

UVA LAWYER

FALL 2025





From Dean Leslie Kendrick

I **OFTEN TELL** our students that a Virginia Law degree can take them anywhere. UVA Lawyer always bears out that truth, but this issue may take the prize.

In these pages, we share good news about young alumni clerking at the U.S. Supreme Court and at state and federal courts all over the country. We profile Masami Okino LL.M. '96, who serves as a justice on the Supreme Court of Japan. As you will see in this fall's photos and updates, our graduates include a state executive, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear '03, who spoke at graduation in May, and a Division I coach, Griff Aldrich '99, who joined the UVA men's basketball staff this spring. They serve in the federal government, like the U.S. attorneys and other recently appointed leaders featured on page 65, and in higher education, like the alumni working with UVA interim President Paul Mahoney, our former dean and long-time faculty member. They forge new frontiers in artificial intelligence, like the subjects of our cover story. Sometimes, they are even fintech lawyers by day and jazz singers by night.

Virginia Law graduates accomplish such great things because of their own talents and hard work, of course, and also because of the skills and relationships they cultivate here at the Law School. I am proud to share some of their stories, as well as some good news about the achievements of our students, faculty and staff. I hope to see many of you soon, whether here in Charlottesville or on the road, and to hear about all the places your Virginia Law degree has taken you.



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First-years
Nikd Dashtban,
Hamza Aziz, Sarah
Beddingfield, Daniel
Judd and Parker Gilley
of Section C take a
study break in Spies
Garden.

JULIA DAVIS

Quoted

“Without nationwide preliminary injunctions, there are just extra hurdles procedurally and the question is going to be, what is the rule going to be in the interim.”

—**PROFESSOR AMANDA FROST** on the U.S. Supreme Court limiting judges’ power to issue nationwide injunctions (Roll Call)



“In tax policy, I do believe that what gets measured, gets managed.”

—**PROFESSOR ANDREW HAYASHI**, speaking at a UVA Law School Foundation Board and Council lunch



“Obviously, some things aren’t insurable. But insurers aren’t going to stay away from selling insurance any more than people who make toothpaste are going to decline to sell toothpaste to people who want it.”

—**PROFESSOR KENNETH S. ABRAHAM** on insurance companies wading into coverage focused on artificial intelligence (Law360)



“The judge that people may have been shopping for before, or parties may have shopped for before, may not be the one that they want to be in front of.”

—**PROFESSOR PAYVAND AHDOUT**, on how limiting nationwide injunctions could affect “judge shopping” (Bloomberg Law)



“I think we’re going to see more courts saying [these companies] don’t get immunity: They’re creating the content, they’re profiting from it, it’s their chatbot that they supposedly did such a beautiful job creating.”

—**PROFESSOR DANIELLE K. CITRON**, on companies’ liability for chatbots such as X’s Grok (The Washington Post)



“This is another huge can of worms that the court has not fully grappled with.”

—**PROFESSOR ADITYA BAMZAI**, on the issue of what remedy Federal Reserve board governor Lisa Cook might obtain if she sued to be reinstated to her role (Executive Functions)



“It’s a pacifist church. And I think the thought back in the late ’50s, early ’60s, was that it was no place for a lawyer. But I wasn’t convinced of that, nor my family, so I went to law school.”

—**DONALD SHOWALTER '65**, the first Eastern Mennonite University graduate to earn a law degree, on his retirement (Daily News-Record)

“Whoever buys the yacht would be buying a lawsuit in a lot of ports.”

—**PROFESSOR PAUL B. STEPHAN '77**, on the U.S. government’s proposed sale of a seized Russian luxury yacht (The New York Times)



“He stood up for himself and for civil rights and told his story not only here but all around the commonwealth as a frequent speaker at churches, at the NAACP and in editorials in African American newspapers.”

—**PROFESSOR RISA GOLUBOFF**, discussing **GREGORY SWANSON '51** on the 75th anniversary of his enrollment as UVA and the Law School’s first Black student (Radio IQ)



“If what they were really trying to do was instill some understanding of the foundations of American law, it wouldn’t only be the Ten Commandments they were posting in the classroom. But there would be lots of other sources of American law that they would want to demonstrate as well.”

—**PROFESSOR MICAH SCHWARTZMAN '05**, on a Texas law requiring the Ten Commandments to be posted in public schools (Houston Chronicle)

“As millions of women navigate the physical and emotional transitions of menopause, a growing chorus of voices is calling for workplaces to catch up. For them, the message is clear: Menopause is not just a personal journey—it’s a workplace issue.”

—**PROFESSOR NAOMI CAHN** in an op-ed (Forbes)



“The Constitution’s [strong] executive is a reflection that weak executives weren’t working in the states. ... It was stronger still because they saw [George] Washington in the chair.”

—**PROFESSOR SAIKRISHNA PRAKASH**, talking about his forthcoming book, “The Presidential Pardon: The Short Clause with a Long, Troubled History” (Advisory Opinions)



Discovery

BACK TO **NO. 1**

THE LAW SCHOOL RECLAIMED its No. 1 spot in Best Quality of Life and continues to top the list for Best Professors and Best Classroom Experience in The Princeton Review's annual law school rankings, which were released July 23.

As reported in the 2025 rankings, the Law School is also No. 5 in Best Career Prospects, No. 6 in Best for Federal Clerkships and No. 7 in Toughest to Get Into.

UVA has ranked in the top 10 in these six categories for the past 12 years (the Best for Federal Clerkships ranking began in 2019). During the same period, the Law School has placed in the top five for Best Professors, Best Classroom Experience and Best Quality of Life.

The ranking names the top 10 law schools in 14 categories based on The Princeton Review's surveys of 19,600 students attending 168 law schools in the United States, and of administrators at the schools.

—Mike Fox

ACCOLADES

1 **KEVIN HOANG '25** graduated with the highest GPA in his class, winning the Traci Grieshaber Zeller '99 Memorial Award.

2 **MORGAN WOOD '28, ANNA FIGUEROA '28, NEIL NORONHA '28** and **KYLE TROTMAN '28** were named this year's Ritter Scholars.

3 **RANDY THOMAS '25** and **SAREEN ISHANYAN '25** received this year's Rosenbloom Award.

4 **ELI SINAI '26**, a U.S. Navy veteran, was named a 2025 Tillman Scholar.

5 **MATHÉO DANIEL RENÉ LE GOFF LL.M. '25, ROHIT RAGURAM '25** and **JENNIFER LITCHFIELD '25** were the top U.S. team and second-best new team at the Oxford International Intellectual Property Law Moot.

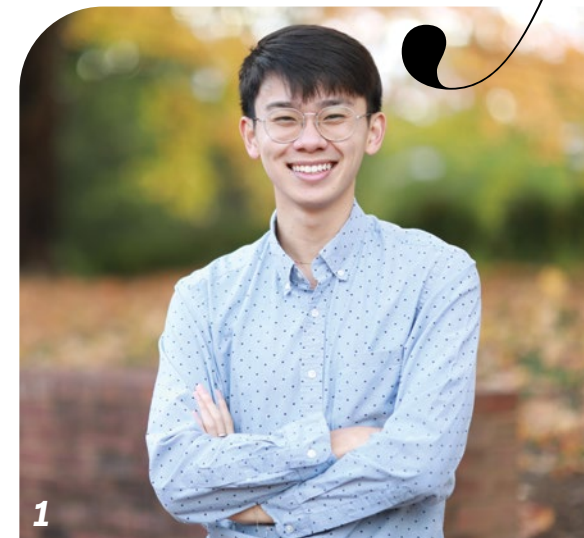
6 **KYLIE MIGNAT '25** earned an Equal Justice Works Fellowship and won the school's Pro Bono Award.

7 **BRIAN CURTIS '26** received the Jackson Walker LLP Award for the highest GPA after four semesters, and **BENNETT CROW '27** won the Carl M. Franklin Prize for the highest GPA after two semesters.

8 **CAROLYN FALLER '28** and **MICHAEL RATTNER '28** were named this year's recipients of the Virginia Public Service Scholarship.

9 **CAM MOODY '25** received the Clinical Legal Education Association's Outstanding Student Award.

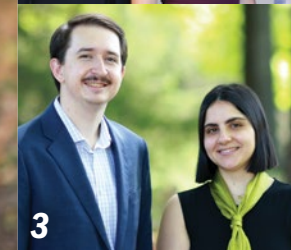
10 **ALFRICK ARUN '26** earned a Peggy Browning Fellowship to work at the Service Employees International Union in Washington, D.C.



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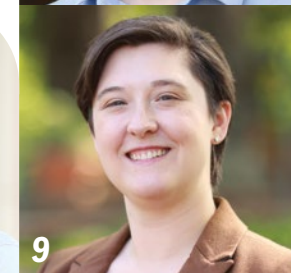
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JULIA DAVIS

LATEST ALUMNI TO CLERK AT SUPREME COURT

ELIZABETH FRITZ '22 AND JOSH HANLEY '21 are clerking at the U.S. Supreme Court during the 2025 term for Justices Amy Coney Barrett and Samuel Alito, respectively. **JULIA GRANT '23** will clerk for Justice Brett Kavanaugh during the 2026 term.

The Law School is No. 5 in placing clerks on the U.S. Supreme Court from the 2007 through 2025 terms.

Fritz previously clerked for Chief Judge Jeffrey Sutton of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and Judge Daniel Bress '05 of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She also worked as an associate at Sullivan & Cromwell.

"I was really lucky while I was at UVA because I had professors who took an interest in me, told me about clerking and inspired me to learn more," Fritz said. "They really helped put me on a path to this incredible opportunity of clerking at the Supreme Court."

In law school, Fritz was a Karsh-Dillard Scholar, inducted into the Order of the Coif, a recipient of the Carl M. Franklin Prize, a member of the Virginia Law Review and the Supreme Court Litigation Clinic, and a research assistant to Professor Saikrishna Prakash and former professor Kristen Eichensehr. She also completed an independent study with Professor Caleb E. Nelson, which produced her article "Reexamining Recall of Mandate: Limitations on the Inherent Power To Change Final Judgments," published in the *Journal of Appellate Practice & Process*.

Fritz also credits Professors John F. Duffy, Aditya Bamzai, Payvand Ahdout and John C. Harrison for contributing to her success.

She earned a bachelor's degree in international political economy from Georgetown University.

Hanley previously clerked for Judges Thomas M. Hardiman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and Amul R. Thapar of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. (Thapar is a Law School lecturer.) He most recently worked in

Washington, D.C., as a lawyer in the executive branch and as an associate at Williams & Connolly.

"So many of my mentors have talked about a Supreme Court clerkship as both an incredible opportunity to serve the country and as a special learning experience," Hanley said. "So I'm excited to tackle both aspects of the job."

In law school, Hanley, a recipient of the John D. "Jack" Cole III '63 Scholarship, was a William Minor Lile Moot Court competition semifinalist, vice president for professional development and founding chair of the reading group for the Federalist Society, and a participant in the Supreme Court Litigation Clinic.

He served as a research assistant to Professors A. E. Dick Howard '61, Douglas Laycock and Ann Woolhandler, and also credits Professor George Cohen, Nelson and Bamzai for their support during his time at UVA Law.

Hanley earned a bachelor's degree in history and political science from the University of Pittsburgh.

Grant, who interned at the court for a summer as an undergraduate, called the opportunity "a chapter I never thought I'd get to write."

"It honestly feels just extremely surreal that I'm going to be back in the same place," she said. "I always thought if I worked really hard, I might be in the pool of people who could get lucky enough for it to happen."

Grant previously clerked for Judge Trevor McFadden '06 of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and for Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III '72 of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Before her Supreme Court clerkship, she is working as a litigation associate at Clement & Murphy in Alexandria, Virginia.

Two other alumni will clerk with Grant at the Supreme Court during the 2026 term: Chris Baldacci '22 and Jack Tucker '22 will both work for Justice



Elizabeth Fritz '22



Julia Grant '23



Josh Hanley '21

Clarence Thomas.

In law school, Grant was an Order of the Coif inductee, winner of the Bracewell LLP Best Appellate Brief award, articles development editor of the *Virginia Law Review*, a participant in the Supreme Court Litigation Clinic, and a research assistant for Professor Rachel Bayefsky and Howard. Her note, "A Clash of Constitutional Covenants: Reconciling State Sovereign Immunity and Just Compensation," was published in the September 2023 issue of the *Virginia Law Review*.

She earned a bachelor's degree in public policy leadership and economics from the University of Mississippi.

—Mike Fox

UVA No. 4 in Federal Clerkships

SCORES OF ALUMNI are clerking across the country this term, and the Law School remains No. 4 in the percentage of graduates clerking at federal courts.

In the 2025 term, two alumni are clerking at the Supreme Court (see p. 8), 33 are clerking in federal appellate courts, 54 are clerking at U.S. District Courts and other federal courts, and 10 are clerking for state appellate courts and other local courts—for a total of 99 alumni clerks.

The Law School is No. 4 after Chicago, Yale and Stanford in the percentage of graduates from the classes of 2020–24 going directly to federal clerkships after

law school, according to American Bar Association data. At the U.S. Supreme Court, the Law School is No. 5 after Harvard, Yale, Stanford and Chicago in placing clerks from the 2007 through 2025 terms.

"Virginia graduates are able to pursue the careers of their choice at the highest levels," said Dean Leslie Kendrick '06, who clerked for U.S. Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III '72 on the Fourth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and Justice David Souter on the Supreme Court. "Clerkships are excellent opportunities that provide new lawyers with firsthand experience of our laws and courts in action."

A large portion of this term's clerks are members of the Class of 2025. Out of 307 J.D. graduates in the class, 41 are clerking

in the 2025 term, including 13 in federal appellate courts.

When clerkships for future terms are included, 58 members of the Class of 2025 have accepted a total of 73 clerkships. Thirty-two graduates have accepted clerkships for a later term, and 15 have already accepted a second clerkship for 2026, 2027 or 2028.

"Although the clerkship market has continued to shift, with judges placing an increasing value on experienced candidates, we have been very impressed with our students' and graduates' ability to adjust to these changes and continue to take advantage of incredible opportunities," said Ruth Payne '02, assistant dean for judicial clerkships.

—Mike Fox



Graduates in the Class of 2025 who are clerking gathered for a reception in April.

ALUMNI CLERKSHIPS, 2025 TERM

U.S. SUPREME COURT (2)

FEDERAL APPELLATE COURTS

1st Circuit
2nd Circuit (3)
3rd Circuit (3)
4th Circuit (3)
5th Circuit (5)
6th Circuit (4)
7th Circuit (2)
9th Circuit (6)
11th Circuit (2)
Federal Circuit (2)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces (2)

FEDERAL DISTRICT COURTS AND OTHER FEDERAL COURTS

Middle District of Alabama
Northern District of Alabama
District of Arizona
Southern District of California
D.C. Superior Court
District of Columbia (2)
District of Columbia Court of Appeals

District of Connecticut
District of Delaware (2)
Middle District of Florida (2)
Middle District of Georgia
Northern District of Georgia
Southern District of Indiana
Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky
District of Maryland (2)
Southern District of Mississippi (2)
District of Nebraska
District of New Jersey

District of New Mexico (3)
Eastern District of New York (4)
Northern District of New York (2)
Southern District of New York
Eastern District of North Carolina
Western District of Oklahoma
Eastern District of Pennsylvania (3)
District of South Carolina
Eastern District of Texas
Northern District of Texas

Western District of Texas
District of Vermont
Eastern District of Virginia (4)
Western District of Virginia (5)
U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nevada
U.S. Court of Federal Claims

STATE APPELLATE COURTS AND OTHER LOCAL COURTS

Alaska Superior Court
Nevada Supreme Court

Rhode Island Supreme Court
Snohomish County (Wash.) Superior Court
Supreme Court of Georgia
Supreme Court of Virginia (2)
Supreme Court of Maryland
Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts
Wisconsin Supreme Court



THE UNIVERSITY'S BOARD OF VISITORS NAMED UVA Law professor and former dean Paul G. Mahoney as interim president of the University of Virginia on Aug. 4, weeks after his law faculty colleague Jim Ryan '92 stepped down from the role.

"We are confident that Paul's long-standing connection to the University as a faculty member and dean of the Law School, as well as his extensive achievements as a lawyer, professor and public servant, make him the right leader to guide this institution as the search for a 10th UVA president gets underway," said BOV Rector Rachel Sheridan '98 (College '94).

Mahoney, a corporate law and finance expert who led the Law School from 2008 to 2016, has pledged to offer stable lead-

ership during a transition in the University's history.

A St. Louis native who left his blue-collar roots to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Yale Law School, Mahoney clerked for Judge Ralph K. Winter Jr. of the Second U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and Justice Thurgood Marshall of the U.S. Supreme Court after graduating. Following his clerkships, he served in private practice at Sullivan & Cromwell in New York City, helping structure financial transactions and advising a global roster of companies and financial institutions. Since joining the Law School faculty, he has honed his diplomatic skills working on legal reform projects in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Nepal.

Mahoney is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

From 2018 to 2022, he served on the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's Investor Advisory Committee. At the Law School, he is a David and Mary Harrison Distinguished Professor of Law. His wife, Julia Mahoney, is a professor at the Law School.

Why did you decide to take the interim president role?

UVA has been my academic home for 35 years. I feel a deep affection for the University and an obligation to do everything I can to help it succeed. As was the case when I became dean of the Law School, I have a sense that my skill set is a good match for the challenges the school faces at present.

I also want to carry forward the excellent work of my friend and colleague Jim Ryan, whom I've known since his days as a UVA law student during my early years as a professor.

SANJAY SUDHAK



▶ Paul Mahoney teaches at the Law School in the spring of 2025.

What do you hope to accomplish as interim president?

I have three primary goals. The first is to reestablish a sense of stability. We had a turbulent summer. However, the University's mission of teaching, research and patient care is unchanged. The second is to bring the Department of Justice investigations to a satisfactory conclusion, and we believe the agreement we reached in October will accomplish this objective while preserving our core values. The third is to lay the groundwork for longer-term projects so that the 10th president can hit the ground running. These include championing free inquiry and debate, controlling costs and participating in the 250th anniversary of American independence.

How has your experience as a dean, professor and lawyer informed your work as University interim president?

It was an obvious advantage to come in with a good understanding of the culture of this remarkable institution. President [Teresa] Sullivan, who was in office for most of my time as a dean, was good at communicating with the deans so that we understood the University's operations. That has been helpful to me so far. As a lawyer, I'm also well aware of how important it is to people to feel that they have been heard, even if they don't agree with a decision.

What joyful moments for UVA stand out as the school year has gotten underway?

Opening Convocation was a

joyous and optimistic event. Even though the weather forced us indoors, it was wonderful to see the enthusiasm of the first years and transfer students. We had a lively and fun reception with the Lawn and Range residents the evening before the September Board of Visitors meeting. I'm also a big sports fan, so the home football games have been great fun.

Has anything surprised you about the role of being interim president?

Even being a dean did not quite prepare me for the pace of this job. The president's portfolio spans a very wide range, which takes some getting used to. The fortunate part of it is that the University leadership and staff are incredibly good at their jobs, which means that I'm usually making decisions based on thoughtful and thorough advice and analysis.

How are you de-stressing during a demanding job?

Julia and I have managed two quick trips to Boston to see our new granddaughter, our first grandchild. Seeing her is such a joy that we come back feeling happy and energetic. We are also managing to hike and cook a bit.

What do you want UVA Law alumni to know most right now?

I am acutely aware of how much the University's alumni love it and will do everything in my power to maintain its special culture and history of success.

—Mary Wood

Law Colleagues Step Up for President

When Paul Mahoney took up the mantle of interim president, he brought a few Law School experts along to assist.

Jason Wu Trujillo '01, who is executive vice president and chief development officer at the Law School Foundation, is serving as temporary chief of staff for the President's Office. Before joining the Foundation, Trujillo gained experience in a variety of roles at the Law School from 2003-2011, including leading the Admissions and Financial Aid offices, serving as director of public service and judicial clerkships, and working in the Dean's Office. Prior to returning to the Law School, he served as a prosecutor in New Jersey.



Scott Ballenger '96 (College '93) was named secretary to the UVA Board of Visitors and special assistant to the UVA president. He remains an associate professor at the Law School, where he leads the Appellate Litigation Clinic (see p. 14). Prior to leading the clinic, Ballenger worked for two decades as an appellate litigator at Latham & Watkins in Washington, D.C., during which he argued three cases at the U.S. Supreme Court

and dozens more in appellate and trial courts across the country. Ballenger clerked for Judge J. Clifford Wallace of the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Recently at UVA, Ballenger served as a special adviser to the provost on free expression and inquiry.

"I am so grateful that Scott and Jason were willing to take their posts. Completely aside from the day-to-day performance of their formal duties, I rely constantly on them for advice and counsel," Mahoney said. "Jason and I worked together closely during my time as dean, so it's a wonderful, intuitive relationship. He need only raise an eyebrow for me to realize I might be getting out over my skis. And Scott's First Amendment expertise is invaluable in navigating the current landscape of higher education."

In becoming board secretary, Ballenger is following in the footsteps of another alum, **Susan Harris '87**. After 16 years in the post, Harris stepped down in August and is currently serving as an adviser to the president before her planned retirement in 2026.

"The most rewarding part of service as board secretary has been getting to know these remarkable individuals—board members, student representatives and faculty representatives—as well as working across the institution," Harris told UVA Today.



U.S. TAX JUDGE WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS

U.S. TAX JUDGE KASHI WAY '99

WELCOMED the Class of 2028 by telling students that the friendships and connections they make at UVA “are what it’s all about, both personally and professionally.”

Way, Dean Leslie Kendrick '06 and admissions chief Natalie Blazer '08 addressed new students on Aug. 15 during orientation. Last year, Way was sworn in for a 15-year term as a judge on the U.S. Tax Court, a forum for taxpayers to challenge IRS determinations of federal income and employment tax liabilities, certain IRS tax collection actions and other federal tax-related issues. He formerly served as legislation counsel and then senior legislation counsel for Congress’ Joint Committee on Taxation.

Way told students not to get discouraged

when facing challenges, to find a home with a niche that interests them and to take full advantage of the opportunities the Law School has to offer.

“Everyone is graded individually, but it’s good to think of law school as a team sport,” he said. “And unless you end up being a sole practitioner, you will find this is true professionally as well. Help your classmates, and let them help you. They will be your companions in law school adventures, your future colleagues and clients, and your friends.”

The law has been called prose and not poetry, and engineering and not art, Way

said, but the law is also the grease that spins the wheels of commerce and the glue that holds families and communities together.

“Just as architecture appears at the intersection between engineering and art, you will find opportunities for elegance in the law,” he said. “Everyone’s path is different. And there is space for creativity.”

The 309 members of the Class of 2028, who began classes at the Law School on Aug. 20, come from 131 undergraduate institutions and were selected from a pool of 6,743 applicants.

—Mike Fox



JESUS PINO



SARIN SUDHAK

ANNUAL GIVING RAISES \$23.5M

THE LAW SCHOOL FOUNDATION RECEIVED \$23.5 MILLION in gifts for the year that ended June 30, growing an endowment that supports scholarships, loan forgiveness, faculty and more.

This year’s annual giving total, the highest since 2019, came from 7,975 alumni donors, or 43.5% of Law School graduates, and 9,315 donors overall, according to the foundation, which runs fundraising efforts. More than three-quarters of the total was contributed to endowed funds. The 2024-25 fundraising effort marked the foundation’s 60th annual giving campaign.

Dean Leslie Kendrick '06 said alumni support for the endowment means the UVA Law community will continue to thrive.

“This is a special place, and our alumni are ensuring that it remains so,” she said. “Their support is incredibly heartfelt, and I am always moved by the joyful memories and continued connection our graduates share with me when I meet them on the road.”

Annual giving and endowed funds are major sources of revenue for scholarships, faculty support, public service loan forgiveness, clinical courses, research initiatives and numerous other programs.

Through a financial self-sufficiency agreement with UVA, the Law School does not receive state funding, but instead relies on alumni support and tuition.

The end of the annual giving year also marked the conclusion of the Honor the Future capital campaign, which raised \$482 million in gifts and pledges and over \$26 million in UVA matching funds, for a total of \$508 million. The school’s campaign, which launched in 2019, exceeded its \$400 million goal in February 2024. It was the second-largest total in the history of any law school campaign, with 73% of alumni participating.

—Mike Fox

New students attend orientation activities on Aug. 15.



JULIA DAVIS





GOV. BESHEAR '03 CHALLENGES GRADUATES TO FIND THEIR 'WHY'

KENTUCKY GOV. ANDY BESHEAR '03 asked the graduating Class of 2025 to answer one simple yet fundamental question as they prepared to begin the next chapter of their lives.

“However you pursue your life’s work, regardless of the specific field that you find yourself in, your ability to succeed and have an impact on the world is directly related not to the ‘what’ but in finding your ‘why,’” Beshear said in his commencement address May 18.

Reflecting on his own sense of purpose, Beshear, a father of two, said his faith and family were what drove him. He recalled the moment his son, Will, was born and the transformative effect it had on his outlook.

“Literally everything about my life changed in the first moments of his life. With a rare kind of certainty, I knew I needed to change what I was doing. I looked at that child that I was going to be responsible for, and my question was, am I doing everything in my power to create a better world for him?” he said.

Beshear was elected Kentucky’s governor in 2019, following a term as the state’s attorney general, and was re-elected in 2023. In recent years he has attracted political attention beyond Kentucky and has been

mentioned as a potential candidate for national office.

He told graduates that his decision to attend law school was motivated by a passion for the American constitutional system.

“The rule of law and our nation as a whole—they aren’t abstract concepts, and they’re not guaranteed,” Beshear said. “Instead, they are a calling. America and the rule of law are alive with each generation, and each generation has a duty to answer that call and preserve them.”

In encouraging graduates to find their “why,” he also stressed the importance of sharing what inspires them with others.

“Talking about what motivates you gives the grace and the space for somebody to think a little different, to maybe even disagree with you on the most political of topics, but still support you in what you’re doing,” he said.

Beshear added, though, that sharing your “why” with others was a two-way street.

“When someone tells you about their ‘why,’ you have to listen and not judge and try to understand. Because it makes a world of difference when you show people that you genuinely care about them, when you talk to them and not at them,” he said.

—Cooper Allen



CLASS OF 2025 GRADUATION AWARDS

MARGARET G. HYDE AWARD

To the graduate whose scholarship, character, personality, activities in the affairs of the school, and promise of efficiency have warranted special recognition.

Courtney C. Douglas

JAMES C. SLAUGHTER HONOR AWARD

To an outstanding member of the graduating class.

Nathaniel J. Glass

THOMAS MARSHALL MILLER PRIZE

To an outstanding and deserving member or members of the graduating class.

Bryce Maguire Campanelli

TRACI GRIESHABER ZELLER '99 MEMORIAL AWARD

To the graduate with the highest academic record after five semesters.

Kevin Hoang

Z SOCIETY SHANNON AWARD

To the graduate with the highest academic record after five semesters.

Kevin Hoang

ROBERT E. GOLDSTEN AWARD FOR DISTINCTION IN THE CLASSROOM

To the graduate who has contributed the most to classroom education by his or her outstanding recitation and discussion.

Maya E. McCollum

LL.M. GRADUATION AWARD

To an outstanding member or members of the graduating LL.M. class.

**Vitor Guilherme da Silva
Barbosa**

ROGER AND MADELEINE TRAYNOR PRIZE

To the graduate or graduates who have produced outstanding written work.

**Cameron Beach
Mitchell Anthony Del Bianco**

HERBERT KRAMER/ HERBERT BANGEL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

To the graduate who has contributed the most to the community.

Delaney E. Tubbs

PRO BONO AWARD

To the graduate who contributed the most to the Law School’s Pro Bono Program.

Kylie Frances Mignat

MORTIMER CAPLIN PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

To a graduate entering a career in the public service sector who demonstrates the qualities of leadership, integrity and service to others.

Matthew Burch Steelberg

EDWIN S. COHEN TAX PRIZE

To a graduate who has demonstrated superior scholarship in the tax area.

