the practice of bankruptcy law. The criteria for receiving this award include overall excellence, civility, sophistication of practice, community involvement, Bar Association and Court activity involvement, and pro bono participation.

1973
The Class of 1973 reunion will be Oct. 4-6, 2013.

Paul Fisher has started a new law firm in Glenview, Illinois: Fisher Cohen Waldman Shapiro LLP. The new firm also is becoming a principal with the investment banking/consulting firm of S-K Partners Ltd., which specializes in debt restructure, capitalization and recapitalization of real estate transactions and businesses (real estate and others), and the sale and purchase of debt and asset protection. While the new law firm will include practice in the areas in which S-K Partners Ltd. specializes, it will be a full-service law firm.

1978
The Class of 1978 reunion will be Oct. 4-6, 2013.

Jeffrey S. Ammon of the Grand Rapids, Michigan, office of Miller Johnson is the recipient of the 2012 Stephen H. Schulman Outstanding Business Lawyer Award. He was chosen because of his contributions to Michigan business law, business lawyers, and those whom business lawyers serve and assist. Honorees of this prestigious award exemplify the highest quality of practice; the utmost professionalism; dedication to service and commitment; and ethical conduct and collegiality within the practice. Ammon represents a wide range of business entities in matters relating to business organization and expansion, finance, real estate, and construction, with an emphasis on economic development incentives.

Bill Bay, a partner at Thompson Coburn LLP in St. Louis, became the chair of the American Bar Association Section of Litigation. As chair, he leads a national team of professionals dedicated to serving Section members and engaging their passion for practice, public service, and the profession. He is devoting his year-long term to leading a transformation of how the section approaches leadership, membership, and stewardship.

Elizabeth Campbell, partner and chief diversity officer at Andrews Kurth LLP, has been named one of Houston’s 50 Most Influential Women of 2012 by Houston Woman Magazine. Those selected for the honor are considered to be individuals with vast networks of social and professional connections who have earned an enviable reputation for possessing an expertise in a particular field or arena.
Bruce Celebrezze, partner and chair of Sedgwick LLP’s Insurance Division in San Francisco, has been elected senior director of the Federation of Defense and Corporate Counsel (FDCC). During the one-year term, he serves as a member of the board of directors, which is responsible for leading the FDCC, and is working on special projects for the FDCC president and other leaders of the organization. He has held several key positions at the FDCC, including vice president and dean of the Litigation Management College Graduate Program. He also is the former chair of the FDCC’s Insurance Coverage Section and a recipient of the John Alan Appleman Award, which honors the chair of an FDCC Substantive Law Section who has made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the FDCC’s education goals through the work of his or her section.

Jeffrey T. Johnson, a partner in the Denver office of Holland & Hart LLP, has been named to the American Arbitration Association’s Employment Law Panel of arbitrators. He continues to practice labor and employment law at the firm, representing employers throughout the Rocky Mountain West and nationally.

Clyde J. Robinson served as coeditor and contributor to Michigan Municipal Law, a legal guide for attorneys recently published by The Institute of Continuing Legal Education in Ann Arbor. He has spent 32 years in municipal law practice and has been the city attorney for Battle Creek, Michigan, since 2008, after service with the city of Battle Creek, Michigan, in the same capacity from 1999–2008.

G.A. Finch was named the new chief of staff for Cook County (Chicago) Board President Toni Preckwinkle. Previously, he was a partner with Hoogendoorn & Talbot LLP, where he was a member of the business, employment, real estate, and litigation practice groups. He also has an extensive background in government, having served as a City of Chicago deputy planning commissioner in Mayor Harold Washington’s administration and as general counsel for the Chicago Housing Authority.

Peter Maassen has been appointed the 22nd justice of the Alaska Supreme Court, replacing Justice Morgan Christen. He is a partner at the Anchorage law firm Ingaldson, Maassen & Fitzgerald, and also serves on the board of directors for the Anchorage Youth Court and the Alaska Bar Association board of governors.

Betty Olivera, ’80 (right) and Elaine Nekritz, ’82 (left) participated in the DuPage Railroad Safety Council’s national conference, “Prevent Tragedy on the Tracks: Safety is Good Business.” Olivera is assistant general counsel of the Huron Consulting Group and moderated a panel discussion on the issue of Suicide by Train.

Mark Lezotte, shareholder with the law firm of Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman, was recently re-elected as a member of the National Board of Trustees of United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) Association at the organization’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C. He has been active in serving UCP, on the local and national levels, for almost 20 years. For the last 10 years, he has chaired or co-chaired UCP’s governmental activities committee, helping guide the organization’s national legislative priorities and lead its efforts in lobbying and public policy, and coordinating with other national disability advocacy organizations.

Dustin P. Ordway was elected chair of the Environmental Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan for the 2012–2013 term. His practice has been devoted to environmental litigation, regulatory compliance, and enforcement defense since 1986, and he now works out of offices in Grand Rapids and Traverse City. He also serves as a facilitative mediator in state and federal court cases, as well as facilitating settlements in non-litigation disputes.

Peter R. Silverman, partner in the Toledo, Ohio, office of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick LLP, has coauthored the Annual Franchise and Distribution Law Developments, 2012, published by the American Bar Association. The book includes extensively researched case law from August 2011 to August 2012 and is compiled into an easy-to-use reference guide. Silverman is a member of the litigation practice group and has extensive experience in a number of specialty areas, including franchising, alternative dispute resolution, intellectual property, and antitrust. He also is an active arbitrator and mediator, and is a member of the American Arbitration Association’s Large, Complex Case Arbitration Panel.
By John Masson

Bob Stefanski, ’89, learned the importance of speed and sound judgment on the football field. But the Northern Michigan University Hall-of-Fame receiver didn’t fully appreciate the value of the lesson until years later, when he gave up the white shirts and wingtips of Big Law for the blue jeans and sandals of Silicon Valley.

