GILBERT NAMED VICE DEAN

Professor MICHAEL D. GILBERT, an expert on election law, democracy, and law and economics, began serving as vice dean July 1.

“Mike Gilbert is an outstanding scholar, teacher and colleague who is held in high esteem in the UVA Law community and beyond,” Dean RISA GOLUBOFF said. “I’m thrilled that he will serve as vice dean, following a long line of distinguished faculty to serve in the role. Mike approaches everything he does with total commitment, careful thought and utter humanity. I am excited to work with Mike and see the wonderful contributions he will make in this new role.”

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

Gilbert, who joined the faculty in 2009, said he is excited to begin a new role. “The Law School feels like home to me,” he said. “We have wonderful students, staff and faculty, and together we do good work in a beautiful place. I treasure our spirit of community and collegiality, and I am excited to support it as best I can.”

Gilbert, the Martha Lubin Karsh and Bruce A. Karsh Bicentennial Professor of Law, teaches courses on election law, legislation, and law and economics. His current research focuses on campaign finance law, corruption and the adjudication of “culture war” disputes. His scholarship has appeared in multiple law reviews, peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes. He has lectured throughout the United States and around the world, including in Ecuador, Germany, Hong Kong, Mexico and Israel.

Gilbert directs UVA Law’s Center for Public Law and Political Economy, which serves as a hub for faculty who apply insights from economics and political science to the study of public law. He is a member of the Democracy Initiative’s Corruption Lab for Ethics, Accountability, and the Rule of Law at UVA. Last spring, he served as a visiting professor at Universidad Torcuato di Tella in Buenos Aires. Gilbert has won UVA’s All-University Teaching Award and the Student Council Distinguished Teaching Award.

Prior to joining the faculty, Gilbert clerked for Judge William A. Fletcher on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He received his J.D. and Ph.D. (in jurisprudence and social policy) from the University of California, Berkeley, where he served as a series editor on the California Law Review and received multiple distinctions, including an Olin fellowship in law and economics and a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Grant.

As vice dean, Gilbert succeeds Professor LESLIE KENDRICK ’06, who has returned to teaching and research full time at the Law School.

“I’m so grateful for Leslie’s service through both challenging and joyful times at the Law School,” Goluboff said. “She has done an amazing job supporting and showcasing our faculty—from playing a pivotal role in the recruiting process for 22 new resident faculty members to working to create 11 new academic centers. On top of that, she has been a critical part of guiding the Law School through the pandemic.”

—Mary Wood

PROFESSORS’ CORPORATE LAW SCHOLARSHIP RECOGNIZED

Papers authored by Professors MICHAEL BARZUZA, QUINN CURTIS and CARYN Hwang were named among the top 10 corporate and securities articles of 2020 in a poll.

The poll of academics, conducted for Corporate Practice Commentator, selected the UVA Law professor’s works over papers from more than 320 candidates. “Shareholder Value(s): Index Fund Activism and the New Millennial Corporate Governance,” co-authored by Barzuza, Curtis and Professor David Webber of the Boston University School of Law, was recently published in the Southern California Law Review. “Shareholder Governance,” co-authored by Hwang and Professor Yaron Nili of the University of Wisconsin Law School, was published in the California Law Review.

“Shareholder Value(s),” Barzuza, Curtis and Webber argue that, as investment funds compete to win the investment dollars of millennials by focusing on social goals, millennials shape corporate governance and were the driving force behind the rise of environmental, social and corporate governance, known as ESG.

“Millennials—raised in the shadow of the threat of climate change—came of age during the 2008 global financial crisis and are now raising their young children amid a pandemic punctuated by social upheaval,” the three wrote in an op-ed for The Hill. “Substantial research shows that, more than the Gen Xers or Baby Boomers, they integrate their social values into their economic life as employees, customers, and now investors.”

Hwang and Nili’s paper examines the “shadow governance,” documents “express a corporation’s commitment to and process on issues as wide-ranging as campaign finance, environmental sustainability, and sexual harassment, but largely overlooked by scholars and practitioners alike,” the pair write in their abstract. “Among other things, these documents set the board’s annual agenda, define the metrics and bounds of board’s and committees’ responsibilities, and memorialize the corporation’s values.”

In addition to corporate Pratt Institute is a 30-plus-volume set of journals featuring articles written on all aspects of corporate law. The articles poll began in 1994.