Jacob Walter Cohen

EARLE K. SHAWE LABOR RELATIONS AWARD

To the graduate who shows the greatest promise in the field of labor relations.

John Henry Vansant

JOHN M. OLIN PRIZE IN LAW AND ECONOMICS

To a graduate or graduates who have produced outstanding written work in the field of law and economics.

Jacob Walter Cohen

EPPA HUNTON IV MEMORIAL BOOK AWARD

To a graduate who demonstrates unusual aptitude in courses in the field of litigation, and who shows a keen awareness and understanding of the lawyer’s ethical and professional responsibility.

Jared Zurong Tay

VIRGINIA TRIAL LAWYERS TRIAL ADVOCACY AWARD

To a graduate who shows particular promise in the field of trial advocacy.

Brianna Walinczak

VIRGINIA STATE BAR FAMILY LAW BOOK AWARD

To the graduate who has demonstrated the most promise and potential for the practice of family law.

Kylie Frances Mignat



JUSTICE JACKSON VISITS UVA

KETANJI BROWN JACKSON VIVIDLY recalls the moment before she made history as the first Black woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

“My heart was hammering so loudly that I wondered if the two black-robed men standing on either side of me, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and retiring Associate Justice Stephen G. Breyer, could hear it too,” Jackson said, reading from the preface of her book, “Lovely One: A Memoir,” at a Sept. 18 event at the Law School.

Her elevation to the nation’s highest court was the culmination of an improbable journey, which Jackson recounted to UVA Law students, faculty and staff during a wide-ranging conversation in Caplin Auditorium with Professor Kimberly Jenkins Robinson, Jackson’s friend and roommate while the two attended Harvard Law School.

Robinson is the founding director of the Education Rights Institute, which sponsored the event. The institute advances equal educational opportunity by engaging policymakers, K-12 educators and families to support delivery of a high-quality public education in the United States.

Jackson shared how her parents, who had lived through the civil rights era, helped set her on her historic path.

“They spent a lot of time, very early on, training me to be anything I wanted to be,” she said. “They were very focused on giving me the opportunities that they had been denied. And it changed my entire trajectory, in terms of not only just my abilities, my self-confidence, but also my belief in our system and public service and education.”

Jackson’s father later decided to pursue

a law degree, relocating his family to Miami.

“My earliest memories are of being on the campus of the University of Miami Law School. My dad is at the kitchen table, and he has his law books, and I have my coloring books, and we’re working together. So I always thought I was going to be a lawyer,” she said.

Another early inspiration was Constance Baker Motley, a federal judge who was the first Black woman to argue before the Supreme Court. Jackson described her as “a North Star for me in my career.”

“She was a genius, but she didn’t have the opportunity to serve on the Supreme Court because of the times in which she lived. I learned about her when I was 11 and was very focused on her because we share a birthday—we were born 49 years to the day apart,” Jackson said.

Jackson attended Harvard as an undergraduate after traveling there multiple times for debate tournaments while in

high school. After a year working at Time magazine, she enrolled in Harvard Law School, an experience that she described as more rigid and formal than her college years there, particularly in that era.

“I loved college in every respect. I think law school—you’re now on a professional track. You are preparing yourself for your career. So it’s a more serious endeavor to begin with,” Jackson said.

Jackson clerked at each level of the federal judiciary after law school, including with Breyer. These experiences, Jackson said, were critical to her growth as a litigator and later as a judge.

“When you have the chance to work with judges, to be inside of chambers, to read arguments, to understand how a judge thinks, it is enormously helpful for the eventual task of being the one to persuade a judge,” she said.

Before becoming a federal judge in 2013, Jackson worked in a variety of legal roles, ranging from Big Law attorney to federal



Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson spoke with her law school roommate, Professor Kimberly Jenkins Robinson, on the morning of Sept. 18, then held another conversation on Main Grounds (inset) in Old Cabell Hall later in the day.

public defender. She was also a lawyer with the U.S. Sentencing Commission and would later serve as the commission’s vice chair prior to her nomination to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

She discussed how she and her husband, Patrick Jackson, a surgeon, balanced their demanding jobs with family life, including raising two daughters.

“The way we made it work really was taking turns in the early part of our career,” she said. Jackson explained how each of them made sacrifices during particularly critical moments of the other’s professional trajectory, such as his surgical residency and her clerkship with Breyer.

“It wasn’t easy. I mean, it absolutely is never easy to combine your lives and your careers, but if you’re committed to it, you can absolutely do it.”

After eight years on the D.C. District Court and less than a year with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, she was nominated by President Joe Biden in 2022 to fill Breyer’s seat. First, though, she had to make it through the Senate.

She recalled the one-on-one meetings

with senators as “lovely, all of them.”

Those encounters, she said, helped her handle the sharper questioning she faced during her confirmation hearing.

“You are talking to your constituents,” she said, describing how she perceived some senators. “And that made me calm.”

Jackson was confirmed by the Senate on a 53-47 vote and was sworn in on June 30, 2022.

She said that one of the biggest challenges she’s faced so far is establishing consensus.

“When you’re writing a majority opinion, collective decision-making is much harder than I thought,” she said.

The biggest reward, she added, was the significant platform she has to meet and connect with people.

“I try to inspire them to think about the law and invest in our government and in our country,” Jackson said, calling those moments “the best, the absolute best.”

She also explained how being the court’s newest member comes with certain responsibilities. In addition to being tasked with opening the door during the justices’ private conferences, Jackson



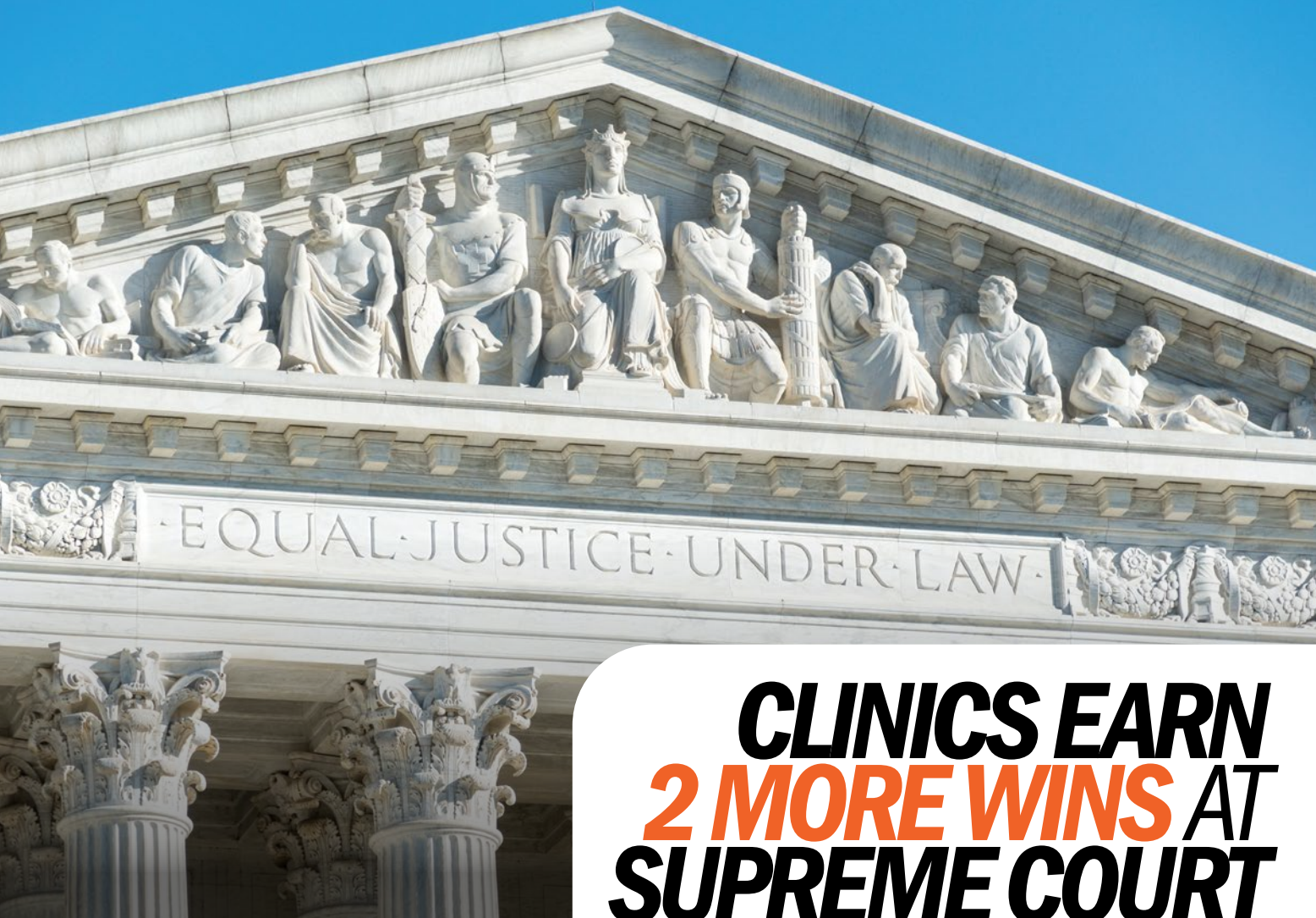
said she also runs the cafeteria committee.

“We made some great strides,” she joked of her contributions to the committee. “We have electronic ordering, which they did not have before.”

When asked how she processes the weight of being a trailblazing figure, Jackson said that “you certainly can’t do the job, day to day, focused on that.”

“What comes with a historic appointment is the knowledge that people are watching, that people want to know whether I can do this job, what I’m doing, how’s it going. And for me at least, for now, I feel like it’s gone pretty well,” Jackson said.

—Cooper Allen



CLINICS EARN 2 MORE WINS AT SUPREME COURT



► Brandon Mansour, son of Marlean Ames; clinic director Xiao Wang; Ames; co-counsel Edward Gilbert; his son Hayden Gilbert; and clinic instructor Bob Long stand at the U.S. Supreme Court on Feb. 26.

JUSTICES RESOLVED A SPLIT in how courts handle employment discrimination claims June 5 in the Supreme Court Litigation Clinic's second unanimous decision during the 2024 term.

In *Ames v. Ohio Department of Youth Services*, the appellant, Marlean Ames, alleged that the Ohio Department of Youth Services discriminated against her on the basis of sexual orientation and sex under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Ames, a heterosexual woman who was supervised by a gay woman, was denied a promotion and later demoted from her position. The promotion was filled by a gay woman, and a gay man replaced Ames in Ames' former role. Both the District Court and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit dismissed her claim before trial.

Professor Xiao Wang, the clinic's director, presented oral argument on Feb. 26.

The ruling ends differing practices in different circuits of federal appeals courts, some of which had required more evidence to prove discrimination when the plaintiff is not a member of a minority group.

In an opinion written by Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, the court reversed the Sixth Circuit and held that the circuit court's "background circumstances" rule—which requires members of a majority group to satisfy a heightened evidentiary standard to prevail on a Title VII claim—"cannot be squared with the text of Title VII or the Court's precedents."

"By establishing the same protections for every 'individual'—without regard to that individual's membership in a minority or majority group—Congress left no room for courts to impose special requirements on majority-group plaintiffs alone," the justice wrote.

Wang said Ames' case will return to the Sixth Circuit, where the suit could proceed to trial, face different hurdles or simply be settled. He said he doesn't think the ruling will open the floodgates to more litigation, based on the experiences of different circuits already using this standard.

"Most of the country uses the standard we asked the court to adopt, and they've

shown that it's workable, sensible and consistent with the aims of Title VII," he said.

The clinic also earned a 9-0 victory in *Cunningham v. Cornell University*, a case involving the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, which was announced in April.

APPELLATE CLINIC WINS DEBUT

The Appellate Litigation Clinic won its first case heard at the U.S. Supreme Court, in a ruling giving prisoners a stronger path to a jury trial for civil rights claims.

Clinic lecturer Lori Alvino McGill made her oral argument debut in *Perttu v. Richards* on Feb. 25. The clinic's faculty have presented many cases at the Supreme Court in private practice, but this was the first

The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals asked the clinic to represent Richards, and the case was argued by Sean Gray '24 and Lauren McNerney '24 in 2023. The Sixth Circuit ultimately broke with prior decisions of the Seventh and Ninth Circuits in siding with Richards, holding that the Seventh Amendment requires a jury trial when disputed facts relevant to the exhaustion of prison remedies under the PLRA overlap with the merits of the plaintiff's substantive case. Following that decision, the Michigan Solicitor General's Office asked the Supreme Court to take the case to resolve the circuit split.

In an opinion announced June 18, the court affirmed the Sixth Circuit ruling 5-4, with Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the majority, noting, "The Court has held



► Professors Scott Ballenger '96 and Cate Stetson '94 teach the Appellate Litigation Clinic.

time the clinic itself had a case at the court.

The Appellate Litigation Clinic allows students to engage in the hands-on practice of appellate litigation through actual cases before various federal circuit courts of appeals. For *Perttu*, students helped research and draft briefs for the case and assisted with a moot practice session with McGill.

The case first came to the clinic when inmate Kyle Brandon Richards appealed a U.S. District Court's decision to dismiss his civil rights suit for supposedly failing to exhaust his administrative remedies as required by the Prison Litigation Reform Act, or PLRA. Richards maintained that because of his claims of abuse, prison staff retaliated against him by tearing up his prison grievance forms. But the District Court held a hearing—without a jury—and found the officers more credible.

in various contexts that, in cases of intertwinement, district courts should structure their order of operations to preserve the jury trial right."

Professor Scott Ballenger '96, the clinic's director, said the court ultimately ruled that the PLRA itself required a jury in this case, whether or not the Seventh Amendment would require that result.

"The practical result, over time, could be an expansion of jury trial rights as courts shift from asking whether the common law of 1791 would have required a jury to whether there is any reason to expect that Congress would not have wanted to provide one," Ballenger said.

Both clinics and the professors involved are part of the Law School's Supreme Court and Appellate Litigation Program.

—Mike Fox



● Roadmap Scholars Morgan Gaspar '28 and Sarah Beddingfield '28 stand in Spies Garden on Aug. 15.

FIRST ROADMAP SCHOLARS MATRICULATE AT UVA LAW

THE INITIAL WEEKS OF ANYONE'S LAW SCHOOL CAREER can be dizzying and disorienting. But for first-year students Sarah Beddingfield and Morgan Gaspar, the transition to life at the Law School didn't require a map.

As alumni of UVA Law's Roadmap Scholars Initiative, Beddingfield and Gaspar have already spent parts of the past two years in Charlottesville exploring the challenges and opportunities that law schools and legal careers offer.

The Law School first launched the initiative—designed to help first-generation college students and those with limited financial resources learn about law school

and the legal profession, and to become competitive law school applicants—in the summer of 2022. A group of 12 college sophomores, known as Roadmap Scholars, from across the United States were chosen to come to North Grounds for two consecutive summers. In the process, they learned about law school admissions and classes, and had access to mentors and meaningful paid internship opportunities. Beddingfield and Gaspar, the first two Roadmap alumni to matriculate at UVA Law, were part of the program's second cohort of scholars.

"I knew what I wanted to do, but I didn't necessarily have somebody showing me how to do it—I had a very supportive family, but it was on me to figure it out and make

it happen," said Beddingfield of her experience growing up as one of eight children of a Midwestern minister and a mom who is a full-time caregiver to a disabled sibling.

By the time Beddingfield saw the Roadmap Scholars Initiative in her Instagram feed, she was a sophomore studying national security at Liberty University. But she had already set her sights on a career in juvenile justice while in high school when a prosecutor she met encouraged her to think about following in her footsteps.

For Gaspar, who emancipated from her family and began supporting herself financially as a high school senior in South Dakota, top-tier law schools felt far removed from the trajectory she was on. She was

juggling multiple jobs while maintaining a near-perfect GPA as a political science and economics double-major at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"Even though I had the grades to go to a law school like UVA, I just never would have considered myself a candidate for a place like this had I not heard about the program," Gaspar said. "I'd always known I wanted to go to law school, but I really didn't have a clear vision or goal of where I could end up until Roadmap. I knew I needed to keep my grades up, but that's about all I knew."

While the Roadmap program was designed with this sort of student in mind, it was not intended to funnel them—nor does it automatically admit them—to UVA Law, according to Professor Risa Goluboff, who led the creation of the initiative when she was dean of the Law School.

"These are amazing students who we want to invest in, both for our own law school and for the legal profession as a whole," Goluboff said in an interview at the end of the program's first summer. "We think our community and the law itself is enhanced when people with very different kinds of personal experiences and backgrounds become lawyers."

Roadmap alumni have enrolled in law school at Stanford, Washington and Lee, Tulane and Texas Southern universities. Others are further exploring the industry by working as paralegals or in law-adjacent jobs.

"I could not be prouder of being a part of Risa's transformative vision for this trailblazing initiative," said Assistant Dean for Community Engagement Mark C. Jefferson, who directs the program. "And watching Sarah and Morgan map their way through our program all the way to the Law School is one of the highlights of my professional career."

One stop on the Roadmap Scholars' journey includes paid legal internships during the summer between their junior and senior years of college. Gaspar interned at the Albemarle County Attorney's Office, learning about criminal justice and the prosecutorial process, including reviewing law enforcement documents and footage, conducting legal research and writing memos, and attending daily court proceedings. While law students will often accept similar internships on an unpaid basis, the Law School ensured that the scholars were paid for all of their time in the program and in their internships.

"Being paid for our time gave me an opportunity I wouldn't have otherwise

been able to afford to do," Gaspar said. "That was something I thought was really special about the program, in addition to being able to take classes with real professors and getting an idea of what the legal profession is really like."

Outside of Gaspar's college classes, she was usually working as an early childhood educator, followed by shifts at Starbucks and doing paid research work at her college's public policy center. But, she said, being able to manage multiple workloads gave her confidence in her ability to handle law school and a legal career more broadly.

Though Gaspar had law school dreams early in life, she became "increasingly motivated" as she saw how lawyers could positively affect the issues she cares about.

"My desire to join the legal profession grew in tandem with my understanding of today's civil rights and social issues, such as those I encountered working as

tured directly to her firm job with little knowledge of what to expect, having skipped the visit to UVA.

"I'm like, 'Vault rankings? What's Vault?'" Beddingfield said, referring to a national ranking of law firms based on lawyers' assessments.

In such an unfamiliar environment, she was nervous to accept a lunch invitation from a partner who graduated from Harvard Law School. Beddingfield emailed William Nichols, the assistant director for the Roadmap Scholars Initiative.

Nichols' response gave her the confidence she needed. "He said something like, 'Sarah, you belong there. The people around you have different experiences than you, but that does not make them better people, it does not make them better qualified and it does not make them any smarter. You belong in that space.'"



● The 2022 and 2023 classes of Roadmap Scholars gather at the Law School entrance in June 2023.

an early childhood educator," she said.

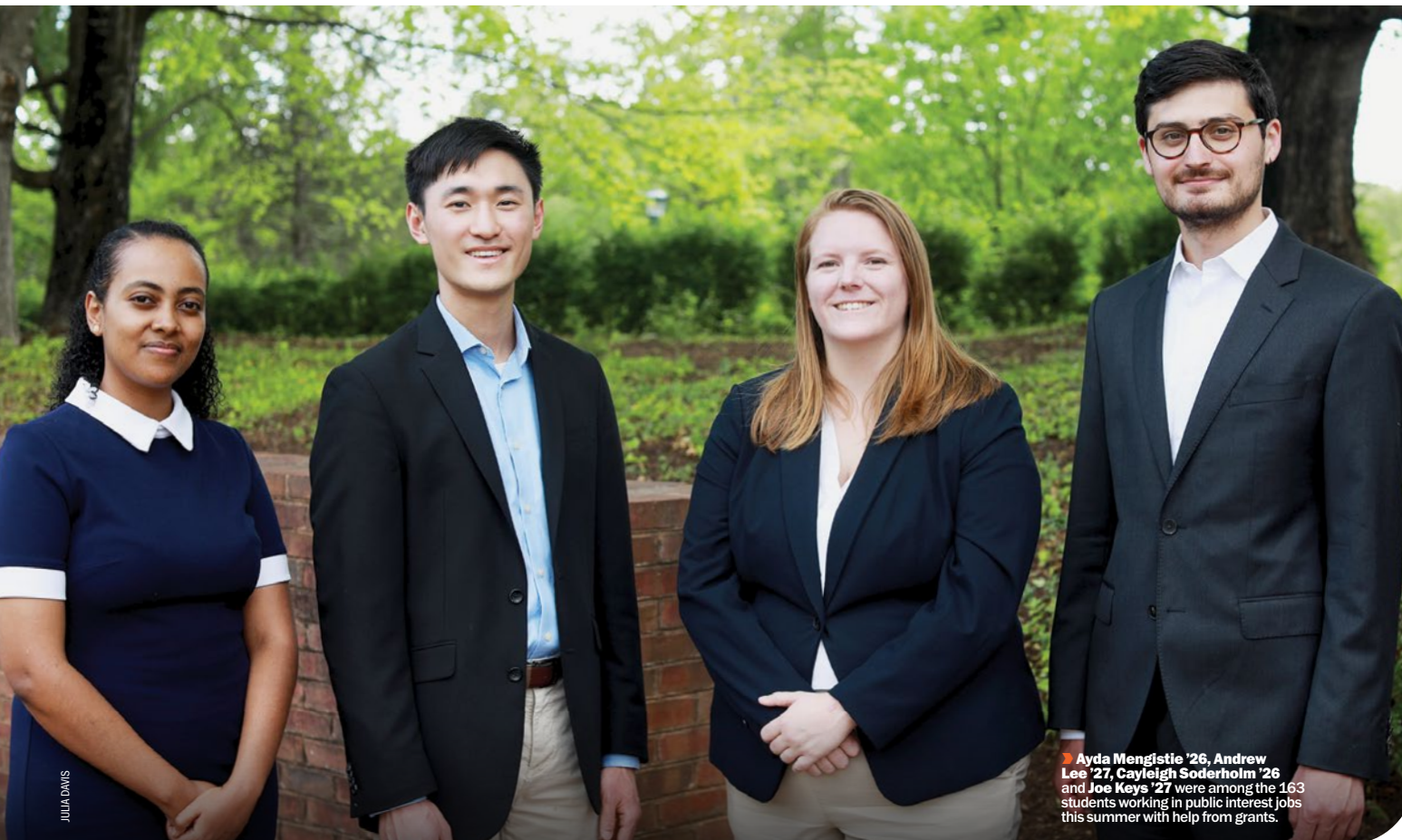
Gaspar plans to focus on protecting and expanding reproductive rights, perhaps defending women or physicians charged with violating state anti-abortion laws.

For her summer legal internship, Beddingfield flew straight from her last final exam in Lynchburg to New York City for a monthlong stint at Sullivan & Cromwell. Typically, the second-summer Roadmap Scholars come to Charlottesville for two weeks before their internships, in part to receive training and mentorship on professionalism and law office culture. Because Beddingfield had also lined up a competitive federal internship, she ven-

Beddingfield grew to enjoy the firm, the work and her colleagues. But the former vice president of Liberty's marching band continued marching to her own beat. When her co-workers were discussing their high-end designer clothes, she gamely offered up the provenance of hers: Old Navy and a Lynchburg thrift store.

"Through Roadmap, I learned a lot about not just the practice of law, but about myself and what it looks like to show up authentically, even in spaces that feel very new, spaces where it might not feel like you belong," Beddingfield said.

—Melissa Castro Wyatt



► Ayda Mengistie '26, Andrew Lee '27, Cayleigh Soderholm '26 and Joe Keys '27 were among the 163 students working in public interest jobs this summer with help from grants.

Nearly \$1M Awarded for Summer Public Service

WITH HELP FROM A RECORD \$989,000 in grants, 163 UVA Law students worked in public service roles this summer.

The Law School's Mortimer Caplin Public Service Center awarded \$944,000 in UVA Law Public Service Summer Grants to 120 first-year and 43 second-year students—a \$32,000 increase from last year. First-year students receive \$5,000 and second-year students receive \$8,000. The public service grants are funded by gifts to the Law School Foundation from alumni and other donors, including flagship endowments named for Linda Fairstein '72, David Baldacci '86 and Mortimer Caplin '40.

The student-run Public Interest Law Association's PILA+ program offers additional money to grant recipients who

receive little financial assistance other than the UVA Law grant. PILA raised \$45,000 for the PILA+ program this past year, which went to 38 students who received \$1,200 each.

"These summer positions are tremendous opportunities for our students to get hands-on experience and set themselves up for future success," said Ryan Faulconer '08, assistant dean for public service and director of the Mortimer Caplin Public Service Center. "The commitment of our alumni to funding these grants allowed our students to respond quickly and resourcefully to an increasingly volatile public service job market this year, and the variety of jobs shows just how many ways lawyers can make a positive difference in people's lives."

Grant recipients are required to apply and qualify for the funding by volunteer-

ing for pro bono work (40 hours for the first grant and an additional 20 hours for a grant in a subsequent year). This year, students volunteered over 8,990 hours, an average of 55 per grantee.

Morgan Wood '26, PILA's former grant director, said many summer positions at public defender, legal aid, nonprofit and prosecutor offices are unpaid, and students who dream of working in the public interest face hard decisions about how to support themselves if they take these positions.

"The PILA+ grant makes it that much easier for students to do this work," she added, "and having an extra set of hands over the summer makes a real difference to folks living in underserved communities where these positions are located."

—Mike Fox



STAR
WITNESS



"BEFORE LAW SCHOOL,

I had spent the first 19 years of my life in South Florida with my parents and brothers. Growing up, my parents did everything to make sure that we had more opportunities than they had in Haiti, especially when it came to education. I owe much of my success to the hard work and perseverance of my parents. My parents came here separately in the '90s and are my biggest inspirations. My mom is a registered nurse, and my dad used to be a chef and landlord but recently went back to school for nursing. In high school, my mom encouraged me to take additional courses at Florida Atlantic University, which sparked my interest in law and criminology, and helped me earn my degree in two years once I reached college."

—KASEY MICHAUD '26

LAW.VIRGINIA.EDU/STARWITNESS



JON REAUSE

The Lawyers Breathing Life Into AI

By Melissa Castro Wyatt

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE HAS ENTERED THE LEGAL WORLD with the confidence befitting a first-year associate eager to make a mark.

AI's believers envision leaner firms, shorter hours and lower costs. Critics see risk in letting a probabilistic machine do work that decides fates and fortunes.

The change feels seismic. Law, after all, is a discipline of precedent and precision, but it's also tempered by creative reasoning and human judgment. Now the field is being reshaped by tools built on prediction and approximation and—for many of us—shrouded in mystery. Tools that don't reason so much as generate plausible answers at warp speed.

What happens when the most tradition-bound profession intersects with a field that thrives on disruption? Across the legal ecosystem, UVA lawyers are living out that experiment. Some are building the tools themselves, training AI models to think and write like seasoned associates. Others are introducing or testing those tools inside law firm offices, exploring how they can streamline discovery, research and drafting.

Across generations of UVA lawyers, you can find curiosity and fear, skepticism and awe.

And for a handful of recent UVA Law grads, the revolution isn't theoretical. They're inside the black box, building and training the machines that may soon practice law among the living.

HARVEY SPECTER 2.0

When Laura Toulme '20 was elected editor-in-chief of the Virginia Law Review, Amanda Tsatsis '18 was already forging her career in the fires of Big Law litigation, Jeremy Pushkin '19 was bound for Hogan Lovells' mergers and acquisitions practice, and Toulme's classmates and future colleagues Ami Egerstrom '20, Trevor Quick '20 and Jake Weiner '20 were just a few months away from their summer associate gigs at the world's highest-grossing law firms.

None of them knew their future employer, Harvey, was even on the horizon. ChatGPT—the “foundational” large language model Harvey would later build on—didn't yet exist.

“In AI time, that was an eternity ago,” Toulme said. “I saw my future self as a traditional litigator—AI was certainly a big shift that I didn't anticipate in law school. Even when I was clerking, I don't think I knew AI existed.”