How he went from corporate attorney to entrepreneurial adviser, he says, had more to do with seizing opportunity than any built-in entrepreneurial bent on his own part. But key to his subsequent success—and the success, he says, of any attorney working in the entrepreneurial arena—was his ability to analyze a situation rapidly and get the right advice to the client, right away.

“The kind of guys I’m used to working with, you don’t always have time for in-depth analysis,” says Stefanski, the former executive vice president, general counsel, and secretary to the board of directors at TIBCO Software Inc. “It’s more like, ‘What should I do, and how fast can I do it?’ You need to be able to synthesize law, and you need to understand their business really well. Things are moving extremely fast, and very quick judgments have to be made.”

The native of Grand Blanc, Michigan, remains actively engaged in his home state, passing on the lessons he’s learned to a new generation of entrepreneurs through outlets such as Michigan eLab, co-located in Ann Arbor and Palo Alto, California. Although it’s partly a business incubator, Michigan eLab is primarily a venture capital fund established by Stefanski and others who have deep ties to U-M’s entrepreneurial side.

It hasn’t always been so for Stefanski, who also holds a Michigan Engineering graduate degree. He says he was simply following his natural interest in intellectual property and technology to a first job with Weil, Gotshal & Manges in New York.

“When I left Michigan, like most students, I was just focused on getting a job,” Stefanski says. “I knew I wanted to do something around technology, and something around intellectual property—but I was not focused on start-ups or entrepreneurship, per se.”

While with Weil Gotshal in the early ’90s, he represented companies ranging from global behemoths to very small start-ups, and he paid close attention to ongoing developments in the IP and technology fields, which were on the brink of exploding. He also met a succession of high-powered technology executives, learning what he could from each.

It was a little later, when he was corporate counsel and IP chief for Reuters, that he met Vivek Ranadivé, a visionary tech entrepreneur whose innovations had radically changed Wall Street—and who would radically change the course of Stefanski’s life.

The tech entrepreneur had started a company called Teknekron, which digitized Wall Street in the early ’90s and enabled traders to spend far more time trading stocks, and far less time researching them across stacks of separate computer terminals.

Reuters had acquired Teknekron, and the entrepreneur Ranadivé was figuring out what to do next. Stefanski got involved, and they decided to create a new spin-off company, TIBCO Software, which would license the original Teknekron technology and find different markets outside of Wall Street in which to apply it. Stefanski worked with Ranadivé and Reuters in setting up the new company, and Ranadivé asked Stefanski to join his team.

“I wish I could say it was brilliantly planned, but it was an opportunity that no idiot could refuse, to be honest with you,” Stefanski says. “It was clear he was a brilliant, brilliant guy.”

Stefanski gave up his “very corporate practice” in New York and made the move to California, where as a founding member of the TIBCO management team, he says he worked every bit as hard, although in a less buttoned-up environment.

TIBCO became a leader in developing software that helps companies gain a competitive advantage through speedier processing of massive amounts of information. Which, in a way, more or less describes Stefanski’s role at TIBCO: processing legal information and acting on it, rapid-fire, within the company.

“For me, the conversations and interactions are more akin to 140 characters on Twitter than to the long memos of big corporate firms,” he says. “It’s pretty much a full-contact sport, and a super fast-moving sort of practice.”
Catherine Jones, ‘00: Finding Her Calling

By Lara Zielin

Growing up in a small town in South Carolina, Catherine Jones, ‘00, never imagined how much of the world she’d be able to see: Spain. Brazil. Colombia. Uruguay. Mexico. Argentina.

After majoring in Spanish at her undergraduate alma mater, Wake Forest, Jones says she was looking for a law school with a global focus. “One of the reasons I chose the U-M Law School was its strong international emphasis,” she says.

During her time on campus, she surrounded herself with people who could help her put her legal expertise to use in an increasingly global world. “It was very exciting to have people around who could show you how to focus on different international aspects,” she says.

Currently, Jones serves as general counsel for Virgin Mobile Latin America (VMLA). As cell phone use in Latin America burgeons, Virgin is targeting a growing youth market segment, ages 18–35, who all want affordable mobile technology.

Jones plays a critical role helping VMLA review contracts in Spanish, finalize loans, and “everything in between,” she says. The Virgin brand might be global, but Jones’s work at VMLA has the feel of a small startup. “I’m working from home right now,” she said during an interview, as the Internet and copier were installed in what would be her new Miami office.

Even with a new bricks-and-mortar space, much of Jones’s work is done virtually. “I work with people located all over the Western Hemisphere, and many of them travel constantly,” Jones says. “We do a lot of our work via Skype and email. We use technology to stay in touch and get things done.”

Some of Jones’s earliest exposure to Latin America came during her first year of Law School, when she clerked for the Supreme Court of Argentina. “I got three credits to do it, and it was a challenge at first. Argentine Spanish is a lot different than what I was used to speaking and hearing. But it was a great experience, and I fell in love with the country.”

Law School mentors such as Virginia Gordan, assistant dean for international affairs, plus Jones’s own work on the Michigan Journal of International Law (MJIL), helped propel her to New York after graduation. There, she worked with Shearman & Sterling, LLP, doing securities issuances for Latin American companies in front of the Securities and Exchange Commission. After more than five years, she moved to Miami to work with Greenberg Traurig, LLC, where her work focused mostly on Europe. However, she missed the developing nations connection, and, in 2008, started a new job at Kerzner International. VMLA came calling this past spring and, Jones says, “I’m in on the ground floor of what I hope will be an exciting venture.”