Barzuza researches and teaches corporate law, corporate governance and corporate finance. Curtis teaches courses on corporate law, corporate governance and corporate finance. Hwang’s research focuses on empirical law and finance. Hwang’s research centers on business law, including corporate contracts, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate governance. She is Barzun F. Black Research Professor of Law.

In the past, the poll has recognized Barzuza, Hwang and Professors GEORGE S. GERE, EDWARD W. NITCH and PAUL G. MAHONEY.

—Mike Fox


In the spring, PAYVAND-ABOURIOU published “Direct Collateral Review” in the Columbia Law Review. The paper is featured on Jotreview, a professional cv of lawyers. Her article on “Separation of Powers suits” will be published in the Harvard Law Review. Ahdout also participated in CrimFest! with her new book, “Shadow Procedure.”

In the spring and summer, RICHARD BANNON ‘09 was in demand for media comments on Virginia’s abolition of the death penalty and legalization of marijuana, two subjects on which he spent considerable scholarly energy early in his career in the 1970s. In July, Bannon was invited to lecture at a conference on Virginia.”
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CRAIG KONNOTH NAMED GREENWELL FACULTY SCHOLAR

Professor CRAIG KONNOTH was named a 2024 Greenwell Faculty Scholar. Considered one of the top professors in the field, the Greenwell Faculty Scholars Program in Bioethics “helps build the next generation of leaders by supporting early-career faculty members to carry out innovative bioethics research,” according to the program’s website. Since 2002, the Greenwell Foundation has supported over 60 scholars from 40 different institutions.

For a year and a half, the award will fund Konnoth’s project, “Bioethics in Movement Advocacy.” Konnoth will examine how activists, including those associated with LGBT, religious and racial justice movements, use medical frames and terms to bolster their claims, as well as how they frame gender dysphoria as a disability, or as racism as a virus. “This project considers how these medically informed ethical arguments relate to bioethics, whether and when they count as bioethics, how social advocates and bioethicists might influence each others’ arguments, and the ethical concerns of such techniques,” Konnoth writes in support of the proposed research.

“By considering when ethical arguments grounded in medical frames count as bioethics, this project raises vital questions about the nature of bioethics itself,” Konnoth writes. Konnoth works on issues pertaining to health and civil rights, law and sexuality, and health data regulation. His scholarship examines how medicine can be used to make normative claims and produce social change. He is also active in LGBT rights litigation and has filed briefs in the U.S. Supreme Court and the Tenth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on LGBT rights issues.

“Engaging in social justice advocacy, I realized that movements and individuals draw on many traditions beyond the law to produce change,” Konnoth said. “As medicine increases in importance in our everyday lives, it is important to understand how it plays a role in movement advocacy. I thank the Greenwell Foundation for this opportunity, and am excited to join the Greenwell community.”

RUSSELL MASON served as co-editor of “Thinker, Teacher, Traveler: Exploring Imagining International Tax,” a book on international taxation honoring Caplin and Drysdale’s H. David Rosenbaum on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Her chapter in the book was reprinted in the Virginia Law Review as “Has Cross-Border Arbitrage Finally Met Its Match? (co-authored with Pascale Saint-Amans of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).” She continued her popular Tax Notes series on state aid with “State Aid Enforcement After Amazon.” Together with Tully Dorgan of the University of Oxford, of a new workshop series, the Oxford Virginia Legal Dialogs, which discusses the implications for tax scholarship of prominent new state legal work. The just released before the Ways and Means Committee of the Maryland House of Delegates in favor of pending legislation (later adopted) to prevent corporate for profit entities from retroactive changes to the federal tax base. Mason gave talks via Zoom on her proposed approach to state aid at King’s College London and Oxford, on developments in international tax relations on the ABA Tax Section and the London School of Economics, on the legality of digital tax at George Washington University and Oxford University. Mason also published “Do We Need a ‘National Taxonomy’ in ‘Research Handbook on International Taxation’ with a former student, Megan Momphaos, of the University of Pennsylvania law professor Michael S. Kinnell.

NELSON, ROSS NAMED TO PRESIDENT’S SUPREME COURT COMMISSION

President Joe Biden named Professors CALEB NELSON and WESTRICK ROSS to the Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court of the United States. The commission will examine arguments for and against Supreme Court reform. Qualifications for membership and the size of the court are among the topics the commission will examine. The commission will consider both the merits and legality of particular reform proposals.