Like her Harvey colleagues, Toulme could have landed nearly any legal job she wanted with the credentials and skills she piled up in law school and through federal clerkships. In-

stead, she and Pushkin stepped into the role of “applied legal researchers” at Harvey, which was then a two-year-old legal AI startup with seed funding from OpenAI's venture capital fund. (OpenAI is the company behind ChatGPT.)

Working directly with engineers, Toulme and Pushkin explain what a lawyer's workflow looks like and what the rules of professional conduct require, and they help train the AI model to handle it all. When Harvey's output is off the mark, they fine-tune it and figure out which prompts will make it sound a little more like the smooth-talking “Harvey Specter,” the TV character deal lawyer the company borrows its name from. (On the show “Suits,” Specter is known as “the best closer in the city.”)

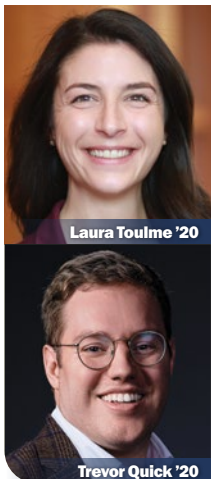
Toulme, Pushkin and the other legal experts “think about what the gold standard would be” for an AI legal assistant, Toulme said. “Being able to pass the bar exam would be the bare minimum. But what else would be helpful in your legal practice? And how can we measure how accurately it's doing those things?”

To tackle this problem, Harvey's legal researchers and engineers created a benchmarking system called “BigLaw Bench.” When first launched in August 2024, the benchmark measured Harvey as capable of completing litigation-related tasks to Big Law standards 69% of the time, compared to 57% for ChatGPT 4.0. For transactional law tasks, like drafting board resolutions, “the best closer in the city” succeeded 76% of the time, while ChatGPT scored 64%.

The models have improved dramatically since then. Harvey's system—which now uses multiple AI models—currently scores around 90% on the benchmark, a performance level that has led the team to begin refreshing the evaluation with more challenging tasks.

Another stand-out feature that distinguishes Harvey from the basic AI models is its ability to pinpoint the sources it used to arrive at its answers. According to the 2024 BigLaw Bench scores, Harvey successfully identifies its sources 68% of the time compared to just 8% for Anthropic's Claude 3.5 and 24% for ChatGPT 4.0.

“Because of our partnership with Lexis, Harvey will take you directly to the case or statute in Lexis and show you its Shepardizing note,” said Quick, who left Skadden Arps in January 2024 to join Harvey's business development team at the behest of his classmate Weiner. (Weiner, Harvey's head of business development, had attended Kenyon College with



Laura Toulme '20

Trevor Quick '20

Harvey co-founder and CEO Winston Weinberg. Weiner also recruited Egerstrom and Tsatsis into business development, or “go to market,” roles.)

Quick doesn’t believe Harvey or AI will replace lawyers, but he does believe the technology will improve their quality of life because of its ability to knock out the rote tasks that can consume much of a lawyer’s day.

“Any attorney who is not using generative AI in their day-to-day is inviting themselves to be outworked and outperformed by someone who is,” Quick argued. “I was willing to leave Skadden for a startup because when Jake showed me the Harvey demo, I knew it was going to impact how every lawyer practices. I don’t know when that switch is going to flip, but I’d like to be a part of it.”

Perhaps that’s why Harvey, based in New York, was named one of the 100 most influential AI companies by Time magazine earlier this year. With more than 300 law-firm clients across 53 countries (including seven of the 10 highest-grossing U.S. firms), the company is already valued at \$5 billion.

SCALING STARTUPS

Luke Versweyveld ’22 has always been on a fast track to the future. He grew up in rural Wisconsin, taking long runs along the miles of dirt roads surrounding his family’s farm. That dedication and focus earned him a track and field and cross-country scholarship to Bradley University in Illinois.

By the time he arrived at UVA Law, he already knew he wanted to work in the startup space, preferably as a founder. He took courses in securities regulation, venture capital and entrepreneurial law, and ended up co-founding a biotech startup while still in law school, taking over as general counsel immediately after graduation. He later started his own solo practice, representing clients through incorporation, fund-raising and everything in between. Through that work, he met Eric Ries (co-founder of Answer.ai and author of “The Lean Startup”) and Jeremy Howard (CEO and co-founder of Answer.ai) and had a new idea.

“We started to put together the bones of Virgil, a one-stop shop to handle all administrative functions for startups,” Versweyveld said. “We are a tech- and AI-enabled law and professional services firm, and we’re building our own proprietary technology to provide the services.”

Virgil, based in Chicago, was named after Dante’s guide through hell and purgatory on his way to paradise in the Divine Comedy. The firm says it helps clients “through the most hellacious parts of scaling” a startup.

By building their tools on top of the foundational large language models—those built by OpenAI, Anthropic and Google—Virgil’s four lawyers are able to pull relevant company data directly from documents created in-house by Virgil’s

accountants and other professionals. They’ve also used AI to build an “internal brain” that can scan the firm’s internal communications channel to pull up and integrate previous learnings in particular areas.

“We encourage open dialogue as much as possible in our

communications channel, because that way [the brain] gets smarter with time,” Versweyveld said. “So if I have a question about [Qualified Small Business Stock], I can ask it, ‘What conversations have we had about QSBS in this channel?’ And if we feel like it’s lacking, then we supply it with summaries and more context.”

Three of Virgil’s four human lawyers are UVA Law grads, including Versweyveld, Isabelle Perfetto ’22 and Cyrus Oveissi ’23. They’re currently limiting their client intake to direct referrals to avoid stretching themselves too thin.

They’ve attracted startup clients by offering flat fees and remote lawyers who have worked at the likes of Skadden and Goodwin or who, in the case of Versweyveld, have founded startups themselves.

“We get a ton of clients who come to us from Big Law firms, and one of their biggest complaints was the price and that it felt like they weren’t making aggressive enough moves to adopt AI technology that should result in lower bills,” Versweyveld said. “My anecdotal evidence is that they’re paying us 70% less than they would pay at Big Law.”

He estimates that the four-lawyer team is currently as productive as six to eight lawyers. Their goal is to achieve tenfold efficiency.

Still, Versweyveld doesn’t see AI and his firm’s success as the death knell for Big Law.

“We partner with Big Law all the time. I think it’s really naïve to think that AI is going to be an extinction-level event for large firms,” he said. “They will likely move slower than new boutiques and new legal AI companies, but the entire industry is heading this direction.”

A ‘CAMBRIAN EXPLOSION’

As the co-founder and chief client officer of LexFusion, former litigator and consultant Paul Stroka ’05 acts as a matchmaker between in-house legal teams and law firms on one side, and the “Cambrian explosion” of generative AI legal technology on the other.

LexFusion, which was acquired this year by New York-based legal consultants Baretz+Brunelle, carefully vets technology providers that may be suitable for Baretz+Brunelle’s clients.

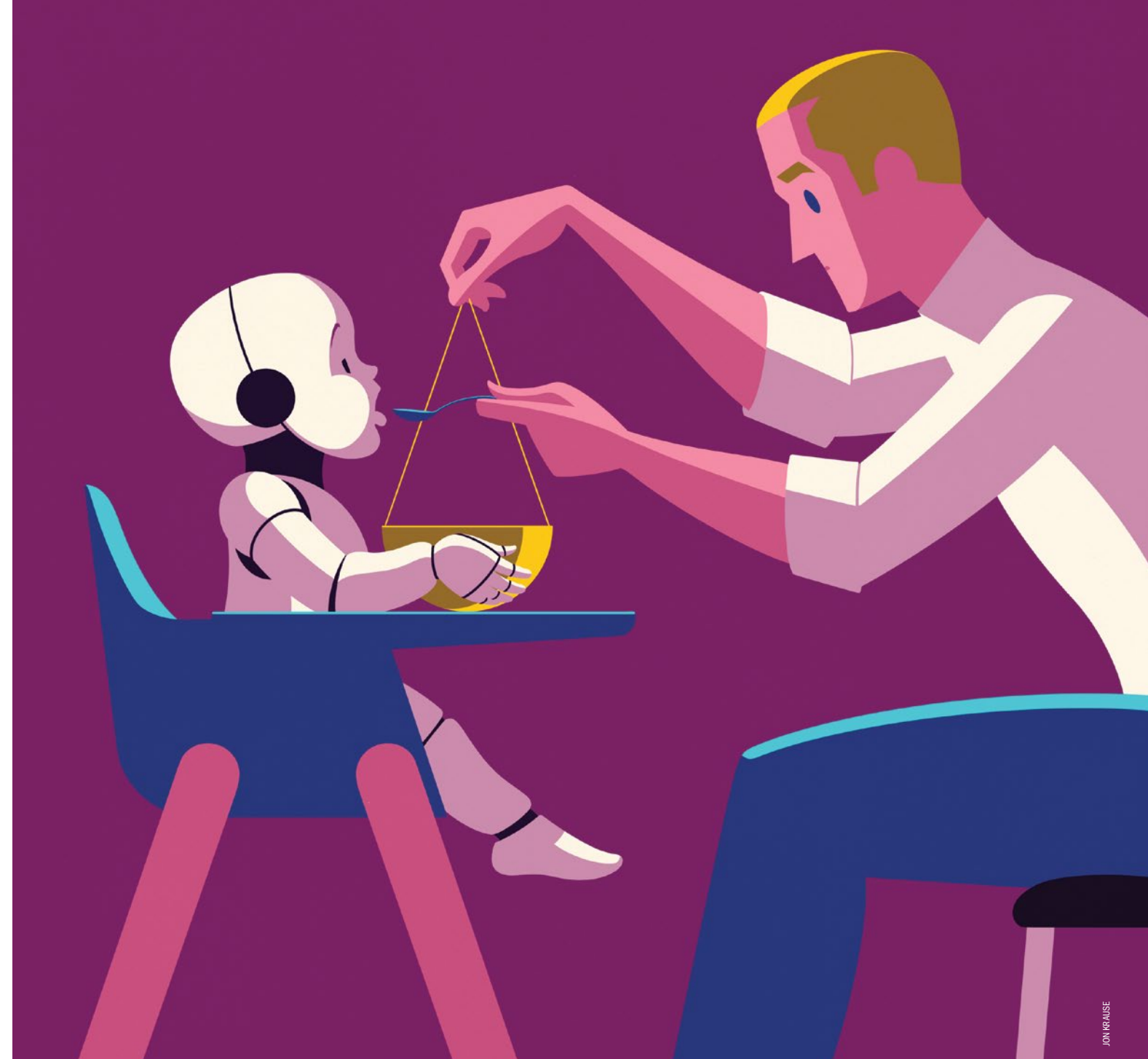
Stroka’s job is to sort through the AI weeds to help law firm leaders make decisions about the rapidly evolving AI technology that may well determine their firms’ futures. Stroka said the enthusiasm for his firm’s guidance spiked with the emergence of generative AI—newer models that can write and create rather than just analyze and predict.

“Even the Luddites knew this time was different,” Stroka said.

While managing partners may be willing to heed the call of change, there are only so many calls they are willing to take.

“Any attorney who is not using generative AI in their day-to-day is inviting themselves to be outworked and outperformed by someone who is.”

—TREVOR QUICK ’20,
Strategic Business Development
Manager, Harvey



“Right now, [lawyers] are confronted by an avalanche of cold [calls] from a rapidly expanding ecosystem of outside providers,” Stroka said. And generative AI is “an increasingly business-critical resource, one most buyers have limited expertise evaluating.”

Stroka now sees agentic AI as the next great leap forward. Agentic AI tools have advanced abilities to simulate reasoning and can, for example, autonomously determine and execute multiple steps to complete legal projects.

“The agentic tools apply advanced reasoning capabilities to legal tasks, demonstrate an ability to understand legal context, interpret complex legal language, and provide cited and supported answers,” he said.

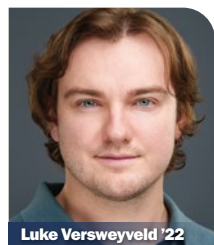
When it comes to AI’s future in the legal industry, Stroka acknowledges that he is an evangelist, but he urges skeptics

of the “hype” to watch the money.

“Financial investments reveal real commitment and direction—trillions are being poured into AI infrastructure and applications across industries, suggesting that the transformation is systemic, not speculative,” Stroka said. “As we saw in the dot-com era, even if bubbles burst, the fundamental technological shift driving them will persist.”

BOOTS ON THE GROUND

When Toluwani “Tolu” Ojuola ’24 arrived at WilmerHale in Washington, D.C., as a first-year associate, she had already staked out a career at the intersection of law and technology, serving as editor-in-chief of the Virginia Journal of Law &



Luke Versweyveld '22



Paul Stroka '05

Technology and as a research assistant for Professor Danielle Citron, a leading scholar in privacy law. She had also taken a seminar with Professor Lawrence B. Solum that asked students to imagine how AI might reshape doctrines far afield from technology law, including torts.

Now in practice, she sees how prescient those choices were. “It’s been interesting to see how many more companies we work with now that are AI startups,” she said. “That wasn’t true even the year before I started.”

Ojuola is enthusiastic about the possibilities of generative AI, but also clear-eyed about its limitations.

“It can be tempting to assume that tasks like drafting a privacy policy are simple enough for AI to handle on its own,” Ojuola said. “But beneath what may appear to be a straightforward seven-page document lies a complex patchwork of 19 different state privacy laws—each with its own nuances and requirements.”

Spotting those invisible threads—how one jurisdiction’s statute echoes another’s, where a new bill is borrowing language from an older one, or how emerging legislation might signal broader shifts—requires a neural network with the sort of judgment no model has yet mastered.

Her own “training set” these days comes through WilmerHale’s AI working group, where lawyers from across practice areas swap experiences about how artificial intelligence surfaces in their work. For Ojuola, those sessions feel like a continuation of law school’s seminar rooms.

“I appreciate it because it’s the closest thing I have to being back in class,” Ojuola said.

Much of her first-year work has centered on tracking state privacy legislation, where she’s begun to detect the patterns beneath the noise.

“If you’re reading bills every other week, you start to notice trends,” she said. “One set of states might be tracking Colorado’s opt-out model for profiling, while others might be following Virginia’s business-friendly model. That perspective can be really helpful for clients who want to be ahead of the curve.”

That ability to discern not only what’s been written but where it’s headed is where Ojuola sees the widest lanes of opportunity for young lawyers like her. “These laws haven’t existed for 10, 20 or 50 years, so in some ways, we’re all learning together,” she said. “As a junior associate, that makes it feel attainable to become an expert—a notion often echoed at the firm.”

REBECCA WATSON ’19 HAS NEVER DESCRIBED HERSELF AS A “TECH PERSON”—but she was among the first in McGuireWoods’ Richmond office to start experimenting with Harvey. A high-stakes antitrust and white-collar defense lawyer, Watson says she is taking baby steps, starting with using the basic editing and proofreading functions of Harvey, while building the prompt-engineering skills she likens to learning “a new language.”

Before trying Harvey, Watson said, her reaction to AI

was fear. How might AI devalue the work of lawyers, whose stock-in-trade is judgment and reasoning?

“Our value to the economy is our intelligence,” she said. “So the decentralization of intelligence is a scary thing.”

But a conversation with her father-in-law, a veteran medical malpractice lawyer, helped reframe her thinking. He has been running a successful litigation practice for over 30 years and still dictates his work to a human. Just as dictation technology gave way to laptops without ending his practice, she decided, AI will transform the practice of law without eliminating lawyers as a whole.

The lawyers who will thrive in the age of AI “are the people who understand it, who know how to use it for their benefit and their clients’ benefit,” she said.

For Watson and her husband/firm colleague, Thomas Watson ’19 (another Harvey early adopter), that means sharpening their prompts, making sure every AI-assisted change is captured in track edits and scrutinized carefully, and reminding themselves that the model can only answer the questions asked—it can’t decide which ones to ask.

“I don’t know how AI will affect the billable hour or how it will reshape the profession,” she said. “What I do know is that it’s happening whether we want it to or not. The internet came whether people in the ’80s and ’90s wanted it to or not. Social media came whether we thought it was a good idea or not. That’s just the story of human history and I think you can either get on board or not. I’m getting on board.”

WHEN KATHLEEN (EVEY) WALTERS ’99 TOOK AN INTERNET LAW CLASS IN 1997, the issues raised felt like the end of law as she knew it.

“How do we regulate something that has no boundaries? How do we get jurisdiction over it?” she recalls asking.

Two decades later, the same questions now arise around artificial intelligence. “Even though the technology is more advanced, a lot of the issues are similar,” Walters said. “It’s the people programming it and the intent of the user that really determine whether it’s good or bad.”

A former IRS chief privacy officer, Walters has spent her career at the intersection of law, technology and public policy. She oversaw AI-related projects within the agency, including a promising contract to use AI to automate responses and redactions to Freedom of Information Act requests. That effort, she said, would have allowed staff to handle thousands of documents more efficiently, illustrating AI’s potential to increase productivity while freeing humans to focus on more judgment-intensive work.

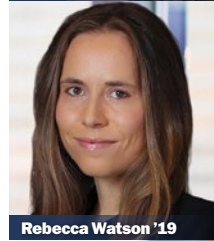
Walters balances her enthusiasm with caution. “AI is going to change everything,” she said. “It will make us more productive, but it also demands that we understand the foundational legal issues.”

She is concerned that the federal government currently lacks interest in the strategic planning needed to manage AI responsibly. In private practice, firms have more control over contracts and data handling, but the same need for collaboration between technologists and lawyers persists.

For Walters, the throughline from 1997 to today is clear: The law is always playing catch-up with technology. And human judgment—and humane intent—remain essential. AI, like the internet in its early days, is as much about the people using it as the code itself. She urges legal professionals to understand it, leverage it and regulate it thoughtfully, ensuring that its promise is realized without succumbing to its peril.



Toluwani Ojuola '24



Rebecca Watson '19



Kathleen Walters '99

THE BIG PICTURE

UVA Law professor Michael Livermore has been a pioneering scholar when it comes to using AI, large language models and other computational text analysis tools to study the law and legal institutions. With that in mind, one would be hard-pressed to consider Livermore skeptical of AI in legal practice.

But, as both a practical and philosophical matter, he believes current AI approaches fall short of the expectations we have for top-tier lawyers.

“You can say, ‘Model, please restrict your answer to just the documents that I’ve given you,’ and it might do that or it might not,” Livermore said. “ChatGPT and its kin do not really follow instructions, at least not in the way that we normally think of computers as following instructions. Instead, generative AI models use billions of ‘parameters’ to perform mathematical calculations to predict the next word in a sequence. We don’t yet understand the conditions under which it will or won’t give us the kind of answers we want.”

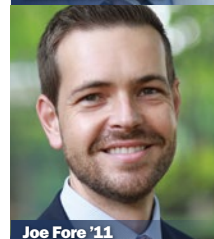
Training a model is less like teaching a law student, then, and more like raising an adolescent.

“Actually, adolescents are more predictable and have a psychology that we understand, at least a little bit,” Livermore said. “This is more like trying to manipulate a complex and ill-understood chemical reaction that we discovered by accident.”

Whether you find the model’s output useful or not, it’s simply not “thinking,” Livermore stressed. That’s still, for now at least, a job that lies squarely in the lawyer’s wheelhouse.



Michael Livermore



Joe Fore '11



Mark Scudder '88

AS CO-DIRECTOR OF THE LAW SCHOOL'S LEGAL RESEARCH AND WRITING PROGRAM, Joe Fore '11 is one of the first professors students encounter in their journey to thinking and writing like lawyers. He agrees that AI hasn’t changed those fundamental aspects of lawyering.

“From a pedagogical standpoint, our first-year curriculum is still very much focused on giving students the foundational skills—the analytical, research and writing skills—that will allow them to assess what the AI model is giving them,” Fore said. “Even if students are going to be using AI in their legal work for some tasks, they need to be able to evaluate it in the same way they would evaluate their own work product, or a colleague’s or opposing counsel’s.”

After his students completed their first writing assignment this fall, Fore had students review how Lexis’s current built-in AI features performed on the same task. The goal was for students to understand the AI tool’s capabilities and to identify where the generative AI fell short.

“The AI tools are pretty good at pulling out the black-letter law and the general legal framework for a given topic—but not the analytical heavy lifting,” Fore said. “AI struggles with the same things first-year law students—and frankly, a lot of lawyers—struggle with: looking at the fact patterns of various

cases, figuring out what ties them together and then understanding how that relates to the client’s unique situation.”

WHEN MARK SCUDDER '88 TALKS ABOUT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, he’s not speaking from a San Francisco startup loft or a glass-walled conference room on Park Avenue. His view comes from the heartland in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he chairs Scudder Law, the firm his father built before him. Yet his questions around AI feel just as urgent and uncertain for him as they do for the bicoastal colleagues he finds himself conferring with in this liminal moment.

Over the past year, he’s been in touch with classmates like New York-based Art Robinson '88, a former member of Simpson Thacher’s executive committee, and James Williams '88, former head of Perkins Coie’s Seattle office.

“We talked a lot about AI and what they were using it for and how they were approaching it,” Scudder said. “We don’t have tech company clients pressuring us to use it as a test-case, so we’re not going to be on the bleeding edge. But we do want to understand where it can actually help us.”

That analysis entails a different set of questions than a prompt-engineering associate faces.

“We looked at our internal IT architecture, and where and how our documents were organized, and how we might use AI to pull from those,” Scudder said. “From that, we determined that we had some internal housekeeping to do first, like migrating decades of client files from in-house servers to the cloud so we could use AI across everything without getting trapped in silos.”

Scudder’s midsize practice focuses on corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, and securities work for middle-market companies. The firm’s specialization has enabled it to experiment cautiously, encouraging associates and law student interns to complete real projects both the traditional way and with AI tools, comparing results.

“In research, AI’s been useful—but it’s kind of like a law student,” Scudder said. “It can find information fast, but you have to know the subject well enough to know when it’s off base.”

He recalled testing a model himself with two hypothetical tax questions, asking whether certain facts would change the answer. The model insisted the outcome would be the same. It took Scudder’s careful Socratic pressure to get the model to finally—sheepishly—revise itself.

“I’d say we’re somewhere between crawling and walking,” he said of his firm’s AI adoption. “Our next stage is going to be more formally developing policies as to where and when to use it and with what guidelines, such as not putting client information out into general databases, being careful about what gets entered into different engines.”

Once they’ve learned to “walk” safely, Scudder said, “we do believe there will be advantages in things like due diligence and being able to pull the best provisions from various contracts and historical transactions in our database, or using it to confirm research and find examples from other transactions outside our own experience.”

Scudder has also joined an AI advisory committee at the University of Nebraska College of Law, helping that administration formulate its AI policy for students.

“If we want students to be the most ready for practice, they’re going to need to understand how AI works, how to fashion a query, how to ask follow-ups, how the different engines compare and the pitfalls with relying too much on artificial intelligence.”



Professor Ashley Deeks, pictured in her class The Economic Tools of National Security in April, recently became vice dean.

DEEKS NAMED **VICE DEAN**

National Security Law Scholar Brings Government Experience



PROFESSOR ASHLEY S. DEEKS, A NATIONAL SECURITY LAW EXPERT, was named vice dean of the Law School and began her term July 1.

“As an accomplished legal scholar and public servant, Ashley Deeks has tackled some of the most complex and cutting-edge national security issues facing the world today,” Dean Leslie Kendrick ’06 said in an announcement. “I am delighted that she will bring her enormous intellect and wise judgment to the vice deanship, where she will follow in the footsteps of her equally brilliant predecessor, Michael Gilbert.”

The vice dean is responsible for faculty development and intellectual life, student affairs, and University-related academic affairs, and serves on the appointments committees and other committees. The vice dean also coordinates with the associate dean for curricular programs, currently Professor Quinn Curtis, on curriculum issues.

Deeks, who directs the school’s National Security Law Center, said she is excited to succeed Gilbert, who is leaving “big shoes to fill.”

“Mike Gilbert has done an outstanding job, and I look forward to

learning from him and Dean Kendrick about what happens behind the scenes to keep the Law School running so well,” said Deeks, the Class of 1948 Professor of Scholarly Research in Law. “I hope that I can bring to the job some of the skills that I learned in government, including how to develop relationships with people in different parts of the University and how to spot and manage potential problems early.”

A member of the faculty since 2012, Deeks is an expert on the use of force and the law of armed conflict, executive power, secret treaties, and the intersection of national security and international law. She recently published the book “The Double Black Box: National Security, Artificial Intelligence, and the Struggle for Democratic Accountability,” which explores the consequences and role of AI in national security decision-making.

She is a member of the State Department’s Advisory Committee on International Law and the American Law Institute, and is a contributing editor to the Lawfare blog. Deeks also recently served as White House associate counsel and deputy legal adviser to the National Security

Council while on leave from the Law School. She is a senior fellow at the Lieber Institute for Law and Land Warfare, and at UVA’s Miller Center.

Before turning to academia, Deeks held a variety of roles in the U.S. State Department’s Office of the Legal Adviser, including as assistant legal adviser for political-military affairs, where she worked on issues related to the law of armed conflict, the use of force, conventional weapons and the legal framework for the conflict with al-Qaida. In 2005, during Iraq’s constitutional negotiations, she served as legal adviser at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. Deeks was a 2007-08 Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow and a visiting fellow in residence at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. She served as an academic fellow at Columbia Law School before joining UVA’s faculty.

She received her undergraduate degree in art history from Williams College and earned her J.D. with honors from the University of Chicago Law School. After graduating, she clerked for Judge Edward R. Becker of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

—Mary Wood

BANKRUPTCY SCHOLAR **FRANCUS** JOINS FACULTY

MICHAEL FRANCUS, A BANKRUPTCY LAW SCHOLAR, has joined the Law School faculty after spending the past year as a visiting professor.

Francus’ research focuses primarily on government bankruptcy and mass-tort bankruptcy.

His education in public financial distress began long before he started law school.

Raised in Pittsburgh, Francus saw the aftereffects of his hometown struggling with the demise of the steel industry and, amid a financial crisis, narrowly averting bankruptcy in the 2000s, when Pennsylvania declared the city to be financially distressed and intervened extensively in the city’s finances.

“There was still a lot of recovery going on,” he said. “Pittsburgh was still reinventing itself as a city, and that was the atmosphere when I was growing up.”

Bankruptcy law would ultimately become Francus’ focus as a law professor.

He majored in philosophy and political science at the University of Chicago, with the goal of working in public policy or politics. A conversation with a mentor while in college about the value of a law degree for a career in policymaking, though, led him to reassess his postgraduation plans.

Francus enrolled in Stanford Law School where, he said, he “fell in love with the law” and “realized that I enjoyed doing legal work separate from any of the political or policy dimensions.”

While in law school, he also discovered the direction he ultimately wanted to go after receiving his degree.

“The world needs lawyers. But if what you really love is the conceptual thinking about the law, the intellectual engagement, then being a law professor is just the best gig on the planet,” Francus said. He would later work as a Climenko Fellow at Harvard Law School, a program for up-and-coming legal scholars with an interest in teaching ahead of their entry into academia.

First, though, he would clerk for Judge Stephanos Bibas of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, an “absolutely wonderful” experience, Francus said.

“Having a year with a judge who is also an academic was tremendous for mentorship and for understanding the academy,” Francus said. “Judge Bibas is also a first-rate legal thinker, and having a year to learn from him was invaluable for my own development as a legal thinker.” Before joining the bench in 2017, Bibas served for many years as a professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, among other academic positions.

Prior to joining the University of Notre Dame Law School faculty in 2023, Francus worked in private practice as an associate at Kirkland & Ellis in Washington, D.C.

It’s “extremely helpful to be working at a great firm that



does a lot of bankruptcy work and can show you how bankruptcy issues play out in the real world,” he said.

His work at Kirkland & Ellis, as well as his interest in novel questions related to government bankruptcies that arose following the COVID-19 pandemic, further bolstered his interest in that area of the law.

“I started thinking about the governments that had all of a sudden lost a huge amount of tax revenue and seemed like they were in a really dire position, and few scholars had been doing work on what happens when governments run out of money,” Francus said. “So I wanted to contribute to that conversation, both on an academic level and on a practical one.”

Dean Leslie Kendrick ’06 said that Francus is an outstanding teacher whose scholarly work yields new insights into bankruptcy law and state governmental structure.