Jones’s timing might just be perfect. While the economic climate in the United States has cooled, business is heating up in Latin America. “Countries such as Colombia, Chile, and Brazil are doing well,” Jones says. “They’re projected to continue growing, unlike Europe and the United States.”

Her time at U-M helped give her a vision for this international life, including people on the board of the MJIL who would come to campus to speak, not to mention an inspiring comparative international law course she took as a senior. “It was all a wonderful influence,” she says. “I saw people around me doing exciting work, and I started saying to myself, ‘I can do the same thing.’”

1982

Quentin Boyken, firm president of Belin McCormick in Des Moines, Iowa, attended an international conference in Brussels hosted by TAGLaw, a leading alliance of independent law firms from around the world. The purpose of the conference was to educate attorneys from top law firms on legal trends and offer the latest information concerning superior client service and law firm management.

Matthew Kiefer has been inducted into the American College of Real Estate Lawyers. He is a partner at Goulston & Storrs in Boston, and his practice focuses on land-use development for complex urban projects.

Mary Jo Larson, a partner with the law firm of Warner Norcross & Judd LLP, is among a group of nine Leadership Detroit graduates who were honored as “emerging leaders” during the 2012 Leadership Detroit Awards. The award is the first ever made to a group and recognizes its members for continuing the work they began during their Leadership Detroit program to overcome racial lines in the city. In addition, she also was elected to the Forgotten Harvest Board of Directors. She concentrates her practice in employee benefits and executive compensation.

Elaine Nekritz, ’82 (left) and Betty Olivera, ’80 (right) participated in the DuPage Railroad Safety Council’s national conference, “Prevent Tragedy on the Tracks: Safety is Good Business.” Nekritz is an Illinois state representative for District 57 and chair of the Illinois House Rail Safety Commission, and she participated on the legislative update panel discussion.
Steve Vidmar was appointed to serve as United States magistrate judge for the District of New Mexico. His chambers are in Las Cruces, New Mexico, near the U.S./Mexico border. Prior to taking the bench, he was president and managing director of Miller Stratvert PA, a litigation firm with four offices in New Mexico.

1983
The Class of 1983 reunion will be Oct. 4-6, 2013.

Mark Herrmann recently published his fourth book, Inside Straight: Advice About Lawyering, In-House And Out, That Only The Internet Could Provide. The book collects a series of columns that he published on the Above the Law website, and some of the anonymous commenters’ reactions to those columns. The book can be purchased through the American Bar Association web store.

1984
Gregory K. Frizzell, United States district judge, has been elevated to chief judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

1988
The Class of 1988 reunion will be Oct. 18-20, 2013.

Bruce A. Courtade, Rhoades McKee attorney and shareholder, was sworn in as the 78th president of the State Bar of Michigan. For more than 15 years, he has been an active and dedicated member of the State Bar, serving on numerous committees as a member of the Representative Assembly and the Board of Commissioners, including its Executive Committee. In addition to executive leadership roles, he has served as a member of the State Bar of Michigan’s Board of Commissioners, and he chaired the State Bar’s Representative Assembly until his term expired in September 2001. He is an Attorney Discipline Board panelist, a fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society.

Debbie J. Gezon has been elected to partner at Robinson & Cole in the firm’s Los Angeles office. She concentrates her practice in the areas of real estate and real estate finance, and she has extensive experience in several types of real estate transactions, including mortgage financings for affordable housing transactions, tax-exempt bond transactions, and tax credit transactions. She has worked as in-house counsel for a secondary mortgage lender and for a privately held company that operates a national chain of theatres and significant real estate holdings. Prior to moving her practice to real estate finance, she spent several years as a commercial bankruptcy lawyer.

1989
Steven J. Cernak has joined Schiff Hardin LLP’s Ann Arbor office as of counsel in the Litigation and Antitrust and Trade Regulation Groups. Prior to joining Schiff Hardin, he spent 23 years at General Motors as a member of the legal staff. He practiced antitrust and trade regulation law at GM from 1989 to 2012, and served as lead competition law counsel for GM globally, and lead counsel for GM’s Service Operations and Fleet Operations in the United States. He managed GM’s responses to lemon law and breach of warranty lawsuits across the United States from 1999–2012.

1990
Christine Castellano has been elected by the board of directors as senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary at Ingredion Inc., a global provider of ingredient solutions to diversified industries. She joined the Chicago-area company in 1996, and most recently, as Ingredion’s vice president, international law and deputy general counsel, she was responsible for legal rebranding activities as well as for the formation of new legal entities abroad.

Holly Fechner has been promoted to partner at Covington & Burling LLP in the firm’s Washington, D.C., office. She is a leader of the firm’s government affairs group, and has a broad-based practice handling legislative and regulatory matters for clients in areas including health care, tax, intellectual property, education, and employee benefits. She came to Covington after years of service as policy director for Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

Rob Romanoff has been named managing partner of Chicago-based Levenfeld Pearlstein LLC. He succeeds cofounding partner Bryan Schwartz in a planned leadership transition.