“Michael has explored everything from the ‘Texas Two-Step’ corporations use to claim bankruptcy and offload tort liabilities, to the implications of public hospital bankruptcies, to a theory of how political subdivisions financially further the aims of the state,” Kendrick said. “His work has both conceptual sophistication and practical payoff, and he will be an asset to our students, our scholarly community, and his field.”

Francus said that he’s excited in the coming years to be “around a great community of scholars” and continually refine his craft in the job he’s aspired to since law school.

“I don’t think that we as professors ever stop learning how to teach better,” he said.

—Cooper Allen

FOLLOWING CAREER IN PUBLIC SECTOR, LE '00 JOINS FACULTY

CHINH LE '00, formerly a visiting professor of practice and longtime legal aid and civil rights attorney, has joined the Law School as an assistant professor of law on the general faculty.

Le, a Triple Hoo who has taught at the Law School for the past four years, said he's excited to continue bringing the "practical aspects of my experiences to the classroom" as a resident faculty member.

He'll have no shortage of experiences to draw from.

Born in Vietnam, Le and his family fled war there and

came to the United States as refugees, settling in Northern Virginia. He earned his B.A., M.A. and J.D. at the University of Virginia, participating in a combination degree program in American government while in law school.

After a clerkship with a federal appellate judge, Le had his heart set on public interest practice. He knew that he'd love to work for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund eventually, but he wasn't sure if he would ever have that opportunity, let alone so early in his legal career. A little help and encouragement from Jim Ryan '92, a future University president who was then a UVA Law professor, convinced him he shouldn't wait.

"Jim knew someone who was at LDF at one point, and he put me in touch. And long story short, he got me through the door for an interview, and they ended up sponsoring me to work in New York on a Skadden Fellowship," Le said.

He ended up staying for five years, working on a wide variety of civil rights issues, including educational equity, voting rights and housing discrimination.

From there, Le worked in private practice and also spent a year as a practitioner in residence at Seton Hall Law School. While at Seton Hall, he had the chance to collaborate with the New Jersey Attorney General's Office, an experience that opened another opportunity, as he would soon be hired as director of the office's Division on Civil Rights.

In 2011, Le moved to the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia, where he served as legal director for a decade.

Working in legal aid, Le said, "fulfilled that initial vision" he had of being a lawyer.

"This is a helping profession, right? Someone comes in and says, 'My landlord won't turn on my heat, my kids are cold and can't sleep at night.' That's just someone you really want to help," he said.

"It was very satisfying from that perspective."

He added that, because Legal Aid DC did not receive government funds through the Legal Services Corp., it was not restricted from working on other activities like policy advocacy and class-action lawsuits.

"A lot of the stuff that I was able to be more actively engaged in were what I would call law reform, impact litigation

and policy advocacy," he said, noting that this aspect of his work allowed him to address "larger, systemic issues."

In the fall of 2021, he decided it was time for a new challenge and returned to UVA as a Distinguished Fellow at the Karsh Center for Law and Democracy and as a visiting professor at the Law School.

Le said he found enjoyment not only in teaching but in mentoring public interest students.

"I wanted to provide support, connection to students who had some of the same career aspirations that I had," he said.

Dean Leslie Kendrick '06 said Le brings to the role a deep wealth of experience and a commitment to guiding students toward becoming leaders in legal practice and

public service.

"Professor Le is a distinguished alumnus and public servant, and I am thrilled that he has chosen to return to the Law School for the long term. His gifts as a teacher and mentor, as well as his decades of experience, will be invaluable in helping to prepare the next generation of public service lawyers," she said.

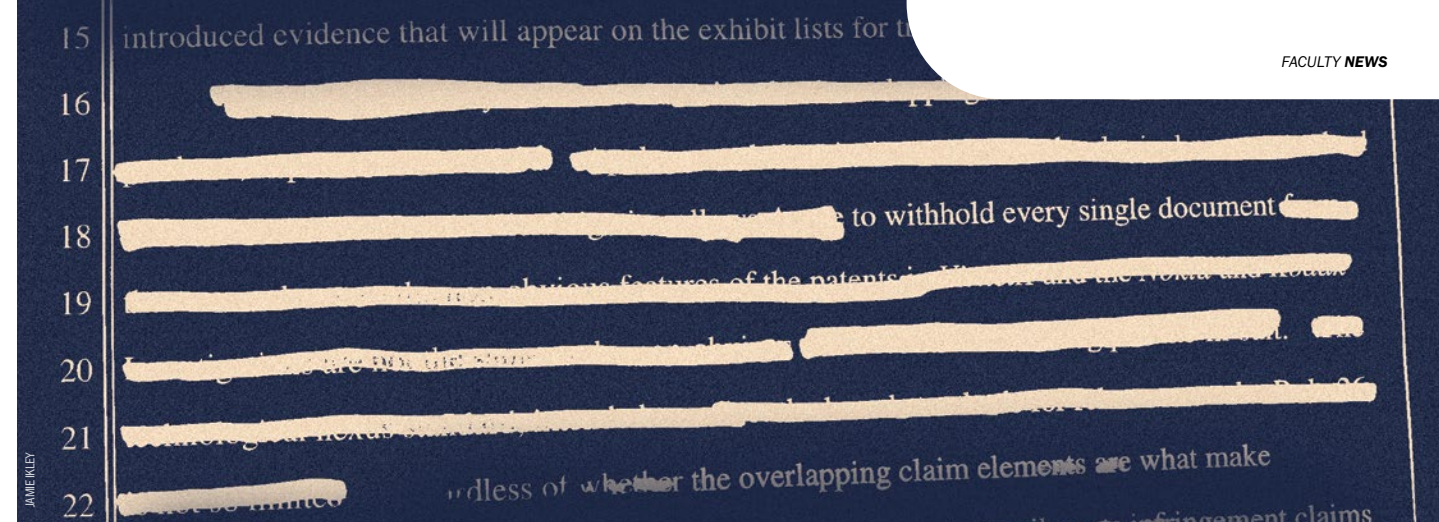
Le said he is looking forward to both teaching and learning from students. In the coming school year, he will teach Advanced Topics in Law and Public Service, Asian Americans and the Law (with Professor David S. Law), Law Reform and Impact Litigation, and Leadership for Lawyers: Practice, Theory and the Public Interest.

"Students challenge me to revisit my assumptions, keep an open mind and think about old problems in new ways," he said.

—Cooper Allen



JULIA DAVIS



ROWE UNCOVERS HOW SECRETIVE COURT RECORDS HAVE BECOME

MOTIONS TO SEAL RECORDS of legal proceedings, which have become more common in recent years, are harming public trust and court operations, according to new research from Professor Elizabeth Rowe.

Her paper "Judicial Secrecy" argues that promoting transparency with court records is essential to preserving the judicial system's legitimacy.

Rowe found that more than 30,000 federal court cases in the last five years included sealing motions, which go unopposed approximately 90% of the time. These motions receive little scrutiny from judges, partly due to their sheer volume.

"Over-sealing" records "is almost like a silent epidemic eating away at one of our most important institutions," Rowe said. Because both parties in court are often mutually interested in secrecy, there is rarely strong opposition to sealing. Even routine legal arguments and court orders are sometimes sealed, a practice that can have major drawbacks for public trust and court processes, the paper argues.

For example, in the 2012 case *Apple Inc. v. Samsung Electronics Co.*, litigants requested to seal most of the materials in the parties' arguments—even references to standard case law and quotes from published opinions—as well as 23 different exhibits, some of which included public information such as a list

of other pending patent cases.

Rowe is the Henry L. and Grace Doherty Charitable Foundation Professor of Law and Horace W. Goldsmith Research Professor of Law. She also directs the Center on Intellectual Property Law, as well as the LawTech Center, and is a nationally renowned expert on trade secrets and intellectual property law.

Over the course of her research on other topics, Rowe frequently came across redacted opinions in cases that pertained to seemingly innocuous matters, which she found surprising.

"I have an ongoing theme of transparency and secrecy in much of my work, so I decided to explore a little bit to see what was happening," she said. "But I had no idea that [over-sealing] was this extensive."

Rowe worked with a number of student research assistants for approximately two years to study the issue and write the paper.

Her independent analysis of over 70 different local district courts found that the rules regarding the sealing of records are not available from a single source, meaning each court's individual standards had to be examined separately, resulting in a "painstaking" process, she said.

"Even the terminology can vary," Rowe explained. "Some courts refer to it as 'sealing,' while others call it 'redaction.'"



Traditionally, protective orders are put in place during the discovery phase of a case. This allows parties to exchange sensitive information while ensuring it remains confidential to them and their attorneys.

Increasingly, though, she found these orders stretched beyond their original purpose.

"The protective order is supposed to serve a completely different purpose, and that tool has been misused," she said, effectively undermining the legitimacy of, and the public's trust in, the courts.

Court administration itself is also burdened, Rowe said, which she suspects may be the most tangible harm, though it is easily overlooked and difficult to quantify.

"It's the day-to-day cost to the clerks in courthouses trying to process hundreds of thousands of documents, or the judges who are simply overburdened by these excessive motions," she said.

The issue of over-sealing court records has gone largely unnoticed by the public, other than by those who tend to be directly affected, such as press organizations seeking access to filings. While bringing this issue to light is an important first step, Rowe said, remedying the issue will be much more difficult to achieve.

"It will have to be a multi-pronged approach, because this is a multi-layered problem," Rowe said, due in part to the scale of record sealing and the fact that courts don't follow the same practices. "We will have to balance the practical effect on the ground [of] implementing courts' rules against the substantive rights of litigants who are entitled to protect certain types of information."

—Josette Corazza

WHITE'S NEW BOOK EXPLORES LIFE AND LEGACY OF JUSTICE ROBERT H. JACKSON

ROBERT H. JACKSON, A SUPREME COURT JUSTICE perhaps best known as the chief American prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials, is the subject of a new book from Professor G. Edward White.

"Robert H. Jackson: A Life in Judgment," explores the meteoric rise of "a major figure in American legal and constitutional history," according to White, who at the same time was "not well understood and maybe to some extent misunderstood."

A native of Jamestown, New York, Jackson became an attorney by reading for the bar, serving as an apprentice to a local lawyer.

"Jackson is the last justice in the history of the court who didn't attend law school full-time and didn't even attend college," White said.

During the Woodrow Wilson administration, Jackson became acquainted with Franklin D. Roosevelt, the assistant secretary of the Navy.

When Roosevelt became president in 1933, he tapped Jackson to join the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

"Here's a guy from an unusual background, as far as his legal training goes, from western New York, with no particular contacts in politics, no particular influence, transported to Washington as part of the Roosevelt administration," White said.

After two years with the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Jackson joined the Justice Department and by 1938 was U.S. solicitor general, a role in which he frequently argued the government's case before the Supreme Court. Less than two years later, he was tapped as attorney general.

Jackson also at this time was emerging as a potential nominee for a Supreme Court vacancy. After nearly being tapped to succeed Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, Roosevelt instead nominated Jackson to take the place of Justice Harlan Stone, who was promoted to chief.

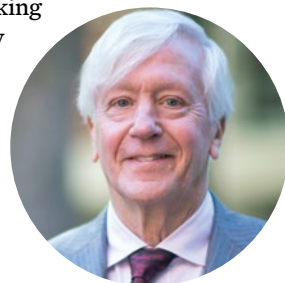
"By all accounts, Jackson ought to have been instantly well qualified to serve as a Supreme Court justice," White said.

However, Jackson's adjustment to the court proved to be difficult, White said. He feuded with Justices Hugo Black and

William O. Douglas, with Jackson taking issue with what he felt was the overly political bent of the court.

However, Jackson was leaving an imprint early in his tenure. He wrote the dissenting opinion in the 1944 case *Korematsu v. United States*, arguing that the wartime internment of Japanese Americans was unconstitutional.

In 1943, he wrote the majority opinion in *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*, which held that children in public schools could not be compelled by law to salute the flag and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.



Jackson was away from the court in 1945-46 to serve as chief American prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials of senior Nazi officials.

"He was the organizer of the Nuremberg process. It was his conception of a trial. He did most of the legwork for putting the trial together. He was responsible for meetings with the other powers," White said.

Jackson died from a heart attack in October 1954 at the age of 62, just 13 years after joining the court. Before his passing, he left his mark on one more historic decision: *Brown v. Board of Education*, which outlawed school segregation.

White devotes a chapter of his book to chronicling how Jackson shifted from initially having reservations about the legal reasoning behind *Brown* to ultimately joining the unanimous opinion written by Chief Justice Earl Warren.

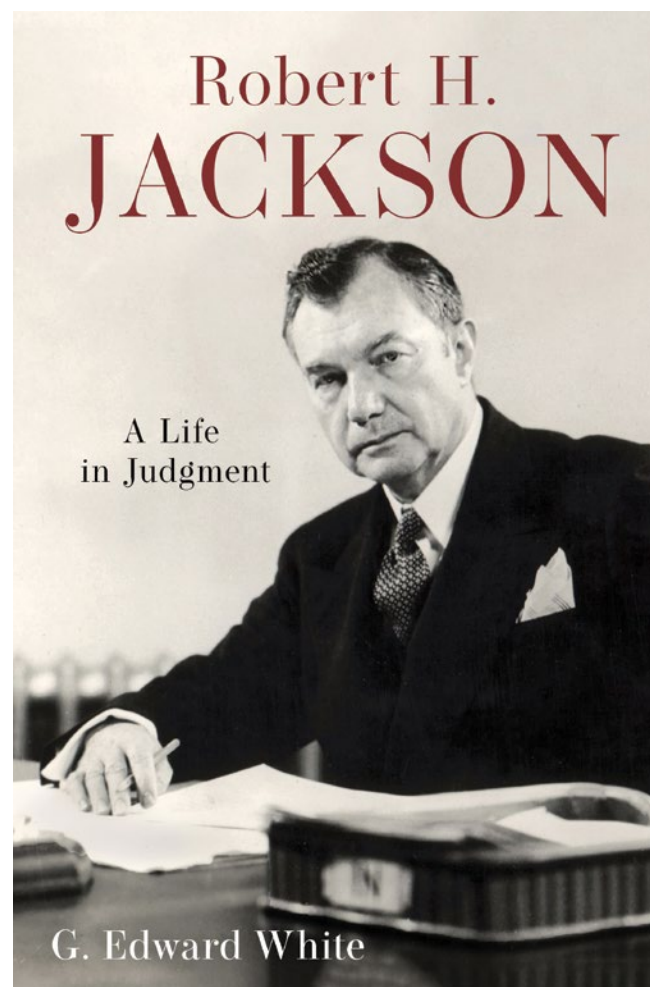
White, who clerked for Warren in the early 1970s, has written 21 books and now four judicial biographies.

Of the subjects he's pro-

filed, "Jackson has been certainly one of my favorites," he said.

"I believe I personally would've liked him," White said, adding jokingly: "I can't say that about everybody that I've written about."

—Cooper Allen



STRAUSS REEXAMINES PARENTHOOD IN NEW BOOK

WHAT MAKES SOMEONE A PARENT in the eyes of the law? While many times the answer is simple, other cases are less clear, creating a complex legal landscape, which is the subject of a new book from Professor Gregg Strauss.

Originally, Strauss said, he intended to write a paper on "a little puzzle about why there were so many ways to become parents."

"It turned out to be a much bigger problem than I foresaw," he said.

Strauss, who is co-director of UVA Law's Family Law Center, turned that article into "Reconstructing Parentage," published by Cambridge University Press in March. The book examines the numerous paths to parenthood and why society needs a more cohesive system for defining, and in some cases assigning, the role of parent.

Through legal analysis and case studies—from fertility clinic mix-ups to complex foster care cases—he makes the case for why society should reimagine how it thinks about parentage law, laying out why parenthood is, in a sense, a "political" position conferred on individuals by communities to ensure a child's needs are met.

"We have good reason, for instance, to give biological parents a right to raise their child as long as they step forward quickly enough. We also have good reasons to honor someone who has been doing the work of raising a child. And we can preserve both of those principles, both of those instincts," he said.

So when did defining parenthood become so complicated?

"For most of history, giving birth to a child or being married to the person who gave birth to the child—those are the two ways you become a parent," Strauss said.

That has changed. In the book's introduction, Strauss notes that, in some states, as many as 11 paths to parenthood are now recognized. Additionally, approximately 40% of children have

been born to unmarried parents over the past 15 years.

"It wasn't until the advent of genetic testing and the LGBTQ rights movement that we really started pushing the boundaries," Strauss said.

While establishing parenthood is often simple, the degree of uncertainty has risen significantly, Strauss said.

"There's still a large realm of settled cases, but there are so many more unsettled cases, and there are so many more judges who don't understand, don't know what to do," he said.

Take, for instance, a scenario where a child's birth mother is raising her child with the help of a grandmother: What happens if the mother dies and the biological father, who until that point had been absent from the child's life, reappears and requests custody? Would the grandmother, who had played such a large role in raising the child, have legal recourse?

"You might actually have a contest, and a judge would decide what assignment of parenthood was in the best interest of the child. So it devolves to a judge trying to pick what is best for the kid, which is sometimes clear and sometimes very much not," Strauss said.

To better adjudicate these types of cases, Strauss argues that society should reorient its understanding of parentage and think of it as "a kind of political authority."

"You've got a role defined by the community, and the community needs to fill it, and the question is, who should fill the role of parent for this child?"



Reconstructing Parentage

Gregg Strauss



Now we can look to biology as a reason to allow someone to fill the role, but we don't have to think that all of the rights of parents are justified by having conceived the child," he said.

Strauss knows the subject matter of parenthood as both a scholar and a parent of two children himself.

He hopes one theme that emerges from his book is something that many parents know well: "Parenthood is hard. Parenthood is a lot of work," he said.

Strauss said that, as an academic book, his primary audience is fellow scholars. But he noted that the book is steeped in American case law and, with its goal of reviving the existing principles behind the rules of state and federal parentage law, he hopes it reaches legal reformers and judges who handle these cases as well.

Ultimately, the book aims to fill a critical void in a high-stakes area of family law "so that judges can return to applying law rather than being forced to rely on whatever values the judge wants to bring to a specific case."

—Cooper Allen

FACULTY NEWS IN BRIEF

Scholarship From **GULATI, HWANG** Among 10 Best Corporate Law Articles of the Year

Papers co-authored by Professors **MITU GULATI** and **CATHY HWANG** have been named two of the top 10 corporate and securities law articles of 2024.

In the poll, which was conducted for Corporate Practice Commentator, academics chose the 10 best articles from a list of more than 300 possibilities.

This is the sixth time Hwang's work has been recognized by this poll, and she is among the top three authors honored over the past five years.

Her paper, "The Lost Promise of Private Ordering," published in the Cornell Law Review, is co-authored by professors Jeremy McClane of the University of Illinois College of Law and Yaron Nili of Duke University School of Law. The article discusses the enduring challenge in corporate law of protecting investors when managers spend or recklessly manage company funds, noting that loan covenants have traditionally served as a key tool for lenders to mitigate this risk by requiring borrowers to adhere to certain conditions.

Gulati's paper, "Contract Production in M&A Markets," published in the University of Pennsylvania Law Review, is co-authored by professors Stephen J. Choi of New York University School of Law, Matthew Jennejohn of Brigham Young University's Law School and Robert E. Scott of Columbia University Law School. Scott is also a former UVA Law dean and professor.

The paper examines how contract terms are designed to incentivize parties to fulfill their obligations, explaining that while much attention has been paid to this issue, the trade-offs between standard and customized terms remain understudied.



ABA Honors **HOWARD '61** for Lifetime of Work

Professor Emeritus **A. E. DICK HOWARD '61** received

the American Bar Association's annual Robert J. Kutak Award for his impact on the legal field.

Established in 1984 by the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar and the Kutak Rock law firm, the award honors an individual "who has made significant contributions to the collaboration of the academy, the bench, and the bar," according to the ABA.

Kutak, the award's namesake, was an Omaha, Nebraska, lawyer who championed legal reform and advocated for legal education.

"Howard's contributions to the law are significant and far-reaching,"

Kutak Award Committee Chair Gail B. Agrawal said. "It is an honor to recognize [his] contributions to the law, legal reform, legal education, and the collaboration among the academy, the bench, and the bar with this award."

Howard is the Warner-Booker Distinguished Professor of International Law Emeritus and an expert on constitutional law, comparative constitutionalism and the U.S. Supreme Court.

6 PROFESSORS Present Research at Top Law and Economics Conference

Six professors had their research featured at the American Law and Economics Association annual meeting in May.

The conference committee selects articles from around 400 submissions each year, with the chosen papers presented at the New York University School of Law.

Professor **MICHAEL BARZUZA**, who is a member of the ALEA board of directors, presented "NYC Comptroller and Board Diversity: The Impact of Pension Fund Activism." The paper shows how the Office of the



New York City Comptroller used a corporate governance tool, known as proxy access, to pressure companies into diversifying their boards.



Professor **KEVIN COPE** presented "Grading Machines: Can AI Exam-Grading Replace Law Professors?,"

co-authored with Jens Frankenreiter, Scott Hirst and Dane Thorley. In the paper, Cope considers the effectiveness of large language models in grading law school exams and finds they perform reasonably well when given a rubric. Cope co-directs the school's Immigration, Migration and Human Rights Program.

Professor **MICHAEL D. GILBERT** presented "Altruism and Coasean Bargaining," co-authored by Professor **ANDREW HAYASHI**. The authors propose that altruism can prevent private



bargaining from achieving the efficient allocation of property rights. Gilbert is the Perre Bowen Professor of Law and Martha Lubin Karsh and Bruce A. Karsh Bicentennial Professor of Law.

Hayashi is the Nancy L. Buc '69 Research Professor of Democracy and Equity.

Professor **QUINN CURTIS** presented "The Effect of CAMT on Financial Reporting,"

which argues that the corporate alternative minimum tax, created in 2022, provides an incentive for large companies to keep their income below the \$1 billion threshold in order to avoid or reduce their tax burden. Curtis is associate dean for curricular programs and The Honorable Albert V. Bryan Jr. '50 Research Professor of Law.



Professor **J.H. "RIP" VERKERKE** presented "Probabilistic Restitution," co-authored with Dhammika Dharmapala and Nuno Garoupa. The

paper develops a formal model to explore how the law of restitution for the mistaken provision of services calibrates incentives to promote efficient precautions. Verkerke is the T. Munford Boyd Professor of Law, Earle K. Shawe Professor of Employment Law and director of the school's Program for Employment and Labor Law Studies.

DUFFY Appointed to U.S. Patent Committee

Professor **JOHN F. DUFFY** was appointed Sept. 8 to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Patent Public Advisory Committee. The committee, comprised of private-sector individuals appointed by the commerce secretary to serve three-year terms, advises the undersecretary of commerce for intellectual property and director of the USPTO.

"I hope my service on this component of the Patent Office can advance the public interest in some small way," Duffy said.

Duffy directs the school's Center on Intellectual Property Law, and is the Samuel H. McCoy II Professor of Law and Class of 1966 Research Professor of Law.



BAMZAI, DUFFY Advise ACUS Project

Professors **ADITYA BAMZAI** and **JOHN F. DUFFY** served as consultants for the Administrative Conference of the United States project "Timing of Judicial Review



of Agency Action," released April 22. The report examines whether Congress should amend the law to provide greater clarity regarding the timing of judicial review.

Bamzai is the Martha Lubin Karsh and Bruce A. Karsh Bicentennial Professor of Law. Duffy is the Samuel H. McCoy II Professor of Law and Class of 1966 Research Professor of Law, and co-director of the school's Center on Intellectual Property Law.



BONNIE Leads Active Shooter Drills Report

A National Academies committee chaired by Professor Emeritus **RICHARD BONNIE '69** published a

report analyzing the well-being of students and school staff when conducting active shooter drills. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's report "School Active Shooter Drills: Mitigating Risks to Mental, Emotional, and Behavioral Health," released Aug. 13, was commissioned by the U.S. Department of Education. The report recommends that schools adopt "trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate approaches" that balance physical, emotional and psychological safety. Researchers didn't address the effectiveness of such drills.

Bonnie is the Harrison Foundation Professor of Medicine and Law Emeritus.



HARRISON Testifies Before Congress

The president may sign formal documents by autopen based on legal precedent, but Congress has the constitutional authority to regulate the process, Professor **JOHN C. HARRISON** told the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on June 18.

The committee was examining the use of the autopen on executive orders in the

wake of reporting on the Biden administration's use of the tool and questions over the president's capacities.

Harrison is the James Madison Distinguished Professor of Law and Class of 1941 Research Professor of Law.

ROBINSON Contributes to Report on Youth After-School Programs



Professor **GERARD ROBINSON** contributed to a report that calls for greater investment and policy coordination for after-school programs nationwide. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's report "The Future of Youth Development: Building Systems and Strengthening Programs," released May 1, lays out goals for improving after-school initiatives and makes the case for why they are needed.

Robinson is a Professor of Practice in Public Policy and Law at UVA's Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, and has a joint appointment at the Law School.

MASON Delivers Tillinghast Lecture

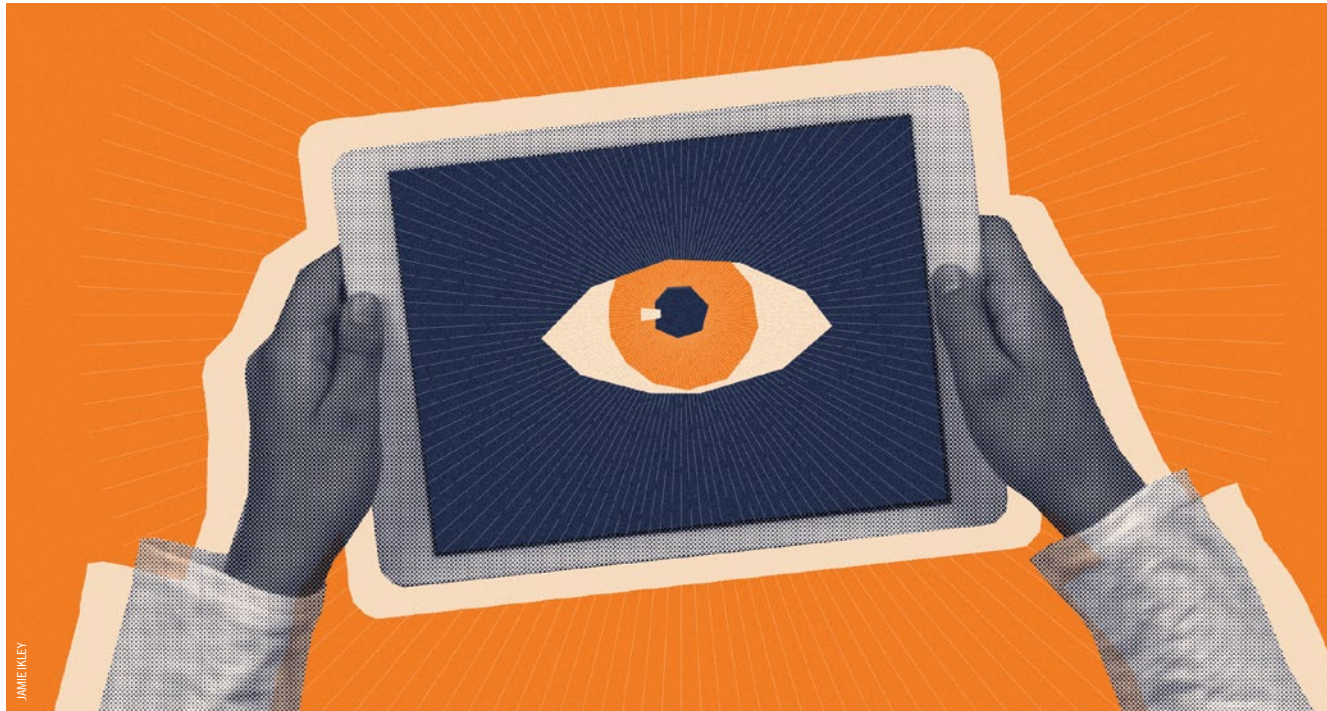
Professor **RUTH MASON** delivered the David R. Tillinghast Lecture at New York University School of Law on Sept. 10. The lecture, which is published in NYU's Tax Law Review, is considered the most renowned international tax talk in the world. Mason's lecture will also be published in Tax Notes.

Mason said the lecture explored how the European Commission has struggled to define and enforce the prohibition on state aid delivered through tax systems.

Mason is the Edwin S. Cohen Distinguished Professor of Law and Taxation, the John A. Ewald Jr. Research Professor of Law and director of the Virginia Center for Tax Law.



A NEW MODEL FOR PROTECTING YOUTH PRIVACY



Danielle Citron Says Young People Are Ready for New Role

WITH TECH COMPANIES INCREASINGLY USING ONLINE DATA for financial gain, privacy for young people “is deeply under threat” and a new model is needed to ensure they are protected, according to Professor Danielle Citron.

The current model for privacy protection is outdated, she said, because it relies almost entirely on parents to safeguard their children’s most personal information.

“We need parents, kids, educators and lawmakers to take a hard look and to fix how we’re protecting it, because right now, tech companies are running the show, and it’s a great detriment to kids and their ability to be digital citizens and to be citizens generally—and to feel free,” Citron said.

That’s why she and co-author Ari Ezra Waldman, a law professor and sociologist at the University of California, Irvine, argue in a forthcoming Virginia Law Review article that a new model is needed to secure youth privacy.

The paper, “Rethinking Youth Privacy,” is the latest work in a 20-year exploration of the many facets of

privacy for Citron, who also serves as the co-director of UVA’s LawTech Center along with Professor Elizabeth Rowe.

In the paper, Citron and Waldman examine the parental control model and how its shortcomings in protecting children’s privacy should be addressed. The model, Citron said, emerged following enactment of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, known as FERPA, in 1974. Prior to passage of the federal education privacy law, Citron said, record-keeping on students was an opaque process where teachers could designate kids as “unfit for learning” or “irredeemable,” with little accountability.

“Their records became almost like a life sentence,” Citron said of their impact on children.

The new law allowed parents to see and correct inaccurate information



about their children, an “important intervention” for the time, Citron explained. However, she added, FERPA also prevented young people from having access to their own records until they turned 18, giving rise to the parental control model, which was further entrenched in 1998 with the passage of the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act. That law required websites to ask parents of kids under 13 for permission to handle their children’s data.

These laws are key examples of what Citron and Waldman contend has been the reflexive response of policymakers on this issue since the 1970s of relying solely on parents to protect children from data exploitation, which does not necessarily result in safeguarding youth privacy.

The model, Citron and Waldman argue in their paper, is based on misguided notions that all children reach

CITRON CONTINUES ON P. 42

HOW SHOULD LAW TREAT FUTURE DISABILITIES?

Alice Abrokwa Explores a New Zone of Civil Rights

HOW CAN CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS not only protect individuals who currently have a disability but also those who might in the future? Addressing this question is critical to strengthening antidiscrimination law, says Professor Alice Abrokwa.

In her new article, “Anticipating Disability,” forthcoming in the California Law Review, Abrokwa proposes two frameworks for thinking about how to situate future disabilities within the law. The paper is the first scholarly work to do so.

One framework focuses on obtaining disability accommodations in the present to mitigate the possibility of acquiring a disability in the future, such as someone seeking disability accommodations to avoid COVID-19 exposure they believe may lead to a disability. The second relates to the adverse treatment of someone in the present based on others’ perceptions that they may acquire a future disability, such as an employer firing an employee because they believe the worker could eventually become disabled.

Abrokwa, a former federal attorney and civil rights litigator whose scholarship focuses on disability, health and antidiscrimination law, recently discussed some of the key issues in her article.



Why is it important for civil rights law to consider future disabilities, rather than only past or present ones?

Some people are born with disabilities, while others may acquire a disability later on in life. The federal civil rights statutes that protect people from disability discrimination are explicit about your rights to be protected from discrimination based on a current or a past disability, but what if you’re facing circumstances that might result in a disability in the future? What if someone treats you adversely today because they think you’ll become disabled in the future? Whether and, if so, how either of those scenarios fall within the scope of disability civil rights law is the core question I’m grappling with in this research.

Could you tell us more about the “anticipatory accommodations” framework you discuss?

One context in which the construct of future disabilities has surfaced in case law and legal scholarship so far is when an individual does not currently have a disability within the meaning of the law but seeks disability accommodations



in the present because they anticipate they may become disabled in the future if they don’t receive the accommodations now. I’ve sorted these scenarios where people seek accommodations in anticipation of a future disability into two categories.

To give an example of what I’ve called “pre-impairment anticipatory accommodations,” I studied one case in which a non-disabled grocery store worker at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic sought specific health and safety measures as accommodations under disability civil rights law, the implication being that they might become disabled in the future if they didn’t receive disability accommodations in the present. But there’s some risk there of stigmatizing disability by claiming a right under disability law for protection against the possibility of becoming disabled.

On the other hand, I’ve used the term “post-impairment anticipatory accommodations” to describe requests for

ABROKWA CONTINUES ON P. 42



CITRON, CONTINUED FROM P. 40

maturity at the same stage of life and that, until they do so, they lack a sufficient understanding of privacy.

At its core, youth privacy law has those concepts reversed, Citron said.

“Privacy is really important to maturity. We often put the cart before the horse—like, you have to be mature to exercise privacy rights. But actually, it turns out it’s the opposite. What’s antecedent is actually privacy to figure out maturity,” she said.

Achieving this developmental milestone is an important step in the transition to adulthood, she said.

“The ability to form relationships is a story about privacy. And so having the ability to decide on your own terms the extent to which others know information about you, and know you physically as well, is about setting those boundaries yourself,” Citron said.

Among other shortcomings of the parental control model that the authors point out are that it reinforces a dated concept of what constitutes an ideal family and the potential harms it could cause for LGBTQ+ children, who may not have supportive homes.

Perhaps most problematic about the parental control model, Citron and Waldman find, is that it shifts the burden of protecting young people away from tech companies and onto parents to manage countless consent requests and lengthy, often technical, privacy policies.

“Under current law, parents cannot meaningfully restrain corporate use, sharing and sale of their kids’ personal data,” Citron and Waldman write in the paper.

This is a risk that could become more pronounced in the coming years, they argue, as artificial intelligence tools continue to evolve and expand, seeking even more data.

“We need to constrain companies as a first order of business,” Citron said. “We shouldn’t put everything on parents, which is what we do right now. We isolate them. We make them in charge. They’re not capable of being in charge—none of us are.”

What is needed, Citron and Waldman write, is a new model based on four guidelines: youth voices, structural reform, collaboration and support for parents.

“We wanted to lay out some principles that would help guide lawmakers and guide parents,” Citron said.

Among the many specific actions that the paper says companies and policymakers should consider are turning off recommendation algorithms for young people and strengthening the ability of regulators to investigate and challenge corporate data practices.

While the challenges to privacy are perhaps greater than ever, Citron said that the passion of young people on the issue gives her hope. The paper cites a recent instance where teenagers testified before the Vermont legislature on behalf of a bill that would require tech companies to make default settings more private and to notify young people when they were being tracked.

“We need to hear from them,” she said of the young people. “They were central. They were very clear—we do not want companies selling our information.”

—Cooper Allen



ABROKWA, CONTINUED FROM P. 41

disability accommodations by individuals who already have a physical or mental impairment and seek the accommodation so that their impairment does not become disabling in the future or exacerbate the symptoms of a different disability, like a person with a pre-cancerous skin condition that might advance into cancer if the person does not receive the accommodation. Courts have been more receptive to treating these post-impairment cases as falling within the scope of disability civil rights law.

The paper analyzes the rationales for and challenges with using disability civil rights law under both applications of this framework, ultimately concluding that only the post-impairment application of this framework appears well-suited for resolution under disability civil rights law. Part of the next stage of my research is to continue exploring whether other areas of the law, such as health law, might be better suited to respond to the underlying impetus of the pre-impairment efforts to obtain disability accommodations.

What are some examples of adverse treatment due to the perception of a future disability?

One case I’ve studied in depth involved a woman who was planning to travel to Ghana to visit her sister, and her employer fired her three days before the trip because they thought she would contract Ebola during the trip and then come back to the U.S. and transmit Ebola to colleagues and customers. I’ve called that an example of “preemptive disability stigma,” meaning that a person is treated adversely today based on a fear they may become disabled in future. Our disability civil rights laws are meant to combat stigma about disability, and I argue the same legal theory should apply when an employer or another entity subject to these laws discriminates against a person based on disability stigma proactively.

How could the frameworks you propose help make future disabilities a focus of civil rights law?

I see this project aligning nicely with the increasing scholarly focus on individuals who may become exposed to disabling conditions due to their interactions with various systems or institutions. This article advances that work to specifically consider whether someone who faces the prospect they will be disabled in the future has access to the rights and remedies of federal disability civil rights laws today. Becoming disabled can be a complex, often unpredictable and nonlinear process over time, and we need a better way of understanding when and how the protections of disability civil rights law apply.

My next frontier is to think about—if disability civil rights law is not the appropriate legal framework for someone’s claims that implicate a potential future disability, say in the pre-impairment context—what other areas of the law may be relevant? That’s the next stage of my research, with a particular focus on how experiences of racial discrimination can have adverse health effects and be potentially disabling in the future.

—Josette Corazza

ALUMNI



▶ Catherine “Kate” Scavello ’05 chases her toddler through Scott Commons at a Law Alumni Weekend barbecue May 10.

Lessons From Law AND HOOPS

UVA MEN'S BASKETBALL ASSOCIATE HEAD COACH GRIFF ALDRICH '99 REFLECTS ON ROAD BACK TO GROUNDS

By Cooper Allen

GRIFF ALDRICH '99, the new associate head coach of the Virginia men's basketball team, did not follow the typical path to the sideline.

After graduating from UVA Law and spending one year as an assistant college coach, Aldrich worked the next 16 years in law and business before returning full-time to the game he loves in 2016.

In an interview on the "Admissible" podcast with Natalie Blazer '08, assistant dean for admissions at UVA Law, Aldrich reflected on his unlikely journey to the ACC basketball coaching ranks and the many lessons he's learned along the way.

FAST BREAK TO LAW SCHOOL

Aldrich said he was a fan of all sports growing up in Virginia Beach but fell in love with basketball—in large part due to watching ACC basketball on Jefferson-Pilot Sports, a regional sports syndicator at the time. He recounted how much fun it was watching Coach Mike Krzyzewski's Duke teams of the 1980s.

Aldrich played collegiately at Hampden-Sydney College, where he would become a team captain. He laughingly noted that, notwithstanding his wonderful teammates, playing for the Division III team did not fulfill his loftiest ambitions as a player: "Genetics and just pure ability kind of stunted my dreams and my ultimate trajectory."

However, his time there did prove pivotal to both his basketball and legal careers. One of his teammates was Ryan Odom, Virginia's new head coach, who in 2016 hired Aldrich as director of recruiting and program development at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County and earlier this year at UVA.

Aldrich also told Blazer that he increasingly shifted his focus from the hardwood to the classroom during his undergraduate years.

"I probably pursued basketball, certainly in the high school time frame, with more energy and intensity than maybe I did my academics. And that probably flipped, quite honestly, in college," he said.

Aldrich was interested in coaching and was planning to attend law school at Wake Forest so that he could join the

staff of Odom's father, Dave Odom, then the head coach, as a graduate assistant. Dave Odom had also been an assistant coach at UVA in the 1980s.

After Aldrich told his teammate that he had been accepted at UVA Law, that plan changed.

The Odoms had loved their previous stint in Charlottesville and thought very highly of the institution. Aldrich recalled that when he shared the news of his acceptance with Ryan Odom, who passed it along to his parents, Dave Odom lovingly told Aldrich that he was no longer welcome to join his staff at Wake Forest. In other words, the elder Odom knew that attending UVA Law was an opportunity Aldrich shouldn't pass up.

PROVING HIMSELF IN LAW

Aldrich told Blazer that his experience as a first-year law student at UVA just a few months removed from being an undergraduate was humbling. However, this transition also offered lessons that he would later pass on to players.

"To swim in deeper waters is probably a healthy thing, and I think it's



Griff Aldrich '99 has returned to UVA, this time as associate head coach for the men's basketball team.

broadening. We always tell basketball players, if you're the best player in the gym, you're probably not in the right gym. You're going to grow by being challenged," Aldrich said.

While a law student, Aldrich played intramural basketball at the North Grounds Recreation Center and coached at The Covenant School in Charlottesville.

"I always had that itch," he told Blazer.

He intended to join a law firm after graduation, but decided to wait a year and took an assistant coaching job back at Hampden-Sydney. Soon, though, he faced a career crossroads.

At a wedding for a close family friend, Aldrich said a conversation with the groom's father was a pivotal moment. The mentor and friend encouraged him to try law first, before committing to a career in coaching.

Additionally, Aldrich described himself as "a performance addict," and he told Blazer he felt a need to see if he could be successful in the world of Big Law.

So, he joined Vinson & Elkins, working for the corporate group in

Houston. He eventually worked in the firm's London office and became a partner.

"I knew I wasn't as gifted as some of those attorneys there, but I know you're not going to outwork me," Aldrich said.

He spent 12 years with Vinson & Elkins and then worked an additional four years in the energy sector, including as managing director and chief financial officer for Atinum Energy Investments.

RETURNING TO THE GAME HE LOVES

Early in his legal career, Aldrich told Blazer he would fantasize about getting back into college basketball each spring during the coaching hiring cycle.

A few years into his legal career, a position opened up at the College of William & Mary, which was then led by Aldrich's old college coach. Even though the job would be a significant pay cut from what he was earning as a lawyer, he had paid off his student loan

and was ready to make the leap.

However, a longtime NBA player who came with a recommendation from legendary North Carolina coach Dean Smith ultimately got the job, a decision that Aldrich said he accepted.

"I think it probably freed me up emotionally and mentally to just dig into what I was doing at the law firm and coaching," said Aldrich, who was also working with AAU youth basketball during that period.

The right opportunity finally arrived in 2016 when his old friend Ryan Odom, now the head coach at UMBC, hired him to help run the program. Two years later, Aldrich had a front-row seat to a game no UVA fan will ever forget: when UMBC became the first No. 16 seed to defeat a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

"That's one of the beautiful things about March Madness is that the stars can align," Aldrich said.

The following season, Virginia achieved the ultimate redemption by winning the national championship.

"It's incredible. I think it's a testament to coach [Tony] Bennett and a testament to those players," he said.



As head coach at Longwood, Aldrich watches forward Jesper Granlund (35) apply pressure to Winthrop guard Micheal Anumba (3) during the Big South Conference tournament championship game on March 6, 2022, in Charlotte, N.C.

APPHOTO/RUSTY JONES

VIRGINIA ATHLETICS



Aldrich and UVA men's basketball players toured the Lawn and other sights on Grounds this summer.

In 2018, Longwood University hired Aldrich to become their head coach where, over seven seasons, he led the school to two NCAA Tournament appearances and two Big South conference championships.

Leading a Division I program at Longwood forced Aldrich to tackle the dramatic changes in collegiate sports that have recently developed with the advent of the transfer portal and player compensation.

On transfers, Aldrich said that while he believes it is important to allow student athletes freedom to pursue more favorable situations, he is concerned about the implications that multiple transfers can have on a student's graduation trajectory, player development and team continuity.

He also discussed the complicated

"If you're the best player in the gym, you're probably not in the right gym. You're going to grow by being challenged."

—Griff Aldrich '99

very different even than what it is today. It's just an evolving situation."

TALENT AND CHARACTER

While he may have taken an unconventional route to coaching, Aldrich said that there are skills critical to success in both sports and the law.

Describing his work in the corporate

nature of the issues raised by name, image and likeness deals and direct payments to players.

"It's really hard because you're trying to balance this notion of amateurism with the fact of the matter that college athletics is a highly lucrative business," Aldrich said.

He added: "My bet is next year at this time if we talk, it'll be very different even than what it is today. It's just an evolving situation."

group as a deal lawyer, Aldrich said attention to detail was vital. "Your job is not to let anything get through the cracks."

"Project management and organization and details and doing things at a high level" have been hallmarks of his coaching philosophy as well, he said.

At Longwood, Aldrich said, "one of our main core values was excellence. We wanted to strive for excellence. And I think what was critical for our players to see is that the staff, what we did was excellent."

Aldrich also highlighted the importance of culture and values to a successful legal practice and winning sports program.

"There are plenty of people who have talent," he said, describing both high-achieving aspiring lawyers and athletes. "The question is, do you have the talent and the character?"

Aldrich also harkened back to lessons he learned during his three years at UVA Law.

"I learned so much about myself. It sharpened so many skills. It stretched me in so many ways," he said.

**MASAMI
OKINO LL.M. '96
APPOINTED TO
SUPREME COURT
OF JAPAN**

From
Professor to

JUSTICE

By Mike Fox

MASAMI OKINO, a 1996 graduate of UVA Law's LL.M. program, said she has always had "an emotional attachment to the number 4."

She was the fourth female professor of the University of Tokyo Faculty of Law. Through an appointment by the government's Cabinet, and then approval by Emperor Naruhito in July, she became the fourth sitting female justice on the Supreme Court of Japan, a record number for the court. She is the 10th woman to ever serve as a justice.

Okino said she was surprised by her appointment, but is eager to make an impact on case law in her country and contribute to the court's mission.

"I thought it would be challenging and exciting, since I recognize the significance of case law and especially of the role of the Supreme Court," she said.

The Supreme Court, comprised of 14 justices and a chief justice who can all serve until age 70, is Japan's independent court of last resort with the power of judicial review over civil, criminal and administrative cases.

Okino, an expert in civil law and contracts, was the first female dean of the University of Tokyo Faculty of Law and was also dean of the Graduate Schools for Law and Politics. Before joining the University of Tokyo, she was a professor at the Gakushuin University Faculty of Law and at the Hitotsubashi University Graduate School of Law. She has also been a member of the Justice Ministry's National Bar Examination Commission, the civil law subcommittee of the Justice Ministry's Legislative Council and the Supreme Court's Advisory Committee for Establishment of Civil Rules.

Before earning her LL.M., Okino earned her law degree from the Uni-

versity of Tokyo, where she said she was drawn to civil over criminal law because of the former's breadth.

"I once wrote that thinking about a civil law question is like assembling a jigsaw puzzle: thinking how a piece fits into the whole picture, i.e. the system of civil law," she said. "The interesting thing is that, different from a jigsaw puzzle, the complete picture could be variable."

While Okino has not practiced law outside of her academic career, she said her background as a researcher and dean at her alma mater will be beneficial for the development of case law.

"I often or sometimes encounter a solid case law rule, that is therefore followed frequently, but whose grounds are not that solid or whose leading case judgment does not provide any specific reason to ground the rule," she said. Bringing that perspective to the court, she added, "could be applicable to both the application of the existing rules and

the establishment of new rules."

When she was an associate professor of law at Gakushuin University, Okino was offered a one-year sabbatical for early career researchers. Though most civil law scholars study in France or Germany, and

her first thesis was on French law and the interpretation of contracts, Okino said she wanted to study in the United States because she thought common law jurisdictions "would open my eyes in several ways, including the way of teaching in law school." She was also interested in learning about law and economics.

She said she was drawn to UVA after hearing from professors who enjoyed their time at the Law School and in Charlottesville.

"I heard that the atmosphere at UVA Law is friendly and that the LL.M.

program is relatively small and cozy for all students to get to know each other, and especially the professors there are kind enough to talk and discuss matters with students," Okino recalled. "With my experience at UVA Law, I found that all of these are true."

In a class of about 40 LL.M. students, four were from Japan, she noted.

She said she was impressed most by the professors' readiness to respond to students' questions inside and outside the classroom. She learned in Contracts, taught by then-Dean Robert E. Scott, the importance of making arguments from different sides and deepening the perspectives behind the arguments. And she appreciated Professor Paul G. Mahoney's patience in answering her questions in Corporate Finance. (Mahoney later became dean and currently serves as UVA's interim president.)

"I remember in one class, Professor Mahoney picked up and proved the Black-Scholes equation using the entire white board to show that it was provable," Okino said, referring to the mathematical model that helps price the value of derivatives, a type of financial instrument. "We were overwhelmed, but we thought only a few [of even the J.D. students] in the class had followed him."

UVA Law professor David S. Law, author of "The Japanese Supreme Court and Judicial Review," said it is typical for the court to draw justices from different professional backgrounds, including from academia.

"She will bring to the court knowledge of U.S. law," he said. "It's unusual for a Japanese justice to have a degree from any U.S. law school, never mind UVA in particular. In much of Asia, it's very common for judges to have foreign legal training, but not in Japan."

Okino said the number of female judges and law scholars in Japan has increased in recent years, so the Supreme Court is starting to reflect that.

"Being a woman has no relation to one's suitability, talent or superiority as a judge or law scholar or any legal professional," she said. "Women are as talented and suited as others."

"Being a woman has no relation to one's suitability, talent or superiority as a judge or law scholar or any legal professional."

—Masami Okino LL.M. '96



PABLO RAYA

► Kemi Adegoroye '17 strikes a pose at Blues Alley.

All That JAZZ

KEMI ADEGOROYE '17, A PRACTICING ATTORNEY, HAS BUILT A SECOND CAREER IN MUSIC

By Mark F. Bernstein '89

ELLA FITZGERALD. Dizzy Gillespie. Charles Mingus. Wynton Marsalis. Tony Bennett.

These are just some of the musical greats who have appeared at Blues

Alley, the venerable Washington, D.C., jazz club in the heart of Georgetown that was founded in 1965.

On July 14, Kemi Adegoroye '17 added her name to the list. She performed in two shows at the 125-seat venue, which bills itself as the “oldest

continuing jazz supper club” in the country. Then in August, she headlined the official kickoff for the Richmond Jazz and Music Festival.

Although her summer appearances may be the biggest highlights of Adegoroye's musical career to date, they are far from the only one. She has already sung at other D.C.-area landmark venues, such as Pearl Street Warehouse and Mr. Henry's, not to mention appearances around the country and internationally. Her first single, “The Man Who Stole the Moon,” was a finalist for a 2021 “Wammie” award by the Washington Area Music Association. Her debut soul EP, “For the Record,” was a finalist for two more Wammies in 2022. She has even sung the national anthem a few times before Washington Nationals baseball games.

Adegoroye is a musician and producer who can perform jazz standards while also knocking out some new compositions of her own. One fan commented on Adegoroye's website that her voice is “nothing short of magical, blending smooth jazz melodies with a silky, rich voice that instantly draws you in.”

Music is neither just a hobby nor is it her only profession. Adegoroye remains a practicing lawyer, a full-time risk assessment manager with a banking and technology company.

“It's always been two simultaneous careers,” she said.

Her musical career began early in life. Adegoroye's parents, Nigerian immigrants and U.S. citizens, started her on piano and voice lessons, enrolled her in theater classes, and honed her tastes listening to the radio during the morning drive to school. Adegoroye saw Aretha Franklin in concert when she was just 12.

She continued singing at Princeton University, where she majored in history and earned a certificate (Princeton's term for a minor) in theater, performing with the chapel choir internationally and in several shows across campus. Adegoroye didn't want to leave her musical dreams behind after being admitted to UVA Law. She took a gap year after finishing college and spent the time auditioning for Broadway and releasing a CD of Christmas songs.

When Adegoroye finally arrived in Charlottesville, she threw herself into



► Adegoroye performs with Terra Firma the Band in 2022, which resulted in an album of live covers and original songs.

CAROLINE MARNEY

law school, satisfying what she described as her “nerd side.”

“I love creativity, but there's a part of me that also loves the logical mindset, the legal mindset.”

Her favorite classes included Contracts with former Dean Paul G. Mahoney and Torts with Professor Barbara Armacost '89. And of course, she wrote and performed in the Libel Show.

Even amid her legal studies, Adegoroye admitted, she just couldn't let her performing side go.

“I was constantly thinking of song ideas or projects,” she said. “I'd be in Civ Pro and my mind would wander off thinking, ‘Oh, this would be a great song idea.’”

Asked if many people at law school knew of her musical ambitions, Adegoroye laughed. “A couple did,” she said, “because it's all I talked about.”

Sometime in the fall of Adegoroye's second year, she read an interview in which Adele, one of her favorite artists, was asked about pressure to follow up her hit album, “21.” She replied that if the new songs aren't good, she just won't release them. Somehow, that outlook stripped away much of the self-imposed pressure Adegoroye was feeling.

“For whatever reason, that gave me the permission to start writing again,” she said.

After spending her 3L year in Paris, earning a master's degree through UVA's exchange program at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po), Adegoroye worked for two years in private practice with the Washington office of Latham & Watkins. As much as she enjoyed the Big Law challenge, Adegoroye soon realized that it would be impossible to pursue a musical career while also working crushing hours as an associate. She moved to the fintech company in 2020.

It was a choice that paid off quickly. The same night she decided to go in-house, Adegoroye went with friends to Mr. Henry's jazz club in Washington. There was an open mic night and, on the spur of the moment, Adegoroye went up and improvised an old jazz standard with the house band. When she finished, the manager asked if she wanted to come back and do a full show later that year.

She released “The Man Who Stole the Moon” soon after, on Valentine's Day 2020, and worked through the pandemic to produce her “For the Record” EP. In 2022, she led the soul, jazz, and R&B group Terra Firma the Band to release “Live with Terra Firma,” a mix of covers and original songs. An R&B song, “In My Corner,” was released in 2023, accompanied by

an early 2000s-inspired music video that won a 2024 Telly-Award.

As Adegoroye acknowledged in a 2022 interview with Princeton, most of her time as an artist doesn't involve making music.

“It's sending emails, making phone calls, putting Doodles and schedules together, putting out Instagram posts, reaching out to publications and networking,” she explained. Inspiration can strike at any time. Her song, “Those Rainy Days,” came to her during a rainstorm in the middle of the night. Asked how she balances two careers, Adegoroye credited a simple bullet journal, but said she also turns to hobbies, including dance and baking, to help keep her grounded.

She said she plans to continue trying to do it all in the music industry as a writer, performer and producer, just like Lin-Manuel Miranda, Mindy Kaling, Issa Rae and some of her other artistic idols. Of course, none of them had to balance their creative work with a full-time day job as a lawyer.

“I know it sounds crazy,” Adegoroye said, “but I love all aspects of the music business.”

Still, in Adegoroye's heart, there is something special about getting up on stage. “I love live performances,” she said. “That's some of the best magic you'll feel as a musician.”

Catching Up WITH ALUMNI



JORDIN DICKERSON '20

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT PEMBROKE
FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

DESCRIBE YOUR WORK:

I am an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, where I teach all of our pre-law courses (constitutional law, criminal procedure, courts and public policy) as well as some general education courses in government. I also serve as the campus pre-law adviser, which means I help guide our students through the law school application process and work with them to be competitive applicants. In addition to teaching, I have service and scholarship obligations. My research has been focused on both the historical and contemporary relationship between the branches of government. On the service side, I am the executive director of SRMUN, which is a nonprofit that hosts collegiate-level model United Nations conferences. In short, I get to do a lot of fun things!

WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU ENJOY OUTSIDE OF WORK?

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my family. My husband and I have a 2 ½ year old and a newborn, so we are definitely kept busy! In trying to occupy our toddler, we like to take day trips to neighboring cities just to have a change of scenery (and of course to try out different parks).

ARE YOU WHERE YOU EXPECTED TO BE AT THIS STAGE OF YOUR CAREER AND LIFE?

Definitely not, career-wise. I have always had an interest in academia, but I assumed it would be something that would come later in life. It was really important to me that I have practice experience after law school, and I'm thankful I was able to spend time working as a public defender. I think it was one of the most valuable experiences I will have in my career. That being said, I love my job as a professor and getting to work with students. Helping students realize their full potential and discover a love of the law is the best part of the job.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT YOUR LIFE 5 YEARS AFTER LAW SCHOOL?

I think I have struck gold when it comes to work-life balance, particularly this soon after graduating law school. I am honestly so thankful to have a job that I love and that enables me to spend time with my family, especially while my children are little.