James R. Marsh authored a feature article, “Pricing Amy: Should Those Who Download Child Pornography Pay the Victims?” about his efforts to secure restitution for victims of child pornography. The article appeared in the American Bar Association Journal. In addition, the U.S. Sentencing Commission appointed him a member of the Victims Advisory Group (VAG) to a term ending in 2015. The U.S. Sentencing Commission is an independent agency in the judicial branch of government whose principal purpose is to establish sentencing policies and practices for federal courts. VAG is a standing advisory group to the Commission. Marsh is partner at Marsh Law Firm PLLC in New York.
1991
Susan Hartmus Hiser of Vercruysse Murray & Calzone in Bingham Farms, Michigan, was elected as a fellow to the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. She practices in the areas of labor and employment litigation on behalf of private and public sector employers. She also has conducted in-house training on all areas of employment law, including harassment prevention, legal compliance, and workplace policies, and she is called upon frequently both to assist in and to conduct workplace investigations on behalf of her clients.

1992
Nicolás Cubillos, LLM ’92, is president (rector) of Universidad Finis Terrae in Santiago, Chile. A former Fulbright Scholar, he previously worked at the law firm of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton in New York City, and was a research scholar at Michigan Law. He is married to Gloria Claro, LLM ’97.

Daniel D. Quick has been appointed a practice department manager at Dickinson Wright in the firm’s Troy, Michigan, office. He is responsible for the firm’s Commercial Litigation, Antitrust & Trade Regulation, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and Sports & Entertainment practice areas. He splits his time between commercial litigation matters with an emphasis on business torts, non-competes, UCC disputes, financial industry litigation, and shareholder disputes, and intellectual property and entertainment litigation, which includes representation of artists, labels, and broadcasters in copyright claims, commercial disputes, and defamation actions. He also is co-chair, Litigation Section, Intellectual Property Committee for the American Bar Association.

1993
The Class of 1993 reunion will be Oct. 18-20, 2013.

1994
Otto Beatty and E.E. Ward Moving & Storage received the Better Business Bureau of Central Ohio’s Torch Award for ethical enterprising. Recipients of the award have demonstrated superior character on a daily basis, and consistently exceed marketplace standards for ethics in their relationships with customers, employees, suppliers, industry peers, and the communities in which they do business. E.E. Ward has received numerous awards for its high level of service and has been recognized as one of the nation’s oldest African American owned businesses.

Joanne Turner was appointed to the Minnesota Tax Court by Governor Mark Dayton. She has served since 2005 as an assistant commissioner for the Minnesota Supreme Court, where she reviewed appeals and records from the Tax Court. Before joining the commissioner’s staff, she was a partner in the Minneapolis firm of Mackall, Crouse & Moore, where her areas of practice included commercial litigation, appeals, and intellectual property defense.

Pat DeWine was elected judge on Ohio’s First District Court of Appeals. Prior to his election, he served for four years as a Common Pleas Court Judge in Hamilton County (Cincinnati), Ohio. He also has served as a member of Cincinnati City Council and the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners.

Marcos A. Ramos, a director of Richards, Layton & Finger PA., in Wilmington, Delaware, has been confirmed by the New Castle County Council as chair of the New Castle County Diversity Commission. The Commission is responsible for monitoring the county’s policies to promote and encourage business opportunities for small, minority- and women-owned business enterprises, and to ensure that human resources activities are conducted in a manner that provides opportunity for all and ensures the workforce is representative of the community it serves. He is a member of Richards Layton’s Bankruptcy & Corporate Restructuring Department, and focuses his practice on litigation, including preference and fraudulent transfer litigation, as well as contested matters and other bankruptcy proceedings. He also was recently appointed assistant web editor for the ABA’s Bankruptcy & Insolvency Litigation Subcommittee, as well as the Third Circuit Notes Editor for that subcommittee.

Pia Norman Thompson of Gould & Ratner LLP in Chicago has been elected a director-at-large to the Board of Directors of the International Women’s Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation (IWIRC). IWIRC is a professional organization committed to the connection, promotion, and growth of women in insolvency and restructuring professions worldwide. Her practice focuses on three distinct areas: strategic litigation planning, counsel and planning to C-Suite executives relating to revenue management, and prosecuting and defending covenants not to compete. Her many years of bankruptcy experience allow her to assist clients with all aspects of Chapter 11 proceedings and other restructuring and workout situations from both the creditor and debtor side of the table.
1995
Andrew S. Baer joined Morgan Stanley in New York as managing director, global head of bank regulatory legal, and general counsel of Morgan Stanley Bank N.A.

Marc Spindelman was appointed the Isadore and Ida Topper Professor of Law at the Moritz College of Law (Ohio State University). His scholarship focuses on certain problems of inequality, chiefly in the context of sex and death. He regularly teaches courses on family law, constitutional law, bioethics and public health ethics, and sexual violence.

1996
Kincaid C. Brown is the new assistant director of the University of Michigan Law Library.

Charles E. Duross received the Attorney General’s Award for Distinguished Service, the second-highest award for employee performance bestowed by the department, for the investigation and prosecution of former Congressman William Jefferson for corruption-related offenses. He was one of the lead prosecutors who tried Jefferson in the summer of 2009, leading to a conviction that was recently upheld by the Fourth Circuit. He is deputy chief—Foreign Corrupt Practices Act Unit, Fraud Section, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice.

Moushumi Khan became the first director of legal and compliance at BRAC (formerly Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee), one of the world’s largest development organizations. BRAC is based in Bangladesh and operates in 11 countries. She also serves as the secretary to the board. BRAC’s work includes microfinance, public health, education, and social development, serving 138 million people globally with more than 120,000 employees. Under her leadership, BRAC’s first in-house and Bangladesh’s largest legal department was created, and she has actively recruited, trained, and supervised a team of 60 lawyers and paralegals who provide legal support on corporate, civil, employment, land, international, and compliance issues.