5, 10, 15 AND 25 YEARS AFTER LAW SCHOOL



RORY ERICKSON-KULAS '15

CORPORATE COUNSEL
AMAZON WEB SERVICES
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

DESCRIBE YOUR WORK:

I analyze new artificial intelligence laws that impact Amazon, interpret ambiguous provisions, develop compliance frameworks, and coordinate with impacted teams to help them meet the company's regulatory obligations and customer expectations. My role has a nice balance between internal work, where I get to dive in deep on solutioning with our impacted technical teams, and external work, where I partner with our policy teams on advocacy to regulators.

WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU ENJOY OUTSIDE OF WORK?

I love reading, even more so when I get to read with my kids. Right now, my sons and I are reading animal encyclopedias from cover to cover, so I've been enjoying learning (or re-learning) lots of interesting facts about snakes, bugs and falcons. I also try to squeeze in a few running races each year. Next up, I've got a 10K with my brother, sister-in-law and her entire extended family.

ARE YOU WHERE YOU EXPECTED TO BE AT THIS STAGE OF YOUR CAREER AND LIFE?

I wouldn't have guessed I'd focus on regulatory work or that I'd be at Amazon. When I graduated law school, I doubt I could have described artificial intelligence beyond the context of a sci-fi novel. But, starting my career as an Army lawyer did teach me how to adjust quickly and feel comfortable in new, ambiguous situations. The details of my work are different, but the rhythm is what I would have expected.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT YOUR LIFE 10 YEARS AFTER LAW SCHOOL?

My family is the best thing in my life, and I'm so excited to watch my kids grow. Professionally, I'm happy I've found an area of law that presents continuous new challenges.



BRADLEY JUSTUS '10

PARTNER
AXINN, VELTROP & HARKRIDER
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DESCRIBE YOUR WORK:

Every day is different and interesting. There are some stretches when I am mostly in the office doing things like drafting or revising motions to dismiss or summary judgment briefs. I often have clients call for advice about a transaction, or I will conduct training for a client's employees on how to avoid antitrust trouble. There are other stretches where I am traveling extensively to take depositions, present witnesses at trial or conduct cross-examinations. I also meet with antitrust regulators to persuade them to approve mergers or support my clients in litigation.

WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU ENJOY OUTSIDE OF WORK?

I think I have more outside-work interests than outside-work time. But my favorite outside-the-office activity is trying to keep up with our daughter, Virginia. She has earned her name by always being the life of the party, but just mediating between her and our dog, Rowdy, is a full-time job. Outside of that, I love to play very poor golf, and I am an aficionado of direct-to-streaming Nicolas Cage movies and D.C. sushi restaurants.

ARE YOU WHERE YOU EXPECTED TO BE AT THIS STAGE OF YOUR CAREER AND LIFE?

Great question. I am not sure I had many preconceptions about what I would be doing 15 years (gulp!) after law school, but I am really happy about where I am. Before law school, I considered getting a Ph.D. in economics, and during law school I thought seriously about a career in criminal defense trial work. Antitrust law may be somewhere in the middle. A lot of the interesting legal questions either actually or practically implicate economic principles and analyses, and, increasingly, antitrust disputes are resolved through fairly high-stakes trials. It definitely keeps things interesting!

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT YOUR LIFE 15 YEARS AFTER LAW SCHOOL?

I have a wonderful family, a great job with great colleagues, and friends (including my UVA classmates) who will indulge me in recounting the glory days. What more could I ask for?



KEVIN KAUER '00

OWNER
AZALEA REALTY
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

DESCRIBE YOUR WORK:

After practicing commercial litigation with large firms in Greenville, South Carolina, and Charlotte, North Carolina, I went into business. Since 2004, I have owned and operated a real estate property management business in Anderson, South Carolina. Along with a dedicated staff of office employees and talented maintenance crew, we provide full-service residential property management. I derive a lot of satisfaction from carrying out our mission of providing clean, decent and affordable housing for our community. Running a small business and practicing law are different in many respects, but, at the end of the day, both are very much about serving clients.

WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU ENJOY OUTSIDE OF WORK?

I enjoy running, reading and listening to jazz. I had the chance to meet one of my favorite authors, David Baldacci '86, at the Law School in May, which was a big thrill. My wife, Laran, and I enjoy wine tastings and wine dinners. We also enjoy spending time with our miniature bull terriers, Liberty and Captain, especially at our condo on Hilton Head Island.

ARE YOU WHERE YOU EXPECTED TO BE AT THIS STAGE OF YOUR CAREER AND LIFE?

I think so. When I was in law school, I tended to think that success was a destination, and that you would know it when you arrived at that one particular place. I have come to realize that success, very much like life, is much more about the journey, rather than just the destination.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT YOUR LIFE 25 YEARS AFTER LAW SCHOOL?

One of my favorite quotes from legendary coach John Wooden is, "Things turn out best for those who make the best of the way things turn out." I feel incredibly lucky to have met my amazing wife, Laran, in 2010. We have a great life together, which is something I could not have imagined 25 years ago.

1954

GEORGE CHILTON GAINES

died Feb. 3 at his home in Philo, Calif., surrounded by his family.

Gaines was born in Fayetteville, W.Va., to Betty Chilton Gaines and Ludwell Ebersole Gaines. He was the third of five children who remained close throughout their lives.

He married Mary Moore Thompson in 1951, and they had six children “and 73 years of fun together.” They lived in Charlottesville, Cincinnati, Brussels, Finchampstead (England), Monaco, San Francisco and Philo. His family said Gaines planted trees in all those places.

Like his father, Gaines attended Lawrenceville School and Princeton University. He was the fourth consecutive generation in his family to practice law.

In the early 1960s, Gaines entered the business world and moved his family to Brussels, where he worked for C&I Girdler before becoming vice president and European manager for General Mills. In 1970, they moved to England, where he was a partner at Russell Reynolds Associates and established their European practice. He then founded Executive Partners International, a management consulting firm.

In 1984, Mary Moore enrolled at seminary in San Francisco. Gaines went to work at Korn Ferry, but big-city life was not his cup of tea. Shortly after living through the 7.1 magnitude earthquake in the Transamerica Building, he bought a guest ranch in the Anderson Valley.

While Mary Moore served as rector of St. James Church, Gaines hosted many family reunions and regaled countless guests and friends at Highland Ranch with riding, making hooch, singing, playing the banjo, and serving first-rate food and drink.

He is survived by his wife of 73 years, Mary Moore; his brother Stanley (Gay); his children, Caroline, George Jr. (Andrea), Meg (Margaret), Mary Moore (Paul), Jim (Terry) and Christian (Jill); his grandchildren Sarah, David, Martha, George III, Joanna, Taylor, Reed, Grace, Emily, Ian, Lila, Lola, Luke and Emery; and great-grandchildren Sarah, Teddy and Linnea.

1957



ARNOLD HARRISON LEON (COLLEGE '55) of Norfolk, Va., died Dec. 2, 2022. He was 89.

His family wrote that Leon was proud to have endowed the chair for the dean of UVA Law in 1983. He was honored to serve on the University's Board of Visitors from 1990-97 and as a member of its executive committee for UVA's first billion-dollar capital campaign.

In his career, Leon tried numerous landmark cases that were reported by the federal and Virginia state courts. He served as president of the Portsmouth Bar Association and was a founding member of Cooper, Spong, Davis, Kilgore, Parker, Leon & Fennell, where he kept an office until his death.

Early in his legal career, Leon shifted his focus to hospital law and business management. He was co-founder and president of American Medical Centers, an owner and operator of psychiatric hospitals throughout the South-

east and headquartered in Nashville, Tenn.

Passionate about service, he cherished his leadership positions with the United Way and the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater, and was a founder and trustee of the Tidewater Jewish Foundation. He was committed to the strength and integrity of the state of Israel and made numerous trips there. He was a founding member of the Virginia-Israel Commission for the commonwealth of Virginia.

Leon served on the Board of Visitors of Old Dominion University, where he contributed to its plans for the 21st century. He was honored for his philanthropic and civic achievements by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

At age 12, Leon became one of the youngest Boy Scouts to have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. While at UVA, he participated in the Army ROTC and was commissioned as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. He was a member of Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity and served as its house manager.

Leon was predeceased by his loving wife, Telsa, an accomplished artist. Survivors include three sons, Miles, Stephen (College '82 and GS A&S '85) and David (Engineering '86); two daughters-in-law; six grandchildren, including Mason (College '13) and Matthew (College '17); and three great-grandchildren.

1958

by **LARRY GRIM**
Class Secretary
jlawrencegrimjr@gmail.com

JIM ATKIN says, “It must be a chore to try to get 90-year-old lawyers to provide class notes when they are busy trying to cope with problems frequent at that age. I find that I am still able

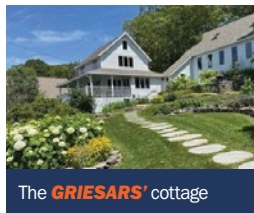
to walk two blocks to the store and to conduct an exercise class Monday-Friday for the residents who live in this apartment building (for people who are over 62) in Santa Rosa, California. I do it because it not only helps keep me active, but it also helps others who enjoy being active after retirement. There are just a few of us left, but we are proud to be able to contribute to your class notes.”

LEN COOPER'S widow, Vickie, writes: “I’m going to Maine next week to meet with the architect and contractor who are fixing up the many structural problems with the 100-year-old family cabin on Long Lake. Len and I had dreamed of renovating it, but his ill health got in the way. When I was able to get back to it, I found it in bad shape (rotten sills, cracked chimney—you get the picture). Many people sell cabins like that, and the new owners tear them down and build year-round houses. I considered selling, but I couldn’t do it. So, I am trying to fix it up like Len and I dreamed of doing. I hope he’s looking down from heaven and approving.”

Judge **WALTER GERALD FORD** writes: “All’s quiet on my homefront, but let me tell you of an event in my life. But first, a story: A man came home, drunk as a skunk. He made it to his living room, knocked over a lamp, and finally got to the sofa and passed out. He woke up the next morning in his bed with no recollection of how he got there. He quickly looked over and saw that his wife’s side of the bed was empty. His head was in a daze, but he saw a glass of water and a bottle of Alka Seltzer on the nightstand. He took it and walked into the kitchen, where he saw his daughter eating cereal. Sheepishly, he asked,

‘Where’s your mother?’ His daughter said, ‘She left a note.’ It read: ‘Honey, your breakfast is in the oven. Hope you are feeling better. Love, Judy.’ He said to his daughter, ‘I thought she would be mad at me.’ His daughter said, ‘Mad? She was furious! But, when we got you to the bedroom, mom was getting you out of your clothes and into your pajamas, and you kept saying, ‘Unhand me, woman, I am a married man!’”

Here’s my story: I had permission to attend a stag meeting of our bar association one night. The meeting ended early, so the guys decided to play blackjack. I was fascinated by how you could count cards and do the odds. So much so that the game got away from me. When I got home, Sallie was up in arms. She finally gave me a chance to talk, and I explained about the card game. I then told her the guys thought you might be upset, so they sent a gift. ‘What gift?’ she said. I emptied my pants pockets of handfuls of quarters, dimes and nickels. Then, I emptied my coat pockets of several \$20s, \$10s and \$5s, and a fistful of \$1s, and pushed them all toward her. All she said was: ‘Well, OK, but I’m still mad, honey.’”



BILL GRIESAR and his wife, Jane, are steadfast, loyal contributors to these notes. They report that their move to a retirement village, Broadview at Purchase College, continues to go very well. They especially like the freedom to escape to their summer home, a “cottage” at Long Cove, Maine, where they host children and grandchildren.



MCWHORTER'S grandsons and great-grandson

HOBART AMORY MCWHORTER JR. sadly passed away but left legacies that delight. His wife, Ellen (Ellie), is a wonderful correspondent. She sends this photo of two of Hobart’s grandsons and a great-grandson, who each look like him.

BENJAMIN K. PHIPPS was a pal in our Law class and in the College, who, like me and all the lucky young men then, loved living on the Lawn. He continued to care and served on a committee that carefully studied installing unobtrusive ramps for people with disabilities to traverse the different levels of the Lawn. His dear wife, JJ, writes: “Long ago, I asked Ben where he would live if not living at his Jubilee homestead in Tallahassee. He said Charlottesville. We had planned a trip there, but COVID intervened and took his life. I miss him so much. He loved it there, and he worked hard to keep the historical design of UVA while integrating disability needs. He always hoped Mr. Jefferson would approve.”

HENRY W. WILLIAMS JR. left our class the best legacy: his wife, Barbara Dimmick, a teacher of creative writing at Dartmouth College, whom he met while taking a summer course after retiring from the law.

She writes, “In the first months of knowing each other, Henry and I spent a long weekend at his chalet at Mount Tremblant, Quebec. In the kitchen, I found a cache of CDs, robust Celtic music and sea

shanties. I put a disk on the player, and Henry bolted out of the den. ‘Do you like this music?’ I grinned. Henry promptly danced a jig, I attempted a hornpipe I’d learned as a kid, and then we linked, spun and laughed. Thus began our impromptu dance parties. Henry had a beautiful voice. Me? Childhood report cards read: Cannot carry a tune! Henry hated my voice; I suggested he drown me out because I liked to sing, off-key and all. That first weekend, we belted out sea shanties: ‘A drop of Nelson’s blood won’t do us any harm! No, a drop of Nelson’s blood.’ We stomped in time, singing in our best pirate voices. Another favorite, ‘Oh me! Oh my! We heard the captain say, “I think I’m gonna die.” Oh me! Oh my! We heard the bosun say, “Why did I agree to another trip around the bay?”’ Sometimes at a sticky moment while sailing, one of us, to the puzzlement of the crew, would quietly sing, ‘Oh a drop of Nelson’s blood’ or the gleeful upbeat ‘Oh me, oh my, I think I’m going to die!’ We might be crossing shipping lanes in a heaving storm, but we always shared the flash of a grin.

“Since prep school, Henry had sung in church choirs, his favorite was ‘Amazing Grace.’ All four verses often drifted in from the porch, wafted up stairwells or floated through first-floor rooms. A day before he passed, a good friend and rector of another church came to say goodbye. They sang ‘Amazing Grace,’ holding each other the whole time, every verse, every line, every word. The next day, Henry’s last, our rector came. Henry gave him a baleful look. ‘You’re not going to sing, are you?’ he asked. No, the rector had come for final prayers. ‘Good,’ Henry said. ‘Your voice is almost as bad as Barbara’s.’ It turned out to be the last time he said my name, hours before his



LARRY GRIM '58 explains: “Kathy’s grandniece, Grace Bugler, my lady, Kathy; me; and Chrissie. We had a lot of fun showing Grace around and trying to teach her the lingo!”

death, and had it been a final declaration of love, a quietly shared intimacy? No, he was still grousing about my singing voice! I couldn’t help but laugh. “At Henry’s funeral, we sang our hearts out, smiling because he would have loved it, sobbing over the absence of his voice. For some reason, ‘A Drop of Nelson’s Blood’ did not appear in the order of service. But some days I still belt it out to cheer myself up.”

(I asked Barbara about the song, and she answered, “The most likely (perhaps) meaning of ‘Nelson’s Blood’ is that Admiral Lord Nelson lost an arm at Tenerife, and although his tactics secured victory, he was killed in the Battle of Trafalgar. It is a fact that his body was preserved in a barrel of rum (or brandy) for return to and burial in England. On arrival, the barrel still had Nelson’s body—but was empty of rum. History/tradition/legend has it that Nelson’s crew had siphoned it off, drinking a bit at a time. Hence, ‘A Drop of Nelson’s Blood.’”)

July 11-14 was the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Jefferson Literary and Debating Society and a wonderful excuse for Kathy and me to revisit the University. My daughter, Chrissie Grim Neikirk (College ’88), arranged for us to stay at Farmington Country Club and was chauffeur. There were multiple events at different locations. We skipped most in favor of revisiting fa-

vorite scenes and showing Grace, Kathy’s grandniece, recently admitted to the Architecture School for landscape architecture, the University.

After touring the Lawn, serpentine walls and ranges, we took Grace down to the Corner, passing the new Memorial to Enslaved Laborers. It is surprisingly large, yet beautiful in its simplicity. At lunch, outside at the Virginian, we watched the parade of young University students, brilliant, high achievers each.



The menu celebrated another anniversary, another uniform. On the cover, a picture from circa 1953 shows young men all in coats and ties at the bar. In the second row back, swigging beer by the mouthful, is your secretary, next to another Phi Gam and pal, Jim Dunn, left hand in pocket, who smiles at the camera.



The big show for most was a formal dinner Saturday night for 200 at Shumway Hall. I chose to forfeit my ticket so we

SUBMIT
A CLASS
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MAIL**UVA LAWYER**

University of Virginia

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Please send your submissions
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from your class.

CONTACT

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IN MEMORIAM: KIT BOND '63, MISSOURI GOVERNOR AND LONGTIME U.S. SENATOR

CHRISTOPHER “KIT” BOND '63, who served two terms as governor of Missouri before being elected to four terms in the U.S. Senate, died May 13 in St. Louis. He was 86.

After working in private practice in Washington, D.C., and serving as state auditor, Bond was elected in 1972 as the youngest governor in Missouri history at age 33. He was defeated for reelection four years later but won a nonconsecutive second term in 1980.

In Jefferson City, Bond supported the Equal Rights Amendment, rescinded a 19th-century directive targeting Mormons, championed a program for parental guidance of education called Parents as Teachers, and reformed special interest disclosure requirements and consumer protection laws. He also reshaped the government, reorganizing 96 independent agencies into 14 state departments.



U.S. SENATE PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO

“Kit, always with his trademark smile and sense of humor, was a fierce advocate for Missouri throughout his accomplished 40-year career of public service,” Gov. Mike Kehoe said in a statement. “Kit kept Missouri’s interests at heart, both in office and out, making our state a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Whenever he was thanked for his service, Kit’s response was always, ‘Serving the people of Missouri was the honor of my life.’”

Bond was elected to the Senate in 1986 and would chair the Small Business Committee. In Congress, he supported expanding free trade, offshore drill-

ing, and the George W. Bush administration’s national and domestic security policies. He was also a sponsor of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II, a former Kansas City mayor, touted Bond’s leadership on numerous city projects, including the Charles E. Whittaker Federal Courthouse, the National World War I Museum and Memorial, and the construction of the Christopher S. Bond Bridge.

“While he could have stayed in Washington, D.C., to pursue a lucrative career in law, his love for Missouri and passion for public service were a magnetic force that brought him back home,” Cleaver said in a statement to The Kansas City Star.

In 2009, Bond announced that he would not seek a fifth term. After leaving office, he joined the law firm of Thompson Coburn and co-chaired the Housing Commission at the Bipartisan Policy Center. He launched his own firm, Kit Bond Strategies, in 2011.

Bond earned his LL.B. from UVA and his bachelor’s degree from Princeton University.

—Mike Fox

could dine with **DOUGLASS S. MACKALL III** at Farmington. Our classmate was his usual spirited self. We reminisced delightfully. We agreed we’d never seen a couple more in love than **BEN PHIPPS** and JJ at our Florida reunion. He and I were the only classmates to attend our 65th reunion. Doug lives near Farmington and, at 94, lives happily ever after.

The big show for us was a dinner in the Dome Room of the Rotunda—arguably the most beautiful place to dine at the U or anywhere—Sunday night for classes of the Jefferson Society that entered before 1990.



I was surprised and very honored to be asked to give the first toast of the evening, as I was the senior-most member present, having been admitted in 1954: “To Mr. Jefferson, our namesake, who wished to be remembered as author of the Declaration of American Independence and of the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom—and, as father of the University of Virginia!”

1961

GRANT BARNITZ HERING, age 88, of New York, died May 8.

Born in Wilmington, Del., Hering was the youngest of four siblings “in a family that valued intellect, athleticism and civic duty,” according to the family. At Tower Hill School, he co-captained the football and baseball teams. As a youth, Hering followed his brother, George, to Camp Dudley on Lake Cham-

plain, where he took full advantage of the sports and later developed leadership skills as a camp counselor. Hering went on to Harvard College, graduating in 1958, before earning his law degree at the University. He later obtained his LL.M. in taxation from the New York University School of Law in 1967.

In 1960, Hering was introduced to Katrina Van Valkenburgh, a fellow Delaware native and graduate of Smith College. They married in 1962, settling in New York City and then Pelham, N.Y., to raise their three children. Later, they moved back to Manhattan and split their time between the city and Quogue, a Long Island village.

Hering first joined Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft in 1961 and returned as a partner in 1969 following his tenure as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York. He became Cadwalader’s general counsel in 1996. In 2011, he married Virginia Marie Henneberry.

PAT QUINN '88, managing partner at Cadwalader, said Grant was “in every sense, a Cadwalader institution. His career at the firm spanned more than 50 years, during which he played nearly every role imaginable: litigator, adviser, general counsel, ethics expert, educator, administrator, mentor, steward, historian and, above all, a trusted friend and wise counselor to generations of lawyers. He mentored countless attorneys, taught legal ethics and law firm risk management with grace and clarity, and served as a key voice in the legal ethics community both in New York and nationally. Grant’s contributions are legion. His skills, personality, charm and perseverance were captured when called to mediate complex matters. He was economical in words and advocacy, relying on his relation-

ships to draw partners to come to the right result for the firm. Our memories of Grant are a tribute to the legacy he left to the firm of being a role model for what it means to be ‘a good partner’ in the best tradition of Cadwalader.”

1962

WILLIAM T. “BILL” GRAHAM died on April 12 after a brief battle with cancer. Graham was born to James Monroe Graham and Virginia Goodwin in Waynesboro, Va., in 1933. He played football on a scholarship at Fishburne Military School before attending Duke University, where he majored in economics. Graham met his wife, Nancy Kent Hill (who went by “Kent”) of Winston-Salem, N.C., and they married on Feb. 1, 1958, in Tokyo. After serving in the U.S. Army in Japan and Hawaii, he attended the Law School.

Graham and Kent made Winston-Salem their home, though in the late 1960s, Graham’s career took the family to Washington, D.C., where he served as assistant general counsel to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Upon returning to Winston-Salem, they purchased Kent’s childhood home. Later, they briefly resided in Raleigh, where Graham served as North Carolina’s banking commissioner and practiced law with Patton Boggs.

Graham’s law career included criminal and civil litigation, bankruptcy, corporate law and tax law. He practiced in Winston-Salem with Craig, Brawly, Horton and Graham (1962-69), Billings and Graham (1970-75), and Graham, Glenn, Crumpler & Harbeger (1979-81). Graham’s work as a superior court judge (1975-79) included holding court in 93 of North Carolina’s 100 counties. His family said

Graham drove home from most counties each evening to be with them.

From 1963 until 1997, Graham was deeply involved in politics. He served on various Republican committees and political campaigns, holding leadership positions at the local, state and national levels in over 35 campaigns. His experiences included riding in presidential motorcades, flying on Air Force One, attending a state dinner at the White House and numerous Republican National Conventions.

Even after retiring, Graham continued to practice law and maintained his civic ties in Raleigh, serving as chair of the North Carolina Institute of Constitutional Law and as a board member and executive committee chair of the John Locke Foundation.

Graham loved driving trips, visiting 2,882 counties in the United States. On one road trip with Kent, they crossed every bridge and took every ferry across the Mississippi River. His international travels brought him to over 90 countries.

Graham was preceded in death by his wife and son, William T. Graham Jr., and his dear friend and companion, Nancy Beals (widow of **D. KENT BEALS**). He is survived by his daughter, Ashton C. Graham; brother, Jack Graham; daughter-in-law Cinny S. Graham; and numerous nieces and nephews.

1964

JAMES SCOTT MERRITT JR. died Feb. 26 in Manhattan, Kan. Born to James Scott Merritt and Roberta Sevier Merritt in 1939, he lived in Memphis, Tenn., until the family moved to Kansas City in 1955.

After graduating from North Kansas City High

School, he attended Yale University, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in history. After earning his law degree at Virginia, he joined the Kansas City law firm of Stinson Mag and practiced there for two decades. He went on to open his own practice.

Merritt was an avid trumpet player and enjoyed bird hunting, tennis and international travel. He was an active member of the Yale Alumni Club in Kansas City and a member of the Country Club Christian Church, and was involved with the UMKC Conservatory of Music.

He is survived by his sister, Patricia Merritt Lear; sons, John Sevier Merritt and James Scott Merritt III; his daughter-in-law, Jennifer Anne Merritt; three grandchildren, Scott, Walter Merritt, Allie Vance Merritt and Kylie Anna Merritt; nephew, Peter Merritt Lear; and niece, Merritt Beck.

1965

WILLIAM R. “BILL” WADDELL released “Woven as One,” a memoir of his 65-year love affair with his late wife, Linda. The couple were married just before he entered law school, and the book includes a chapter on those years. Waddell practiced law for 50 years in Richmond and Norfolk, Va., and taught Alternative Dispute Resolution at the Law School, retiring in 2015. “Woven As One” is available on Amazon and at local bookstores.

1967

GERALD E. MCDOWELL of Reston, Va., and Chatham, Mass., died May 27 at 83. McDowell attended Brown University and the University of Rhode Island, graduating with a B.A. in

1964. While at URI, he met the love of his life, Regina McHie. While working on his J.D. at UVA, McDowell played on the Virginia Men’s Rugby Club team and lived on the Range.

McDowell worked for the U.S. Department of Justice as a federal prosecutor for over 35 years. He served as the chief of the Organized Crime Strike Forces in Boston and St. Louis. He was the Washington, D.C., supervisor of ABSCAM. This landmark FBI investigation resulted in the convictions of a U.S. senator and six members of Congress, as well as numerous other officials, lawyers and assorted rogues. He later served as chief of the Public Integrity Section, where he led high-profile corruption investigations and successful prosecutions into the federal judiciary. Later in his career, he was chief of the Fraud Section before becoming director of the Asset Forfeiture Office, where he served as chief until he retired.

A steadfast believer in the principles of American democracy, his family said McDowell dedicated his life to upholding truth, justice and the rule of law. He viewed the federal government as a vital instrument for the public good and saw the rule of law not merely as a legal concept, but as the foundation of a just and functioning society. He lived by these convictions with integrity and purpose.

In retirement, he remained active in his community, serving as president of the newcomers’ club and the men’s club, and teaching tai chi. McDowell had a gift for humor, a dry wit, great timing and a love of storytelling that made every gathering welcoming and full of laughter.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Regina; three children, Nicholas McDowell, Meghan Mc-

Dowell (College ’97) and Susanna McDowell; and three grandchildren.

1970

FRANCIS L. CARTER was honored by the Florida Bar Association as a 50-year member at the Annual Florida Bar Convention held in Boca Raton in June.

ELAINE R. JONES wrote, “My UVA friends at the Law School had everything to do with my recent election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.”

1971

ROBERT A. SKEELS JR. was honored by the Florida Bar Association as a 50-year member at the Annual Florida Bar Convention held in Boca Raton in June.

1974

DAVID P. PARKER is retired and lives in Wilmington, N.C.

FREDERICK W. PAYNE wrote, “Caroline and I are both retired, nursing our illnesses and living in quiet splendor in Fluvanna County, Va., since 2018.”

1975

DAVID A. BURT was honored by the Florida Bar Association as a 50-year member at the Annual Florida Bar Convention held in Boca Raton in June.

NICHOLAS LOTITO penned some verse on his flight to Charlottesville in May for the class’s 50th reunion weekend: **Older and More Rotunda** 53 years ago, we entered Clark Hall,

Scared, yet excited, awaiting it all. Alphabetical letters determined new friends, Thick, heavy books were the means to our end. The names of professors appeared on those books. We read and we listened as the methodology took. Palmer and Whitebread, McCoid and Speidel challenged our thinking, developed us well. We formed lasting friendships as our time here flew by. Now, looking back, 'twas the wink of an eye. We earned the degree that would help shape our lives, pursuing careers, choosing husbands and wives. 50 years hence, we return to the Grounds, bank accounts larger, but also more pounds. At a time for reflection, fellow women and men, If I could do it all over, I'd do it again. Many have perished, no longer alive, Still, we all share a bond, Class of '75.

1981



Spilman Thomas & Battle partner **DAVID P. FERRETTI** was elected as a member in charge of lawyer succession on the firm's management committee. Ferretti previously served as a member in charge of lawyer administration. Based in Charleston, W.Va., Ferretti co-chairs the health care, and mergers and acquisitions practice groups.

1982

ALLEN BOYER'S book, "The Rise and Fall of Treason in English History," written with Mark Nicholls, was reviewed by Matt Steilen, a legal historian and constitutional scholar at the State University of New York at Buffalo. The review appeared in the Law and History Review, a journal run by the American Society for Legal History and published by Cambridge University Press. The book was also reviewed by and received a favorable mention from Helen Lacey, a medieval historian at Mansfield College at Oxford, in the journal The English Historical Review.



DENNIS P. DUFFY, a director in the Houston office of Kane Russell Coleman Logan, was recognized by the 2025 Chambers USA Guide for Labor and Employment Law for the 14th consecutive year.



WILLIAM H. HINES was re-elected as managing partner for a fifth consecutive five-year term at Jones Walker in New Orleans. Hines is credited with strategically growing the firm across nine states and the

District of Columbia. He expanded the practice areas of artificial intelligence, data privacy, digital health care and cybersecurity, and has dedicated his time and influence to economic and community development across the broader region.

1983



Probate judges from across Ohio's 88 counties elected Geauga County Probate Judge **TIMOTHY GRENDALL.M.** president of the Ohio Association of Probate Judges for the 2025-27 term. Grendell was sworn into office by Ohio Supreme Court Justice Patrick F. Fischer. Grendell is the first Geauga County judge to serve as president of both OAPJ and the Ohio Association of Juvenile Court Judges.

CRAIG OWEN WHITE was appointed national chair of strategic relations and community outreach with Hahn Loeser & Parks. He remains a practicing senior partner in business and corporate transactions law, while assuming the leadership role that aligns with the firm's growth plans across six offices.

White recently completed a tenure as partner-in-charge of the Cleveland office that began in 2019. In 2024, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy presented him with its highest honor, the Sugar Maple Award. Last year, he was re-selected for membership with The National Black Lawyers Top 100 for Ohio.

1984



Jackson Lewis partner **EMMETT F. MCGEE JR.** was recognized in the Chambers USA Guide 2025. McGee is principal in the firm's Baltimore office and represents employers in all aspects of employment law and human resource management, including employment discrimination, wage and hour issues, and affirmative action planning.

1986



After 29 years of private practice in the litigation division of a regional law firm, **VERNON F. DUNBAR** was elected by the South Carolina General Assembly to serve as a state circuit



The Law School was well-represented at the Federal Bar Association's Leadership Summit in Arlington, Va., on March 29. Pictured are **RONIKA J. CARTER '14**, senior director of legal affairs for the Minnesota Vikings; **ROBERT J. CONRAD JR. '83**, director of the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts and keynote speaker at the summit; **KEVIN A. MAXIM '94** of The Maxim Law Firm; and **DAN H. RENBERG '90** of ArentFox Schiff.

court judge for the 13th Judicial Circuit. Dunbar assumed office Jan. 2.

Trial attorney **WILLIAM A. ISAACSON** is a founding partner in Dunn Isaacson Rhee in Washington, D.C. The modern litigation boutique specializes in high-stakes trials, investigations and crisis management in D.C., New York and San Francisco.



The Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press presented McGuireWoods partner **BRAD KUTROW** its Freedom of the Press Pro Bono Award for his work in a national program that provides journalists and news organizations the legal resources needed to serve their communities effectively.

The annual award recognizes the accomplishments of leaders in the news media and legal fields whose work embodies the values of the First Amendment.

Based in Charlotte, N.C., Kutrow is McGuireWoods' lead partner in the Protecting Journalists Pro Bono

Program. Operated by the Reporters Committee, the program brings together teams of law firm media attorneys and corporate in-house counsel to meet the growing needs of local journalists. Kutrow assists nonprofit and startup news organizations with pre-publication article review to guard against defamation and helps with public records requests that local governments do not fulfill.

Kutrow is a partner in the commercial litigation group and a member of the appeals and issues group. He was the founding chair of the North Carolina Bar Association's Appellate Practice Section. Before law school, he worked as a reporter.

1987



CALVIN W. "WOODY" FOWLER JR., president and CEO of Williams Mullen in Richmond, was selected by Virginia Business as an inaugural Virginia C-Suite Awards recipient. The award recognizes the top corporate executives who consistently demonstrate remarkable leadership skills, integrity, values, vision, commitment to excellence, company performance and community engagement.

Since he was elected president and CEO in 2015, Fowler has implemented significant changes in the firm's leadership structure and introduced a long-term strategic plan. Throughout his tenure, he positioned Williams Mullen for financial success and fostered a

culture that led the firm to be consistently recognized as a "Best Place to Work" in Richmond and Raleigh, N.C.

JEFFREY KERR was named the first chief operating officer of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Kerr has spent close to three decades at PETA, first as general counsel and senior vice president of corporate affairs, and later as chief legal officer. In that role, he recently filed a First Amendment lawsuit against the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Mental Health. The first-of-its-kind lawsuit made headlines in The Washington Post and seeks to enforce PETA's right to receive communications from "willing speakers"—the macaque monkeys Beamish, Sam Smith, Nick Nack and Guinness, who have spent years in cages and being experimented on at the NIMH laboratory.

There have been two productions of **CATHY LESSER MANSFIELD'S** opera about the Holocaust, "The Sparks Fly Upward." The most recent production in Cleveland was filmed in 2022 and was broadcast on the public television station in Northeast Ohio for Yom HaShoah. It was also presented in Berlin by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom on May 4, in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

STEPHEN PERSHING, of counsel with Kalijarvi, Chuzi, Newman & Fitch in Washington, D.C., is serving a two-year term as president-elect of the Metropolitan Washington Employment Lawyers Association, an organization dedicated to advising and representing employees in employment and civil



POWELL '82 ELECTED VIRGINIA'S CHIEF JUSTICE

CLEO E. POWELL '82 was unanimously elected chief justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia by her peers, the court announced Aug. 26.

Powell will make history when she assumes her new post for a four-year term Jan. 1, becoming the first Black woman to serve as chief justice of the commonwealth's highest court. She will succeed another UVA Law alum in the role, **S. BERNARD GOODWYN '86**.

Powell was first elected by Virginia's General Assembly as a justice on the Supreme Court in 2011—becoming the first Black female justice—and was re-elected in 2023. Prior to joining the Supreme Court, Powell served as a Court of Appeals judge, a judge for Virginia's 12th Judicial Circuit Court and on the Chesterfield General District Court. According to the Virginia Bar, she is the only member of the Supreme Court to have served as a judge at every level of the state's judicial branch.

Earlier in her career, Powell also practiced for years in both the private and public sectors, including as corporate counsel for Virginia Power and as an assistant attorney general.

In a statement to the Virginia State Bar following Powell's election, Goodwyn praised his successor.

"Chief Justice-elect Powell is

a dedicated jurist who exemplifies integrity, civility, and professionalism, and I am confident that she will serve the Court as Chief Justice with the highest distinction," he said.

A Double Hoo, Powell graduated with distinction from UVA as an undergraduate in 1979, majoring in government, and has maintained close ties to the Law School in the more than four decades since she graduated.

In 2021, she served as commencement speaker at UVA Law in a ceremony held during the COVID-19 pandemic. She reflected on her career, which had already set historic milestones, and encouraged all graduates to think about how they can pave the way for others.

"And while I accept that others may view me as such, I suggest that we all can be trailblazers because we all can leave a path for someone else to follow. We can all through a million little ways make a path easier, more illuminated, less treacherous for others who will come after," Powell said.

She was also recognized in 2023 by the Black Law Students Association at UVA Law as a recipient of the **A. DONALD MCEACHIN** Spotlight Award, named in honor of the late congressman and 1986 Law School alumnus.

—Cooper Allen

DOLLAR TREE NAMES MITCHELL '94 CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER



Dollar Tree Inc. promoted **JOHN S. MITCHELL JR. '94** to chief legal officer and corporate secretary, effective Aug. 11. Mitchell joined the company in 2021 as senior deputy general counsel and previously worked as a partner at the law firm Williams Mullen.

“Stepping into the role of chief legal officer for Dollar Tree is deeply meaningful to me on both a personal and professional level,” he told Law360 Pulse when the announcement was made in July. “I’ve spent my entire legal career connected to this company—first as outside counsel and then in-house—and have had the privilege of knowing all our company’s founders.”

The Chesapeake, Virginia-based company operates 9,000 discount variety stores in 48 states and Canada.

Mitchell said that working in Hampton Roads where he grew up and launched his career in law “feels like coming full circle.”

“John is a highly respected attorney whose sharp legal acumen and steady leadership have guided us through moments of significant change,” CEO Mike Creedon said in a statement. “He understands our business, our people, and the importance of protecting and advancing our mission.”

—Mike Fox

rights disputes. Pershing was named to the Law-dragon 500 Leading Civil Rights & Plaintiff Employment Lawyers guide.

1988



CATHERINE RINALDI with her colleague LISA STENSON DESAMOURS '89

CATHERINE RINALDI, president of Metro-North Railroad since 2018, retired from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority on March 31.

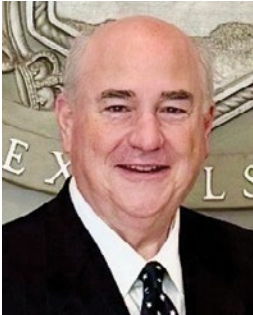
Rinaldi held numerous leadership roles at the MTA over the past 22 years, including general counsel, chief of staff and counsel to the chairman, as well as roles with the Long Island Rail Road, including general counsel and interim president. Both are the largest commuter railroads in the United States.

Another landmark in her career was serving as the first woman and sixth president of Metro-North. During her tenure, Metro-North became the first U.S. railroad to receive ISO-50001 certification, reducing its carbon footprint and generating \$2 million in annual savings by 2020. Metro-North also completed Positive Train Control across the entire 788-mile territory in New York and Connecticut.

LISA STENSON DESAMOURS '89, senior associate counsel with Metro-North, shared that “[Rinaldi has] so many more accomplishments, as well as abundant industry awards, such as consecutively receiving the Gold Award for the APTA Rail Safety, Security and Emergency Management Award in 2023 and 2024, which

are a testament to her exceptional leadership.”

1989



GEORGE BRYAN HARRIS SR. is now licensed to practice law in New York in addition to Texas, Alabama and Washington, D.C. Harris’ practice focuses on representing public and non-profit entities before executive and legislative bodies at all levels of government. In 2025, he was recognized by Best Lawyers in America in both government relations practice and economic development law.

MICHAEL R. MCALEVEY was elected to the University of Virginia Law School Foundation’s Board of Trustees. McAlevey is the executive vice president and chief legal and administrative officer with HCA Healthcare, headquartered in Nashville, Tenn.

ROBERT M. “BOB” TATA was appointed to the Old Dominion University Board of Visitors by Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin on July 1. This is Tata’s second term on the ODU BOV, after first serving from 2013-19. Tata obtained his MBA from ODU in 1986, after graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1979 and before graduating from UVA Law. He is a partner at Hunton Andrews Kurth, resident in the Richmond and Washington, D.C. offices.

1990

JAMES J. BENJAMIN JR. was appointed as chair of the New York City Bar Fund, the charitable affiliate of the New York City Bar Association. The fund engages NYC lawyers across four programs to advance social justice and well-being for the public and within the legal profession. Benjamin is a leader of Alkin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld’s white-collar defense and global investigations practice group.

CATHARINA YOOSUN MIN received the AAPI Alumni Achievement Award during the UVA Asian and Asian Pacific American Alumni Network’s first annual Asian Alumni Weekend in April. Min was nominated for the inaugural award by UVA Law students she has been mentoring. Based in Palo Alto, Calif., Min is a partner in Covington & Burling’s corporate group and represents technology and life sciences clients.



CHRISTINE A. SAMSEL, practice chair of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck’s corporate transactional employment group in Denver, was elected president of the Colorado Children’s Chorale board of trustees. She has served on the board since 2022. The chorale’s mission is to expand access to music and arts education in underserved communities.

1991

ROBERT H. COX is a member of Whiteford, Taylor & Preston’s business solutions, restructuring and financial litigation practice. He joined the firm in Falls Church, Va., in January.

JAMES B. GATEHOUSE is a partner in Whiteford, Taylor & Preston’s business solutions, restructuring and financial litigation practice. He joined the firm’s Charlotte, N.C., office in May.

ZANE DAVID MEMEGER became executive director of the Pennsylvania Innocence Project in June. Memeger was previously a partner at Morgan Lewis and a member of the project’s board for eight years, where he was heavily involved in and chaired the project’s litigation and policy committee.

Memeger’s interest in innocence work began when he was a law student, where he helped lead the Law School’s Post-Conviction Assistance Project as litigation director and special projects director. Memeger is a former U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. His practice as a partner at Morgan Lewis focused on government investigations and white-collar defense, and he also maintained an active pro bono docket consisting of civil rights and Federal Tort Claims Act cases.

Before becoming U.S. attorney, Memeger was an assistant U.S. attorney for more than 11 years, a role in which he investigated and tried cases involving organized crime, public corruption, government fraud, violent crime and narcotics trafficking.

JOSEPH MICALLEF joined Axinn, Veltrop & Harkrider’s intellectual property practice as a partner in Washington, D.C. He

advises clients on IP enforcement and defense strategies, as well as navigating complex litigation involving artificial intelligence, 3D memory, cellular technology, computer and operating systems, and more.

ERROL S. PHIPPS was elected to the University of Virginia Law School Foundation’s Alumni Council. Phipps is vice president and associate general counsel for AT&T in Dallas.

1992

MARCO V. MASOTTI LL.M. was elected to the University of Virginia Law School Foundation’s Alumni Council. Masotti is a partner specializing in private equity with Paul, Weiss in New York.

Patent law consultant **ROBERT A. MATTHEWS JR.’S** “The Annotated Patent Digest” is celebrating its 20th year of publication on Westlaw. Matthews is the sole author of the digest and continually updates it, ensuring it is heavily relied upon and frequently cited by federal judges and lawyers.

JEFFREY NANESS practices labor and employment law (for businesses) and plays keyboards in 1980s bands The Breakfast Club and Common Ground on Long Island, N.Y.

1993

CHRISTOPHER BOWEN began a two-year term as presiding judge of the Contra Costa County Superior Court in Martinez, Calif., in January. He recently received appointments to the Judicial Council of California’s Criminal Law and Trial Court Budget Advisory Committees. In June,

Bowen was profiled in the Bay Area Reporter.

1994

After nearly 30 years in the office of the chief counsel at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, **MARCI B. NORTON** joined Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein as counsel. Norton is the firm’s first food and drug lawyer. Her experience supports the health care and life sciences practice groups, expanding the firm’s FDA regulatory capabilities.

WENDY WAN-LONG SHANG was a featured speaker at TEDxUVA’s professional speakers conference, “True North,” in April. Wan-Long Shang is an award-winning children’s book author who focuses on the experiences of Chinese Americans. Her presentation in the Dome Room of the Rotunda explored how she discovered the values that guided her path and helped her create a sense of belonging for her readers.

1995

TREY COX led a team of Gibson Dunn lawyers in achieving a significant trial victory in Mandan, N.D., securing a \$667 million verdict for their client, Energy Transfer, in a case against Greenpeace. The case involved Greenpeace’s coordinated efforts to impede the Dakota Access Pipeline’s construction and defame the company in the international banking community. Cox called the verdict “an affirmation of the First Amendment, emphasizing the importance of peaceful protest as a fundamental American right.”

Cox added that **HUNTER HECK '24** was a critical team member who argued numerous motions and hearings during the trial.

AUGUSTUS “AUGIE” CURTIS joined Offit Kurman’s bankruptcy, restructuring and credit practice group as counsel in Bethesda, Md. Curtis’ practice focuses on complex commercial litigation and high-stakes Chapter 11 bankruptcy matters nationwide.

1996



ELIZABETH “LILY” ENGLE shared that she organized a peaceful affirmation of the rule of law for May 1 (Law Day) in front of the federal courthouse in Charlottesville. Local classmates **CORRY ANDREWS, LILY GARCIA WALTON** and **ANDRE HAKES** joined her. About 25 other lawyers, including her husband, protested for an hour.



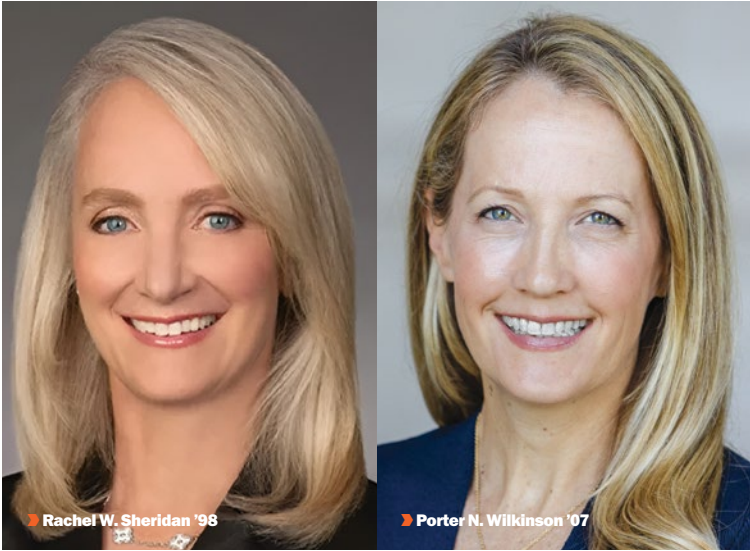
ROB KOLE was named co-managing partner of Choate Hall & Stewart in Boston. A partner in the Insurance and Reinsurance Group, Kole has spent his career with the firm and has served in a variety of capacities, including as a practice group leader, a deputy general counsel and a member of the firm’s Executive Committee and Compensation Committee. Kole joins **CHARLES CHEEVER '95**, who has served as co-managing partner for more than a decade.

Kole’s practice focuses on representing domestic and foreign insurers and re-insurers in both litigation and arbitration involving some of their most significant, cutting-edge exposures. He has been named a “Litigation Star” by Benchmark Litigation and one of the Top 10 Most Influential Insurance Lawyers in Massachusetts by Business Today, in addition to routinely receiving recognition by Chambers USA, Legal 500, Best Lawyers in America, Who’s Who and Massachusetts Super Lawyers.

STEVEN D. NEWMARK recently became executive associate athletic director at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Newmark will initially focus on strategies tied to revenue-driving initiatives, particularly related to the football and men’s and women’s basketball programs, before transitioning to the director of athletics role in the summer of 2026. Newmark previously served as president of Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing.



LUBA SHUR’S novel, “Rule 23,” was published in November 2024. Shur was a two-time federal judicial law clerk and built her career in private practice at two Big Law firms, including tenure as an associate, counsel, and equity partner specializing in complex litigation and other forms of dispute resolution. Following these positions, Shur worked as a media law attorney at the Federal



SHERIDAN '98, WILKINSON '07 ELECTED UVA RECTOR, VICE RECTOR

RACHEL W. SHERIDAN '98 and **PORTER N. WILKINSON '07** were named rector and vice rector of the UVA Board of Visitors, respectively. Both were elected at the June meeting of the board and began their two-year terms July 1. For the first time in UVA history, both the rector and vice rector are women.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin appointed Sheridan, who earned a bachelor's degree from UVA in 1994, to the Board of Visitors in 2023. During her time at UVA, she was an Echols Scholar and a scholarship athlete on the women's track and field team, which she captained, and the cross-country team. Sheridan has fully endowed two need-based scholarships focusing on women's track and field at UVA.

Sheridan is a partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Kirkland & Ellis, where she focuses on capital markets transactions. She has been consistently recognized for excellence within her profession by Chambers, Legal 500 and MergerLinks, which named her a Top Female M&A Lawyer in North America in 2021. She was named to The Deal's Top Women in Deal-making in 2023.

Sheridan also has served as president and trustee of the Virginia Athletics Foundation and as a trustee and governing board member of St. Alban's School for Boys in Washington, D.C.

"The University is a tremendous asset—for the students, faculty and staff on Grounds, and for the commonwealth we serve," Sheridan said. "I am humbled by the trust the board and our community have placed in Porter and me, and eager to get to work in a moment of unique challenge and opportunity for this great and historic institution."

Wilkinson, whom Youngkin appointed in 2024, is the counselor and chief of staff to the Smithsonian Institution's Board of Regents, advising the board on governance, strategy and policy matters. Before joining the Smithsonian, Wilkinson practiced appellate and constitutional law at a multinational law firm and clerked for Chief Justice John Roberts.

A Charlottesville native, she earned her undergraduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was named a three-time All-ACC and All-America selection in women's lacrosse.

Wilkinson also serves on the governing board of Beauvoir, the National Cathedral Elementary School.

"I look forward to partnering with Rachel, our fellow visitors and UVA leadership to build on the impressive legacy of the University we all love," Wilkinson said.

—Traci Hale

Communications Commission. She currently serves as vice president and general counsel for Johnson & Wales University. She lives in the Washington, D.C., area with her husband and two children. (The previous issue of UVA Lawyer listed Shur with the Class of 2006.)

CHRIS VINYARD joined Miles & Stockbridge in Richmond, Va. Vinyard represents banks and other commercial lenders of all sizes in structuring, documenting and negotiating a variety of commercial loan transactions. He was previously a partner in Troutman Pepper Locke's Richmond office, having started his career with Mays & Valentine in 1996.

1999



AMY TODD was named a 2025 LGBTQ+ Leader of Influence by the San Diego Business Journal. The journal recognizes influential leaders' contributions and dedication to their respective communities and industries. Todd is managing principal of Jackson Lewis' San Diego office and has more than 25 years of experience representing California employers in employment law matters.

BOB TRAMMELL launched his campaign for the 2026 attorney general race in Georgia. Trammell grew up in Luthersville, Ga., and served as county attorney

there. He also served three terms for Georgia's House of Representatives District 132 from 2015-2021, including as House minority leader from 2017-21.

2000

DOUGLAS E. BACON was elected to the University of Virginia Law School Foundation's Alumni Council. Bacon is a partner in the Houston and New York offices of Kirkland & Ellis. His practice focuses on mergers and acquisitions.



PATRICK RICHARDS joined the intellectual property group with Much Shelist in Chicago. Richards advises clients on a broad range of intellectual property matters, including patents, trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets, and helps businesses monetize their IP. Additionally, Richards has served as outside general counsel to dozens of companies.

Richards arrived at Much from another Chicago-based firm. In addition to founding a law firm that he managed for over a decade, Richards co-founded and managed two software businesses, including an artificial intelligence-based medical device company in the neuromodulation, cochlear implant, and hearing aid space, and a crowd-funding platform that was named one of the 100 Brilliant Businesses of 2014 by Entrepreneur Magazine.



In a story shared on the UVA Law website in July, **RYAN SHORES '03** detailed how he garnered a standing ovation in his 1L Torts class upon learning his first child was about to be born. His son **ASHBY SHORES** returned to the Law School 25 years later to start classes as a 1L.

2002

TIMOTHY K. HALLORAN joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings as a partner in the government enforcement and investigations practice group in Washington, D.C. Halloran was previously with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for more than a decade, serving as senior trial counsel in the Division of Enforcement for the last seven years.

TAYLOR REVELEY III '68, former president of the College of William & Mary, and **TAYLOR REVELEY IV**, current president of Longwood College, are featured in "How College Presidents Succeed: Lessons in Leadership from Three Generations of Reveleys." Written by Rhodes College professor Mike Nelson and published by the University of Virginia Press, the book examines how the family has helped shape higher education in Virginia and across the country.

Missouri Gov. Mike Kehoe appointed **AMY TRUEBLOOD** as an associate circuit court judge for Cape Girardeau County on March 27. Trueblood took the bench April 1.

2003

AMANDA GALTON was appointed to lead Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe's

San Francisco office. As deputy chair of the corporate business unit, Galton collaborates with companies and entrepreneurs across various industries, including financial services, food and agriculture, mobility and energy infrastructure, clean technology, and health and professional services.

2005



KRISTIN B. JOHNSON joined Woods Rogers' government and special investigations practice in Roanoke, Va. Johnson, a former assistant U.S. attorney for the Western District of Virginia, advises clients in high-stakes criminal and civil enforcement proceedings, government investigations and crisis management.

DYLAN SCOTT RAMSEY was elected to the University of Virginia Law School Foundation's Alumni Council. Ramsey is the chief legal officer for iFit in Logan, Utah.

2006

Double Hoo **THOMAS B. W. HALL** started his term as chair of the UVA Alumni Association Board of Managers.

2007

DANIEL J. LAYFIELD joined Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein as a partner in Charleston, S.C. Layfield advises on private equity platform and add-on acquisitions and divestitures, mergers, venture



ALUMNI CONFIRMED FOR FEDERAL EXECUTIVE ROLES

In recent months, several alumni have filled high-profile positions in the executive branch.

Judges approved the appointment of **ANDREW BOUTROS '01** as U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois



after he served as interim. He previously worked as regional chair of Dechert's white-collar practice and national co-chair of Seyfarth Shaw's white-collar, internal investigations and false claims practice.

Judges approved the appointment of **ADAM GORDON '08** as U.S. attorney for the Southern District of California



after serving in the interim. He previously served as an assistant U.S. attorney since 2019, working in the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces Unit and as the office's criminal division opioid coordinator. He was also a deputy district attorney in San Diego County.

Judges approved the appointment of **DAVID METCALF '12** as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania after he served as interim. He most recently worked as Amazon's corporate counsel for government and regulatory litigation.

He previously served as an assistant U.S. attorney and as deputy chief of appeals.

JEFF BARTOS '97 was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become U.S. representative for U.N. management and reform. A Pennsylvania-based businessman, attorney and civic leader, Bartos has served as president of ESB Holdings and previously held senior executive roles with Mark Group Inc. and Toll Brothers Inc.



Alumni have been appointed to other leadership roles, including:

- **MARY KABIR-SERAJ BISCHOPING '19** joined the U.S. State Department as deputy assistant secretary for the Bureau of South and Central Asia for Afghanistan and the Office of Security and Transnational Affairs.
- **SAMUEL E. DORAN '09** was named deputy chief of staff with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
- **MARK HAMER '91** serves as deputy assistant attorney general of the U.S. Department of Justice's anti-trust division.
- **JOSHUA SIMMONS '07** is the senior bureau official of the Office of the Legal Adviser at the U.S. Department of State, and has been nominated to serve as general counsel of the CIA.

—Mike Fox

capital investments, debt financing, stock and asset purchases, and general corporate needs.

2008



JOHN A. KIMBLE joined Hinshaw & Culbertson as a partner in the consumer financial services practice group in Los Angeles. Formerly with Ballard Spahr, Kimble advises companies on state and federal regulatory compliance matters, as well as emerging financial product development. He serves as co-chair of the California Lawyers Association's Consumer Financial Services Committee.

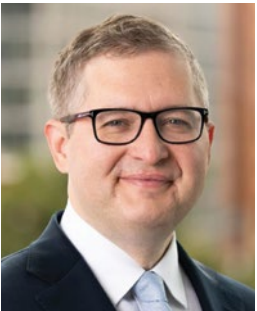
STEVE ROBERTS joined Lex Politica as co-chair of the political law group. Roberts focuses his practice on lobbying and advocacy compliance, campaign finance, political committees, and tax-exempt organizations. He is recognized as a top national political law attorney by Chambers & Partners, Super Lawyers and Best Lawyers in America for his expertise in government relations.

2009



NICOLE M. COLLINS joined Quilling, Selander, Lownds,

Winslett & Moser in Dallas as a shareholder. Collins advises her clients in complex business litigation and in litigation defense for claims brought under various consumer finance laws. Collins also has built a data privacy practice where she helps her clients avoid data privacy incidents and best practices, and respond to the ever-changing regulatory environment.