1997
Matthew L.M. Fletcher has been appointed as the reporter for the American Law Institute’s Restatement Third, The Law of American Indians, along with his wife, Wenona Singel. He is a professor of law at Michigan State University College of Law, and the director of the Indigenous Law and Policy Center. He also is the chief justice of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians Supreme Court and sits as an appellate judge for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, the Hoopa Valley Tribe, and the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians. In addition, he is a member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, located in Peshawbestown, Michigan.

Todd Schoenhaus has joined Eisenberg, Rothweiler, Winkler, Eisenberg & Jeck PC, one of the premier catastrophic personal injury firms in the Philadelphia region. He will concentrate his practice in the areas of products and premises liability, professional malpractice, construction defects, and vehicle accidents.

1998
Matthew Wilk was elected to a four-year term as a Trustee of the Northville (Michigan) Public Schools Board of Education. He was appointed in June 2012 to replace a departing trustee, and his elected term runs through December 2016. He lives in Northville with his wife, Kim, and future University of Michigan alums Mark and Elizabeth.

Kathryn Zalewski has been promoted to special counsel in the Litigation/Controversy Department at WilmerHale. She works in the firm’s Palo Alto, California, office.

The Class of 1998 reunion will be Oct. 18-20, 2013.

David R. Grand has been appointed a United States magistrate judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. His chambers are in the Ann Arbor federal court. Prior to taking the bench, he was a principal at Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone, practicing sports law and litigation.
1999


2000

Brian Gingold has been elected to Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP’s partnership in the corporate department of the firm’s New York office. His practice primarily focuses on mergers and acquisitions. He represents private equity firms and both public and private companies, and he works on joint ventures and other complex corporate transactions. He also represents various investment banks as financial advisors in M&A transactions. While in law school, he was a member of The Journal of Law Reform and received the Solomon Nadler Award for outstanding work related to commercial law, corporate law, and securities regulation, and the Board Award for Excellence in Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy.

Claire J. Holloway has been selected to serve as general counsel for the North Dakota University System, which is headquartered in Bismarck, North Dakota.

2001

Andrew B. Demers has joined Roetzel as a partner in the firm’s Fort Lauderdale office—greatly expanding the Business Litigation Group’s white-collar crime and creditors’ rights services. His practice focuses on representing banking and commercial clients in business litigation and commercial contract disputes. A former special counsel to the Ohio Attorney General’s office, he also has experience representing clients in construction and franchise disputes. He previously was a partner with Fowler White Boggs P.A. in Fort Lauderdale.

Sungin Kang, LLM ’01, has been working as an in-house counsel at LG Display in Seoul, South Korea, since January 2012. LG Display is one of the largest manufacturers of LCD panels in the world, and a key supplier of global electronics companies such as Apple and HP.

Clifford Mendelsohn has been elected to partnership at Tucker Ellis LLP. He is a member of the Tucker trial group, and focuses his practice on defending pharmaceutical, medical device, chemical, automobile, and consumer products manufacturers in a wide range of product liability matters, including toxic torts, mass torts, class actions, multidistrict litigation, and product recalls.

Sean T. Peppard has been elected to the partnership of Ulmer & Berne in the firm’s Cleveland office. He regularly represents public companies, privately held businesses, and private equity and hedge funds in their mergers and acquisitions and corporate finance matters. He has significant experience in securities transactions and reporting, corporate governance, and general business matters, including representing private equity and hedge fund clients in their fund formation efforts. He also represents limited partners in their investments into hedge funds, funds-of-funds, real estate opportunity funds, and other private equity investment funds, in addition to representing growth companies in their fundraising efforts and in the negotiation of strategic partnerships.

Asim Rehman, president of the Muslim Bar Association of New York, was called to provide expert testimony before the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights on “Federal Civil Rights Engagement with Arab and Muslim Communities Post 9/11.” His testimony focused on civil rights challenges faced by American Muslims and how the federal government has addressed these challenges.

2002

Zachary R. Davis has been named a shareholder of Stevens & Lee. He focuses his practice on labor and employment matters, representing employers in labor negotiations, as well as class action and single-plaintiff employment litigation, including cases alleging discrimination, wrongful termination and breach of non-competition agreements. He also has worked with employers in non-adversarial situations, counseling them in Title VII regulations, employee relations, and litigation prevention.

Nicole Snyder is the new administrative partner of Holland & Hart LLP’s Boise office. In addition to overseeing strategic development for the office, she will manage recruiting and marketing efforts, as well as other responsibilities related to the firm’s partnership. She represents clients in matters involving mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, debt and equity financing, venture capital, restructurings, and other complex business transactions, and she also counsels businesses on all types of employment law matters. She currently serves as president of the board of trustees for the Boise Art Museum.

Brian C. Neal has been elected to counsel with Stites & Harbison PLLC. He is a member of the firm’s Business Litigation and Torts & Insurance Practice Service groups, and he concentrates his practice on trial work in connection with complex commercial disputes, bad-faith insurance defense, products liability, and general litigation. He has served as first-chair litigator in a wide range of matters, and he has experience litigating matters on appeal before the highest courts in Tennessee.
Christopher R. Noyes has been promoted to partner in the Litigation/Controversy Department at WilmerHale. He practices in the firm's New York office.

Sara K. Orr is being promoted to counsel at Latham & Watkins LLP in the firm’s Washington, D.C., office. She focuses her work on litigation, counseling, and transactions involving environmental, energy, and natural resource matters. She handles a wide variety of matters related to large resource development projects, including the development, licensing, and financing of new mines, onshore and offshore oil and gas development, particularly international new liquefied natural gas assets, and renewable energy projects.