AARON C. CUMMINGS joined Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck's Government Relations Department in Washington, D.C. Cummings previously practiced with Crowell & Moring and served as chief of staff to U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley. He counsels clients on a broad range of legislative and regulatory issues, including international trade, energy, life sciences, health care, intellectual property, antitrust, artificial intelligence, technology, agriculture and national security, representing them before Congress, the White House and federal agencies. Cummings played key roles in significant legislative achievements, including the First Step Act, the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. He was named one of The Hill's Top Lobbyists in 2023 and 2024.



ALFRED MCQUEEN JR. was selected as assistant city attorney for Winston-Salem, N.C. He serves as lead counsel on labor and employment matters, providing strategic legal advice on workplace policies, personnel actions and risk management. He oversees complex employment litigation and administrative proceedings, negotiates employment-related agreements between the city and other organizations, advises on labor relations issues, and conducts internal investigations involving executive-level staff. He delivers training to city leadership on evolving employment and labor law standards and plays a key role in shaping citywide personnel compliance and policy initiatives.

2010



MICHAEL B. PASS joined Robinson+Cole as a partner in the firm's business transactions group. Pass advises private funds, established companies and startups on complex commercial transactions, with an emphasis on mergers and acquisitions, business and fund formations and structurings, and debt and equity financings. He practices in New York City.

2011

JONATHAN POTTS received the Midwest Innocence Project's Freedom Award for his pro bono work in the field of wrongful convictions. Over the past decade, Potts' work has led to the exoneration of three innocent men convicted of first-degree and capital murder. In a landmark case for St. Louis, Potts served as a special prosecutor to investigate and try the first prosecution-led wrongful conviction case in the city's history, which resulted in the exoneration of an innocent man after 28 years in prison. Potts is a partner at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, representing clients in complex civil litigation and sports law.

2014



Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares named **KEVIN GALLAGHER** solicitor general of Virginia, effective Aug. 20. Gallagher previously served as principal deputy solicitor general and director of 10th Amendment litigation. Before joining Miyares' team in 2022, Gallagher worked at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr, most recently as counsel.

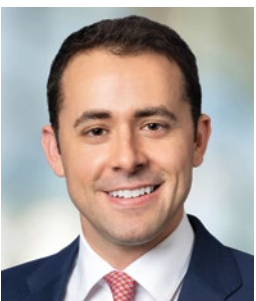
2015

ELLIE CHAPMAN joined Pacifica Law Group in Seattle as a partner in the litigation practice group. An experienced trial and appellate litigator, Chapman has advised and represented clients

in a wide range of civil matters in state and federal courts, including several cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. She has experience in privacy and security matters, defending public, private and nonprofit clients in complex class actions involving a range of legal issues, including consumer privacy, biometric data and cybersecurity.



MICHAEL LANDMAN was promoted to partner with Bird Marella in Los Angeles. Landman dedicates a substantial portion of his time to representing individuals and entities in federal and state criminal matters. Additionally, he manages civil litigation matters, particularly those involving alleged fraud claims.



ROBERT "BOBBY" M. W. SMITH was elected partner with Sullivan & Cromwell's litigation group. Based in Los Angeles, Smith advises clients on complex commercial litigation in federal and state courts, including antitrust, securities, mergers and acquisitions, Delaware-style litigation, contractual disputes, bankruptcy and investigations. Smith's achievements and notable client engagements include supporting J.P. Morgan as financial adviser

to Twitter in its \$44 billion acquisition by an entity owned by Elon Musk; BP West Coast Products, in a class-action lawsuit involving alleged manipulation of retail gas prices; and AT&T on matters related to its \$108.7 billion acquisition of Time Warner.

Smith maintains an active pro bono practice and has worked to secure funding for disabled and disadvantaged youth, represented criminal defendants in cases through the Criminal Justice Act Panel and represents an elderly homeowner in litigation over property ownership and to secure the reversal of a property tax reassessment. His pro bono work earned him and his colleagues recognition from the Animal Legal Defense Fund with the 2023 Advancement in Animal Law Pro Bono Achievement Award.



CHARLENE WANG'S debut thriller, "I'll Follow You," has been published by Mindy Kaling's imprint with Amazon Publishing. Before becoming an author full-time, she worked as a litigator for six years. Wang lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., with her fiancé and their dog, Winky (see p. 69).

2016

CHRISTOPHER R. FREDMONSKI was promoted to counsel at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom in New York. Fredmonski concentrates his practice on complex civil litigation and dispute resolution.



ELENA F. MITCHELL was selected for the Charlotte Business Journal's 2025 class of 40 Under 40. Honorees were selected based on noteworthy leadership, professional accomplishments and contributions to the greater Charlotte, N.C., area.

Mitchell was elevated to a member of Moore & Van Allen's litigation team in January. In her day-to-day practice, she assists clients in navigating complex litigation matters, regulatory issues, and high-stakes internal and government investigations.

Mitchell annually dedicates more than 50 hours to her pro bono practice, representing human trafficking survivors and individuals with minor offenses on their records through restitution and expunction-related services.



BRIAN G. REMONDINO was named to the Fairfield County Business Journal's 40 Under Forty list. Remondino is an associate with Shipman & Goodwin in Stamford, Conn. The annual recognition celebrates the region's most influential and accomplished young professionals who demonstrate exceptional leadership,

professional achievement and community involvement.

Remondino was honored for demonstrating outstanding legal strategy on high-value litigation matters and bankruptcy cases. He also has been recognized for his work on high-profile cases earlier in his career, including investigations into the Philadelphia Police Department's response following George Floyd's death and the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's handling of remains from the 1985 MOVE bombing.

2018



GREGORY P. RANZINI joined Blank Rome's Wilmington, Del., office as an associate in the business litigation group. He previously practiced with Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. Ranzini focuses his practice on complex corporate and commercial litigation in both state and federal courts. He also maintains an active pro bono practice, focusing on civil rights and post-conviction litigation matters.

2020

HANNAH R. SCHALLER died on March 12. Her firm, ZwillGen, shared a tribute to her on their website. "Hannah was a remarkable attorney whose contributions to the field of privacy were uniquely impactful. She had an extraordinary ability to untangle complex privacy issues and excelled

at translating complicated legal requirements into actionable, effective strategies. Her talents were beyond her years, and her dedication left a lasting mark on the field.

"Beyond her professional achievements, Hannah was a committed and influential member of the broader privacy community, particularly in the D.C. area. She actively engaged with various industry groups, generously sharing her knowledge and mentorship. As the KnowledgeNet chair for the International Association of Privacy Professionals' Washington, D.C., chapter, Hannah guided discussions, fostered collaboration, and helped shape the future of privacy best practices. She was passionate about supporting younger attorneys and law students looking to enter the privacy field, including by speaking at events and on podcasts to share her insights and unique career path.

"But above all, we will remember Hannah for who she was as a person. She exuded joy and approached life with deep curiosity, always eager to learn, connect, and uplift those around her. Her caring nature, inclusivity, and warmth made her not only a trusted colleague but also a cherished friend."

SAVANNAH BORDERS SMITH was elected to the University of Virginia Law School Foundation's Alumni Council. Borders Smith is an associate in the real estate and funds practice group with King & Spalding in Atlanta.

2021

SHWETA KUMAR joined the faculty at the University of Kentucky's J. David Rosenberg College of Law as an assistant professor. Before joining the Kentucky faculty, Kumar was a clinical

teaching fellow in the Intellectual Property and Information Policy Clinic at Georgetown Law. She has written about IP issues in drug compounding and state initiatives to establish a public pharmaceutical sector.

Kumar practiced IP litigation at Goodwin Procter in Washington, D.C. Her experience includes representing clients in district court litigation and proceedings before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board. She also has experience working with the IP section of the U.S. Department of Justice, defending the government in patent cases.

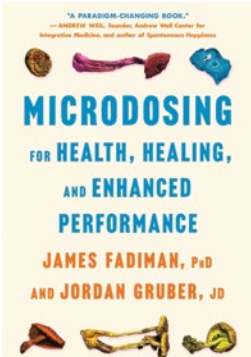


JENI STALLINGS joined the Tulsa, Okla., office of GableGotwals as a transactional associate. Stallings' experience includes advising clients on a wide range of corporate transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and other complex business arrangements involving energy, natural resources and manufacturing. She has worked on matters related to mineral sourcing, corporate acquisitions and project development, including coordination with American Indian tribes and tribal lands.

Before joining the firm, Stallings worked at an AmLaw 200 firm and the U.S. Department of Justice. She served as a law and policy intern in the Environmental and Natural Resources Division and held a fellowship in public law and policy in Washington, D.C.

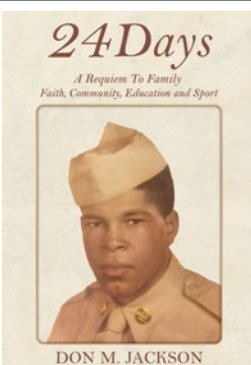
Alumni Books

NONFICTION



MICRODOSING FOR HEALTH, HEALING, AND ENHANCED PERFORMANCE
JAMES FADIMAN AND JORDAN GRUBER '88
ST. MARTIN'S ESSENTIALS

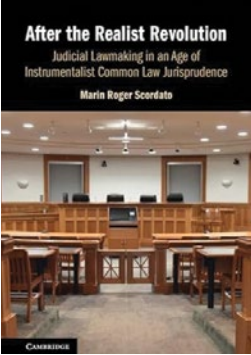
The authors argue that microdosing drugs offers a safe and powerful approach to a wide range of health conditions and enhanced performance. Fadiman and Gruber answer hundreds of questions and cover microdosing history, research and science.



24 DAYS
A Requiem to Family, Faith, Community, Education and Sport
DON M. JACKSON '90
SPARK LEAF PUBLISHING

Jackson pays tribute to his father, Theodore Lorenzo Jackson Sr., a beloved school principal,

coach and community leader in a rural Alabama county still affected by racial segregation. For 24 consecutive days of extended visits as the widowed 90-year-old confronts imminent death, father and son revel in childhood memories, recalling his dad's drills to reinforce classroom learning, along with mandatory book lists and family trips to teach the African American heritage omitted from textbooks. They watch televised sports—a shared lifetime passion—and recall Dad's pitching tips, their annual trips to professional baseball games and his strategic wisdom guiding Jackson's choice to become a lawyer for athletes of every stripe. Jackson details the poignant, evocative and inspiring feelings brought forth by his father's final days.



AFTER THE REALIST REVOLUTION
Judicial Lawmaking in an Age of Instrumentalist Common Law Jurisprudence
MARIN ROGER SCORDATO '83
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

"After the Realist Revolution" extends the existing academic study of American common law

into new and previously unexplored areas. Scordato examines the conventional understanding of appellate court lawmaking and the profound change in the common understanding of that activity during the mid-20th century. Scordato argues that this change in the conventional account of common law can be best understood as an authentic paradigm shift, akin to those described by Thomas Kuhn in "The Structure of Scientific Revolutions." The book also argues that the current instrumentalist approach to appellate court lawmaking is influenced and, in some respects, compromised by the structures and procedures that were created during the prior formalist era.

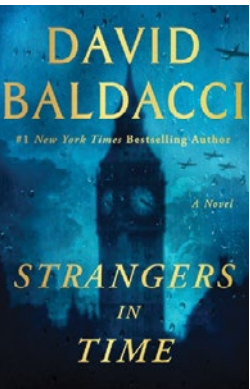


WOVEN AS ONE
WILLIAM R. WADDELL '65
KOEHLER BOOKS

"Woven as One" recounts the successes and foibles of a nearly 65-year bond between lifelong partners, former adjunct faculty member Bill Waddell and his wife, Linda Waddell, describing the magic that can come from merging the

humdrum of everyday life with their feelings for each other. The couple met "under somewhat unusual circumstances, and their way of dealing with bumps in their road wasn't always by the book, but they grew to understand that real intimacy often grows more out of sharing prosaic experiences than out of grand gestures, and they learned to appreciate the importance of things like hard work (together or apart), inclusion, genuine tolerance and the sheer chemistry between two kindred spirits."

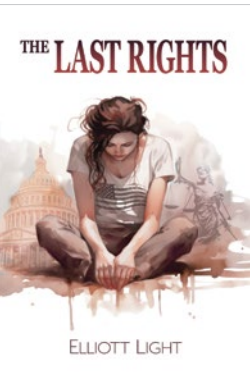
FICTION



STRANGERS IN TIME
DAVID BALDACCI '86
GRAND CENTRAL PUBLISHING

Without parents, peerage or merit, 14-year-old Charlie Matters steals what he needs, living day-to-day in World War II-era London until he's old enough to enlist to fight the Germans. Fifteen-year-old Molly Wakefield has just returned to the nearly unrecognizable city after the Blitz. One of millions of children to have been

evacuated to the countryside, Molly has been away from her home for nearly five years, and neither of her parents is there. Without guardians and stability, Charlie and Molly find an unexpected ally and protector in Ignatius Oliver, and solace at his bookshop, The Book Keep. Mourning the recent loss of his wife, Ignatius forms a kinship with both children, and in each other they rediscover the spirit of family each has lost. But Charlie's escapades in the city have not gone unnoticed, and someone's been following Molly since she returned to London. Ignatius is harboring his own secrets, which could have terrible consequences for all of them. As bombs continue to bear down on the city, Charlie, Molly and Ignatius learn that while the perils of war rage on, their alliance may be the only way for them to survive.



THE LAST RIGHTS
ELLIOTT LIGHT '73
BLACK ROSE WRITING

Ashley Corbin, a former tennis prodigy turned prosecutor, finds herself entangled in a high-profile rape case in the small town of Freeman's Gate. After the rapist, Daniel Lockhart, is acquitted by a jury, the victim, Sheila Fanning, having lost the protection of the rape

exception in the abortion law, is arrested on the courthouse steps for having procured an illegal abortion. Sensing something suspicious, Ashley asks questions she shouldn't, inadvertently lifting the curtain on a scheme instigated by the state's governor to rip away the rights of women to control their reproductive decisions. Ashley's quest culminates in a final violent confrontation, one that forces her to accept that justice isn't always achieved by following the rules.



THE BIGGER CON
MARK MELLON '87
INDEPENDENTLY PUBLISHED

The 1920s Florida land boom is at its speculative height. Harry Easton and his con men rip and tear in Target City, robbing marks blind. Add Easton's recent marriage to the gorgeous Gabe and his happiness seems complete. Yet doubt still troubles Easton in the form of Sylvanus O'Moira, definitely a charlatan and quite possibly a real black magician. The merry Irishman consistently outmaneuvers Easton, who ends up on the run from the law with Gabe, a sacrificial victim for O'Moira's unholy rites. Alone and helpless, can Easton overcome the odds and save Gabe?

I'LL FOLLOW YOU

CHARLENE WANG '15

MINDY'S BOOK STUDIO

WHAT IF YOU COULD STEP OUTSIDE the life you've built for a spell? Try on another character, living life through their eyes?

That's what Charlene Wang '15 did, both as a writer and as a plot device in her debut novel, "I'll Follow You," which was recently published by Mindy's Book Studio, Mindy Kaling's imprint under Amazon Publishing. Wang's author journey began after an intense pro bono case, a first-degree murder trial she took on while working as an associate at Covington & Burling in Washington, D.C., and New York.

"After the trial was over, I was having a hard time processing my feelings and my experiences," Wang recalled. "I started taking creative writing classes to help me understand some of the things I'd gone through." Naturally, Wang's first draft was a legal thriller about a young lawyer who was working in New York on a criminal defense trial. However, in the midst of a yearlong novel-writing workshop, Wang realized that her legal training was actually hindering, rather than helping, the writing process.

"As a litigator, it's hard to transition to being a fiction writer because you're very attuned to facts," Wang said. "I kept getting feedback that it was too granular, too factual."

So, she made a pivotal decision: She threw away the legal thriller and decided to take on "a wholly different perspective."

Her new protagonist was not a lawyer, nor even an adult. Faith Thibodeaux is coming of age in a Mississippi trailer park when the reader first meets her. Enthralled by the rags-to-riches stories of social media influencers, Faith and her scrappy and amoral best friend, Kayla Lightfoot, decide to create an Instagram account for a person who exists wholly in their imagination.

@HannahPrimrose would be everything her two creators were not—at least not individually. Relying on Kayla's looks and Faith's creative sto-

rytelling, @HannahPrimrose would go on to captivate hundreds of thousands of followers around the world.

But when Faith abandons Kayla and their Instagram stunts for an Ivy-ish education at Harkness College, Kayla has a few more tricks up her sleeve.

As Faith navigates the complexities of loyalty, friendship, class and social dynamics, she ultimately must decide how much she is willing to risk for friendship and love.

Wang, who earned her bachelor's degree in English and government from Dartmouth

College, did lend Faith some inspiration from her own experiences as an Asian American woman in the halls of an Ivy League school.

"Faith is so used to being in dominant spaces that her instinct is always to kind of camouflage herself," Wang said. "She just takes on whatever colors are in the background, like a lizard on a rock."

Wang also dappled Harkness with color from her memories of Charlottesville and UVA Law, placing her character in settings like "North Grounds" and "FoCo," and having her make choices that bump up against Harkness' own strict Honor Code. Faith's wily friend

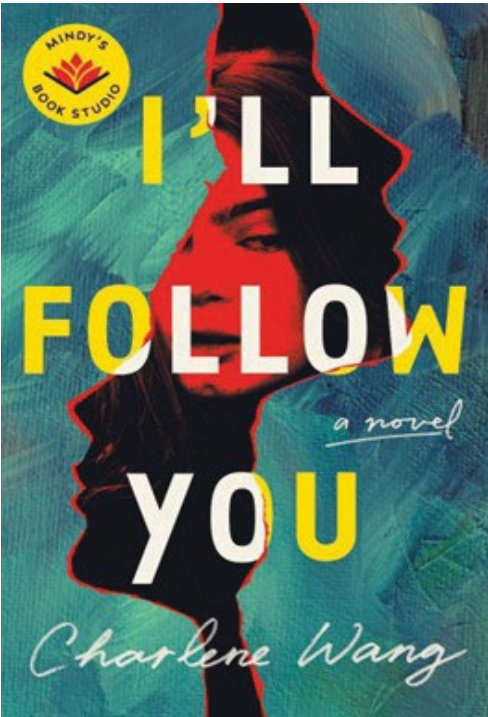
Kayla was an amalgam of the women Wang met working as a Mississippi pool hall waitress while helping rebuild the Gulf Coast as an AmeriCorps volunteer.

The fictional Faith ended up changing Wang's real life. Her manuscript garnered six offers from agents before she ultimately chose to publish with Mindy's Book Studio. Wang then made a decision that would have made the fictional Kayla Lightfoot proud: "I did something really brave-slash-stupid, and I quit my job as a litigator to become a full-time author."

She's currently working on her second novel, an upmarket thriller about a multicultural K-pop group and their tragic final concert.

"I'll Follow You" was released Oct. 1.

—Melissa Castro Wyatt



SHUNJUSUCHACK

IN *memoriam*

Richard J. Collins Jr. '50	ST. LOUIS Jan. 7, 2022
George Chilton Gaines '54	PHILO, CALIF. Feb. 3, 2022
John R. Barrett '55	OAK HILL, VA. Aug. 7, 2022
Wescott B. Northam '55	ACCOMAC, VA. Feb. 7, 2025
Richard Cocke '57	RICHMOND, VA. Jan. 23, 2025
John J. Adams '59	MCLEAN, VA. April 20, 2025
Richard G. McNeer '59	HUNTINGTON, W.VA. July 7, 2025
George R. St. John '59	AFTON, VA. March 27, 2025

Grant B. Hering '61	NEW YORK May 8, 2025
Fred L. Somers Jr. '61	DUNWOODY, GA. July 12, 2025
Don E. Burch '62	QUICKSBURG, VA. March 10, 2024
William T. Graham '62	WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. April 12, 2025
C. Dale Harman Jr. '62	ATLANTA May 7, 2025
Patrick J. Milmoec '62	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. July 22, 2025
James J. Odom Jr. '62	VESTAVIA, ALA. April 9, 2025
Beril M. Abraham '63	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. June 16, 2025

Christopher S. Bond '63	ST. LOUIS May 13, 2025
Terence J. Gallagher '63	NEW VERNON, N.J. June 24, 2025
Robert M. Pyle Jr. '63	VERO BEACH, FLA. March 15, 2025
J. Trent Anderson '64	WILMETTE, ILL. July 14, 2025
Graham D. Holding Jr. '64	CHARLOTTE, N.C. June 20, 2025
J. Scott Merritt Jr. '64	MANHATTAN, KAN. Feb. 26, 2025
J. Stephen Sheils '64	NEW YORK Feb. 27, 2025
R. William Ide III '65	ATLANTA July 8, 2025

Emmelyn Logan-Baldwin '65	ROCHESTER, N.Y. May 6, 2025
Guy T. Tripp III '65	RICHMOND, VA. March 3, 2025
Allen D. Porter '66	PRINCETON, N.J. March 16, 2025
Albert C. Selkin '66	NORFOLK, VA. June 26, 2025
Richard S. Sweet '66	FORT MILL, S.C. March 4, 2025
Arthur A. Anthony III '67	PORTSMOUTH, VA. May 7, 2025
F. Claiborne Johnston Jr. '67	RALEIGH, N.C. March 31, 2025
Gerald E. McDowell '67	CHATHAM, MASS. May 27, 2025

Michael A. Rhine '67	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. Feb. 9, 2025
Charles B. Swigart '68	FAYETTEVILLE, PA. Nov. 21, 2024
George D. H. McMillan Jr. '69	BIRMINGHAM, ALA. April 18, 2025
David A. Anderson '70	REHOBOTH BEACH, DEL. Feb. 6, 2025
Richard J. Miller '71	PALM BEACH GARDENS, FLA. June 6, 2025
Walter L. Penn III '71	MARTINSVILLE, VA. Jan. 30, 2025
John Anthony Siciliano '72	WINCHESTER, MASS. June 11, 2025
G. F. Trowbridge Jr. '73	CAMP HILL, PA. April 23, 2025

Thomas W. Murrell III '74	CHARLOTTE, N.C. July 16, 2025
Linda J. McKay '75	ALEXANDRIA, VA. Feb. 24, 2025
Michael K. Hammaker '76	WOODBIDGE, VA. April 29, 2025
Welby C. Showalter '76	BROADWAY, VA. July 14, 2025
Anne Kenney Chaplin '78	TRURO, MASS. July 21, 2025
David Anthony Furrow '79	ROCKY MOUNT, VA. May 13, 2025
Keith F. Goodenough '79	KESWICK, VA. July 14, 2024
Michael K. Kuhn '79	HOUSTON April 14, 2025

Kathryn M. Cruze '80	ALEXANDRIA, VA. July 1, 2025
Robert E. Dely '80	SEAFORD, VA. July 17, 2025
Mark McCormick LL.M. '82	DES MOINES, IOWA March 30, 2025
Jo Anne Spencer '82	CHESAPEAKE, VA. Jan. 30, 2025
Lois Bonsal Osler '84	SANDWICH, N.H. Nov. 20, 2024
Gregory W. Huber '85	PRESCOTT, ARIZ. Dec. 21, 2024
Craig Fishman '87	FALLS CHURCH, VA. April 1, 2025
William Cooper Scott '87	GREENSBORO, N.C. Feb. 18, 2025

John L. Daugherty '88	LEXINGTON, KY. Feb. 4, 2025
Mary John Smith '88	EARLYSVILLE, VA. June 21, 2025
Vladimir Shendelman '00	BAL HARBOUR, FLA. Dec. 26, 2024
Samuel Charles Schultz '11	DENVER May 28, 2025
Hannah R. Schaller '20	WASHINGTON, D.C. March 12, 2025

Georgia Man '12

GENERAL COUNSEL AND CORPORATE SECRETARY, **KODIAK**

SINCE GRADUATING FROM UVA LAW, GEORGIA VARLAN MAN '12 has continued to broaden her legal palate.

After starting her career as a corporate associate at Kirkland & Ellis, she transitioned to government service, joining the administration of Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner in 2015 and serving as deputy general counsel and chief compliance officer. Man then shifted back to the private sector and has worked the past eight years for food companies. Since 2021, she has served as general counsel and corporate secretary for Kodiak, which produces pancake and waffle mixes, among other food products, in Park City, Utah.

Was law school always on your radar? What led you in that career direction?

My dad, Tom Varlan, is a lawyer, and I have always wanted to follow in his footsteps. His career has spanned both public service and private practice, including serving on the federal bench for the last 22 years. I admire the impact that he had on people's lives, and how he lives the values that he taught my siblings and me—service, integrity, loyalty, ambition and hard work—in both his personal and professional life.

Looking back to your days at UVA Law, what is one moment or experience you wish you could go back and relive?

I'd like to relive a Saturday night at The Virginian, singing "Wagon Wheel" at last call with my UVA Law friends. Nowadays, we are all spread across the country (and I'm not sure any of us could stay up that late anymore), but I'd love to have one night in Charlottesville with them again.

What made you turn to general counsel work, first in a public service role and then at food companies?

My first in-house opportunity came when a client of my law firm was elected governor of Illinois. Although I had not been planning to make the jump from private practice, I was excited to get the chance to serve and to work for fellow UVA alum Jason Barclay '02 (who had moved from Indiana to be the governor's general counsel and has been an amazing mentor to me).

That job expanded my horizons as a lawyer. I was not just advising on legal issues but working side-by-side with my clients to develop strategy, solve problems and own outcomes. It also gave me the confidence that I could be a true generalist and learn and work in many areas of the law. After moving to a new state for my husband's job, I continued that same growth trajectory in my in-house corporate legal career at Blue Buffalo, General Mills and now Kodiak, embracing opportunities and learning the

business side so that I could contribute as a lawyer and strategic adviser.

Having worked at large food companies since 2017, what are some of the most common issues you confront?

Working for food companies is incredibly rewarding because it is so tangible; you see the products on store shelves and get to meet people who buy and love them. The biggest issues that I focus on involve helping our brands build trust with consumers. I like to bucket the issues we confront into "defensive" or "offensive" issues. My team and I defend against challenges and threats to our brand, like litigation. We also serve as an "offensive lineman" for our business teams, clearing a path for the business to win in the marketplace by helping them see around corners, proactively manage risk and build strong relationships with consumers based on a foundation of trust. This includes advising the business on product development that meets our high brand standards, marketing our products in a way that is authentic and truthful, and navigating the changing public policy and regulatory environment.

We have to ask—what is your favorite flavor of pancakes? Any special toppings?

My all-time favorite is our classic Kodiak Buttermilk Power Cakes, topped with berries and whipped cream. On weekdays, though, we are all about the Kodiak frozen Power Waffles in my house. Everyone gets protein and whole grains, and nobody has to clean any pans.

You have the last word. What do you want to say?

I am immensely grateful to UVA Law for the community it has given me. My UVA Law friends have been my brain trust in navigating both career and life decisions. They are all doing amazingly well in their own careers, and I'm so grateful for their friendship and that UVA Law brought us together.



ALEX FINE



WOODY WINGFIELD



Connect with alumni at an event near you: law.virginia.edu/alumni

DEC. 11 WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Metropolitan Club
Reception

DEC. 17 RICHMOND, VA.

The Jefferson Hotel
Luncheon with Dean
Leslie Kendrick '06

JAN. 13 MIAMI

Bilzin Sumberg
Reception with Dean
Leslie Kendrick '06

FEB. 18 NEW YORK

Location TBD
Reception with Dean
Leslie Kendrick '06

FEB. 24 ATLANTA

Jones Day
Reception with Dean
Leslie Kendrick '06

MARCH 24 DALLAS

The Arts District Mansion
Luncheon with Dean
Leslie Kendrick '06

MARCH 25 HOUSTON

Kirkland & Ellis
Reception with Dean
Leslie Kendrick '06

APRIL 7 SAN DIEGO

Location TBD
Reception with Dean
Leslie Kendrick '06

APRIL 8 MENLO PARK, CALIF.

British Bankers Club
Reception with Dean
Leslie Kendrick '06

MAY 8-10 CHARLOTTESVILLE

Law Alumni Weekend

FOR THE CLASSES OF:

*Lile Law Society, 1976, 1981,
1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006,
2011, 2016, 2021*

All alumni are welcome to attend.

MAY 19 WASHINGTON, D.C.

The National Press Club
Luncheon



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