Adam Wiers was named a partner in the Chicago office of Jones Day. As a member of the Business & Tort Litigation Practice, he is a commercial litigator with substantial experience representing clients in trial courts, appellate courts, and arbitrations.

2003
The Class of 2003 reunion will be Oct. 18-20, 2013.

David M. Burkoff has joined HunterMaclean in the firm’s Business Litigation Group in the Savannah, Georgia, office. Prior to joining HunterMaclean, he practiced law for nine years in New York and Boston, most recently with WilmerHale LLP, where he served as counsel in the firm’s Litigation/Controversy Department and Business Trial Group.

Kelly A. Cwiertny has joined Shutleworth & Ingersoll P.L.C. in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as counsel. Prior to joining the firm, she worked as an associate in the Environmental and Natural Resources Group of the Best Best & Krieger firm in Riverside, California, and practiced as an associate in the Natural Resources and Environment and Energy groups at a large law firm in Washington, D.C. She also clerked for the Sixth Judicial District of Iowa from 2006 to 2007.

Claire Loeb Davis has joined Lane Powell in Seattle as a shareholder in the Securities Litigation Practice Group. She joins Lane Powell from Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati. She is an experienced securities litigator, and she has focused on defending public companies and their directors and officers in securities class actions, shareholder derivative suits, and investigations and enforcement actions by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. At Lane Powell, she will continue to focus on such actions, in addition to other complex litigation matters.

Liz Flannery became a partner at Baker Botts LLP in Houston. She is one of 15 lawyers to be named to the partnership in Baker Botts’ 173rd year of operations. She works on a range of intellectual property matters, focusing primarily on patent litigation in a variety of industries. She has represented clients in disputes involving technologies that include medical devices, oilfield equipment, and consumer appliances.

Douglas Y. Park recently joined Rimon PC as a partner and chief sustainability officer in the firm’s Palo Alto, California, office. His practice focuses on advising startups, boards of directors, and investors on corporate governance, corporate and securities law, and strategy. He also teaches classes on starting startups and mergers and acquisitions at Stanford University.

2004

John L. Bunyan has been selected to join the partnership at Carlock, Copeland & Stair in Atlanta. He practices in commercial litigation with a focus on professional liability and real estate matters. He defends lawyers, accountants, and other professionals faced with claims and lawsuits in federal and state court alleging professional negligence, breach of fiduciary duty, breach of contract, negligent misrepresentation, and fraud. He also represents lawyers in real estate matters alleging wrongful foreclosure and federal statutory violations, including claims under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

Greg Gnepper was named partner at the Phoenix-based law firm of Gammage & Burnham. His practice focuses on commercial litigation, debt enforcement, and bankruptcy. He is married to Christie Hammerle. ’06. They live in Arizona and have two children, Jordan (age 3) and Alex (age 1).
Len Gray launched inlaw.me in late 2012, and he is the cofounder and president of the company. inlaw.me is an online recruiting aid designed specifically and exclusively for the legal industry. The company aims to reduce attorney recruitment costs by removing headhunters from the process.

Andrew Harwel has been elected partner of the firm Bose McKinney & Evans LLP in the Business Services Group in Indianapolis. Previously employed by a Chicago office of a large international law firm, he represents clients in the manufacturing, insurance, banking, nonprofit, gaming, and real estate sectors. He has assisted Fortune 100 companies and smaller enterprises in mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, SEC compliance, general corporate governance, and corporate restructuring. In addition, he represents issuers and underwriters in connection with public and Rule 144A offerings of debt and equity securities and exchange offers and consent solicitations.

Tammy L. Helminski, an associate in Barnes & Thornburg LLP's Grand Rapids, Michigan, office, was appointed to the State Bar of Michigan's Environmental Law Section Council at the State Bar of Michigan Annual Meeting. She will serve a three-year term on the Environmental Law Section Council, and will continue to chair the Hazardous Substances & Brownfields Committee of the Environmental Law Section. The Environmental Law Section has approximately 600 members, including private and public sector attorneys and law students, and provides education, information, and analysis about issues of environmental concern.

Tara E. Mahoney, a partner in Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP's Labor and Employment Department, has been elected president of the Neutral Zone's Board of Directors. The Neutral Zone, in Ann Arbor, is a diverse, youth-driven teen center dedicated to promoting personal growth and artistic expression, community leadership, and the exchange of ideas. She has served as a board member and chaired the Human Resources Board Committee since 2008.

Megan Conlon McCulloch, a partner in Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP's Environmental Practice in Detroit, has been appointed as chair of the American Bar Association's Book Publishing Board for its Environment, Energy, and Resources Section. As chair, she will provide leadership and oversight to the book program, appoint other board members, and lead the process of developing books of interest for the 10,000 members of the ABA section by selecting important topics and authors. In addition, she has been appointed to serve as a member of the Publications Services Group, which comprises the publication officer and all the chairs of section committees responsible for publications.

Linda Samples was appointed by the El Paso ISD Board of Trustees as its first in-house counsel. El Paso ISD is the 10th largest school district in Texas and the 61st largest school district in the United States.

2006

Fernando Casas Martinez (research scholar) was promoted to the highest professorial rank in the Spanish educational system (Catedratico). He is the youngest person in Spain's law schools to attain that rank.

2008

The Class of 2008 reunion will be Oct. 18-20, 2013.

Michelle L. Gomez has joined the Albuquerque, New Mexico, litigation team at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. She will focus her practice on commercial litigation. Prior to joining the firm, she was an associate at Morrison & Foerster in New York, and Long & Page LLP in Denver. She previously worked as an associate in Brownstein's Denver office as a member of the litigation group.

2009


Brian Pascal was named a non-residential fellow, with a focus area of privacy, at the Center for Internet and Society, a public interest technology law and policy program at Stanford Law School.

2010

John P. Bringewatt has joined Harter Sechrist & Emery LLP's Litigation Practice Group as an associate attorney in the Rochester, New York, office. His practice focuses on general commercial and civil litigation, as well as government and internal investigations. Prior to joining the firm, he served as a law clerk to Judge Susan L. Carney of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.
Kela Shang joined Hanson Bridgett LLP's San Francisco office as a corporate associate. He advises public and private companies in a variety of transactional matters, including capital markets, securities compliance, mergers and acquisitions, emerging company formation, and other general corporate matters.

2012

Kelechi E. Adibe joined Warner Norcross & Judd LLP as an associate in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Emily Bakeman joined Warner Norcross & Judd LLP as an associate in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Julie A. Bernard has joined von Briesen & Roper in Milwaukee. She focuses on intellectual property and general business and corporate matters. During law school she was the managing editor of the Michigan Telecommunications and Technology Law Review. She also serves on the Creative Council of FUEL Milwaukee, an economic development initiative of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, and is a member of the Core Committee of Skylight Music Theatre's young professionals group, SkylightENSEMBLE.

Karen L. Boore has joined Miller Canfield as an associate in the Real Estate Group in the Troy, Michigan, office. She focuses her practice on commercial development, economic development incentives, construction law, and commercial leasing. Prior to joining the firm, she served as a federal court intern for the Honorable John Corbett O’Meara, U.S. District Court Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. She also interned with Wayne County’s Economic Development Growth Engine.

Amber A. Hay joined Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP in its Detroit office as a member of the Corporate Department. She was a summer associate in 2011 and 2010.

Ryan A. Jackson joined Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP in its Detroit office as a member of the firm's Corporate Department. He was a summer associate in 2011. During law school, he served as a judicial intern for Judge Mark A. Goldsmith when he was a member of the Oakland County Circuit Court bench, and for Judge Richard B. Halloran in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Jeremy D. Lockhart joined Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP in its Detroit office as a member of their Litigation Department. He was a summer associate in 2011. While attending law school, he served as a judicial extern for Judge Arlene Singer in the Ohio Sixth District Court of Appeals. He also was an undergraduate legal intern in the Ohio Public Defender's office.

Andrew R. Trafford joined Porter Wright as an associate in the firm's Litigation Department. He focuses his practice on complex commercial litigation, as well as matters in the firm's growing Oil & Gas Practice. While attending Michigan Law, he participated in the Campbell Moot Court competition and served as a legal intern for the Ohio Attorney General in the Constitutional Offices Section.

Roll, ’65: The Hopkins Touch Earns Praise

David L. Roll, ’65, has won praise for his book The Hopkins Touch (Oxford University Press, 2013), written about Harry Hopkins, President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s shrewd, controversial, and chronically ill adviser. Hopkins was one of the architects of the New Deal and was a top diplomatic adviser during World War II, the man primarily responsible for forging and maintaining the country’s alliance with Churchill and Stalin.

The Wall Street Journal review of the book praised the author for “displaying a strong grasp of… historical scholarship, delivering a strong and clear-eyed appraisal of Hopkins’s personal life, and demonstrating considerable narrative talents of his own.”

Roll is a partner in the Washington office of Steptoe & Johnson LLP. He also is the founder and associate director of the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation, the nonprofit affiliate of Lex Mundi, the world’s leading association of independent law firms.
E. Lisk Wyckoff Jr., ’60

E. Lisk Wyckoff Jr., ’60, died peacefully in his sleep on November 26, 2012. He is survived by his wife of 26 years, Elizabeth (Kuphal); and his children, E. Lysk III, Elizabeth Hannah, and Jenny.

In the fall 2012 issue of the Law Quadrangle, we ran an article about Mr. Wyckoff. Here, we are publishing the article again in his memory.

“What does the E stand for?” Duke Ellington asked E. Lisk Wyckoff Jr. at the first meeting between the composer/bandleader/pianist and his prospective tax and estate lawyer.


The dazzling client was one face in a parade of high-profile entertainers and business people, both domestic and foreign, whom Wyckoff counseled on tax, estate, and trust matters throughout his career. As an early specialist in foreign trusts, Wyckoff became not only a rainmaker, but a knowledgeable speaker and writer in a then-new area of the law.

“I had the good fortune to be able to generate my own business”—an atypical scenario for a trust-and-estate lawyer in the early 1970s, said Wyckoff. “That brought in a lot of different clients and legal matters.”

As trustee and president of the Homeland Foundation, Wyckoff was instrumental in making two significant gifts to Michigan Law. The first commitment, in 1999, endowed the Chauncey Stillman Professorship for Ethics, Morality, and the Practice of Law. That professorship has been held since its creation by Carl Schneider, also a professor of internal medicine. Recently the Homeland Foundation made a gift of $1 million for the building project as an extension of its previous generosity.

A Leckie Scholar at Michigan Law, Wyckoff earned his bread (literally) as a waiter in the Lawyers Club dining room. His career assumed its first shape when, in his 3L year, he wrote a research paper on an admiralty law topic, under the guidance of the late Professor William W. Bishop. That study, along with Wyckoff’s experience in the U.S. Navy, positioned him well to take a job after graduation with the leading New York City admiralty firm of Burlingham, Hupper & Kennedy.

While he was practicing with Burlingham, he also became counsel to the New York State Senate Judiciary Committee in Albany. “It was a wonderful experience,” he said. “I was drafting laws of all kinds.”

When he got an up-close look at the redrafting of the New York trust and estate law, Wyckoff decided to switch to the field that became his specialty for the rest of his career. He practiced with several small firms, including Valcenti, Leighton, Reed & Pine, where he became a partner and got considerable experience in the creation of foreign trusts by U.S. and other nationals.

Wyckoff went on to co-head the trust and estates department at Kelley, Drye & Warren (1979–93) and to head that department at Kramer, Levin, Naftalis & Frankel (1993–2001), both in New York City.

For nearly 25 years, Wyckoff also served as special counsel to the New York State Bankers Association Trust Division, working on significant laws affecting trusts, like the New York Prudent Investor Rule and the New York Reasonable Compensation Statute for trustee fees. Since 1947 he had been the author for West’s McKinney’s Forms for ESP (New York Estates and Surrogate’s Practice), originally four volumes and now 10 volumes, for which he provided annual updates and systematic recompositions.

Wyckoff, who lived in Old Lyme, Connecticut, also found time to chair the board of the Wyckoff House. The small farmhouse museum, New York City’s first landmarked building, was built in 1652 and stands as a reminder of his family’s history, and of the heritage of the Dutch in North America.—RF
1930s
Robert C. Boyer, ’39  11/3/12

1940s
Walter Sklar, ’40  1/15/13
William E. Carroll, ’42  2/5/13
Robert E. Fryer, ’47  11/8/12
Frank Elkouri, LLM ’48, SJD ’51  1/18/13
Philip C. Baldwin, ’49  11/12/12
George H. Davies, ’49  10/6/12
Robert P. Hamilton, ’49  11/10/11
J. David Lynch, ’49  2/6/12
David D. Ring, ’49  3/11/12

1950s
Paul G. Hoffman, ’50  12/14/12
John T. Kelly, ’50  8/31/12
Vernon R. Pearson, ’50  2/4/13
R. Kendall Sherrill, ’50  9/20/12
Harold G. Christensen, ’51  11/14/12
Frank Elkouri, ’51  1/18/13
Richard S. Hawkkinson, ’51  1/28/13
Donald S. Leeper, ’51  12/31/12
Walter Potoroka, ’51  11/29/12
Cleaveland J. Rice, ’51  12/27/12
Peter P. Cobbs Jr., ’52  7/4/12
Robert S. Griggs, ’52  10/19/12
George A. Lievense, ’52  2/14/13
Ellis R. Whinham, ’52  5/4/12
Burton H. Cronin, ’53  8/7/12
William E. Feldhaus, ’53  9/28/12
Franklin S. Wallace, ’53  2/1/13
Dale F. Beck, ’54  4/1/12
James W. Buchanan, ’54  11/23/12
John B. King, ’54  12/29/12
Chester F. Reileyea, ’54  12/10/11
Richard R. Reynolds, ’54  10/20/12
William A. Swainson, ’55  1/28/13
Raymond H. Dresser, ’56  1/25/13
Carl J. Goetz, LLM ’56  10/26/12
Murray B. Schwartzberg, ’56  12/7/12
Arthur G. Greenberg, ’57  1/21/13
Ross A. Kipka, ’57  12/3/12
Allan L. Bioff, ’58  10/20/12

1960s
Raymond R. Murphy, ’60  12/30/12
E. Lisk Wyckoff, ’60  11/26/12
Neil O. Littlefield, ’61  12/2/12
Stanley A. Williams, ’61  4/13/12
Richard S. Brennan, ’63  10/10/12
John R. Lutz, ’63  9/27/12
Ivo VanBael, MCL ’63  2/5/13
George H. Zinn, ’63  12/13/12
Gerald T. Ball, ’64  10/22/12
Stanley F. Desmarais, ’64  8/6/12
John F. Huntley, ’64  10/28/12
L. Nicholas Treinen, ’64  1/6/13
John K. Toumin, LLM ’65  7/2/12
George M. Humphrey, ’67  11/30/12
Michael J. Close, ’68  2/7/13
Elliot J. Peskind, ’68  5/24/12
Lori K. Adamek, ’69  9/29/12
Louise I. Lander, ’69  11/6/12

1970s
Michael F. Williams, ’70  11/13/12
Louis G. Ferrand, ’71  12/29/12
Richard B. Ginsberg, ’72  8/26/12
Thomas M. Malone, ’79  10/8/12

1980s
Darlene Sisneros, ’85  8/31/12
Cheryl Fackler Hug, ’87  2/17/13
Kevin M. McKenna, ’89  9/23/12

1990s
B. R. Hutcheson, ’98  1/6/12

2000s
Dan Goldman, ’02  2/5/13
The Headnotes, the Law School’s a cappella singing group, have been entertaining audiences since the late 1970s, including at the concert pictured above in the Reading Room during the 1989–1990 school year. Below, this year’s group serenades students and professors with Valograms, a Valentine’s Day-themed fundraiser. The repertoire featured the songs *Call Me Maybe*, *A Whole New World* from Disney’s *Aladdin*, and Hall & Oates’ *You Make My Dreams*, performed in classrooms, the Aikens Commons, and professors’ offices. Watch a video montage of this year’s performances at www.youtube.com/user/umichlaw.

For a future issue of the *Law Quadrangle*: Please send us a photo and caption information from your days as a law student—you and your roommates studying on the Quad, you and a favorite professor on Senior Day, or anything else you would like to share with fellow alumni. Send to LQNGeneral@umich.edu or to Editor, Law Quadrangle, 701 South State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-3091. We will return photographs that are mailed to us.