The commission—co-chaired by BOB BAGLINI, a professor at New York University School of Law and former general counsel to President Barack Obama—will hold public meetings to hear the views of other experts, and groups and individuals with varied perspectives. Biden’s executive order directs the commission to complete its report within 180 days of the first public meeting. Nelson, who joined the faculty in 1998, is the Emerson G. Spiess Distinguished Professor of Law. He teaches civil procedure, federal courts and statutory interpretation. He is also author of a casebook on statutory interpretation. Nelson is a past winner of UVA’s All-University Teaching Award as well as the national Federally funded and Federally funded Apart- ment Housing. He is a member of the U.S. government’s ERAC, the Elders of the Women’s Rights Commission. Nelson also teaches at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. He has also been named to the board of the American Civil Law Foundation in the British Columbia Law School and the Federal University. Ross received the Rutter Award for Teaching Excellence in his previous role as professor at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. He has also been named to the board of the American Civil Law Foundation in the British Columbia Law School and the Federal University. Ross received the Rutter Award for Teaching Excellence in his previous role as professor at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. He has also been awarded the Berlin Prize from the American Law Institute. He was the most-cited law school professor in U.S. Supreme Court opinions for the 2004-13 terms, according to a study of academic journal citations. He served for Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Ross joined the faculty as the Justice Thurgood Marshall Distinguished Professor of Law in 2021. He teaches and writes in the areas of constitutional law, constitutional theory, election law, administrative law and statutory interpretation.
Professor Emerita MILIND ROBINSON won an award for helping to improve equity in the UVA community—an honor that’s close to her heart.

On June 8, she was the recipient of the Armstead Robinson Faculty Award, named for her late husband. The Black Faculty and Staff Employee Resource Group at UVA bestows the award on a faculty member who has contributed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and who has had a positive impact to the Black experience at the University.

Robinson was the first Black woman to serve as a tenured professor on the UVA Law faculty. She was hired in 1985 from Florida State University. Robinson recently wound up a 35-year teaching career at UVA, and 47 years in academia overall, that went beyond just being a tax scholar. During her service, she was a robust citizen of the UVA community and a dedicated mentor and friend to countless students, faculty, and staff.

Among her many contributions, she served as a role model to UVA Law students who would go on to successful careers in other tax law or related fields and helped recruit Black students to the Law School at a time when Virginia and the South were welcoming a welcome resource and a beacon to Black students, including advanced students.

Robinson was a history professor who oversaw the initial development of the Carter G. Woodson Institute for Afro-American and African Studies. Under his leadership, the institute helped identify, recruit and retain key Black faculty members at the University.

The couple were married for eight years, until his untimely death in 1995. As a widow with three children, one of them only 6, she maintained her full teaching load, her many volunteer commitments and added a project to her colleague’s book manuscript. In association with the University of Virginia Press, which identified history professors to help complete the work, she made sure that “Bitter Fruits of Bondage: The Demise of Slavery and the Collapse of the Confederacy: 1861-1865” was published.

“I found about seven different versions, and it was pretty close to being overwhelming, but I determined the book would be published,” Robinson said. Once she signed the contract that would complete the book, “I was cheering loud by the sidelines.”

—Eric Williamson
Cambridge University Press for a manuscript titled “The Crisis in International Law—System Shocks, National Populism, and the Battle for the World Economy.” He will present a workshop on the book in November.


Hwang’s paper “Prison Detention and the Value of Liberty” is forthcoming in the Virginia Law Review. She wrote an op-ed on the paper for The Appeal and discussed it on “The Appeal Live.” She gave recent talks at the EY Tax Brief Speaker Series in Law and Economics, Cardozo Law School Faculty Workshop, and the Brooklyn Law Faculty Workshop. She also gave a presentation on risk assessment to the ABA Sentencing Task Force and launched a new online biweekly workshop series called the Virtual Crime Workshop.

G. Edward White, with Kenneth L. Abraham, published “Rethinking the Development of Tort Liability” in the Boston University Law Review in September. White gave a presentation Aug. 16 at the annual meeting of the International Association of Defense Counsel in Chicago. The topic was “Changes in the Internal Deliberative Protocols of the Supreme Court in the Last Hundred Years.”

In July, Bob Bauer ’76 and Yale law professor Cristina M. Rodriguez, co-chairs of the Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court, invited White to submit written testimony on a number of topics. Professors Caleb Nelson and Beth Hall Ross also are members of the commission.

His new book, “Soccer in American Culture: The Beautiful Game’s Struggle for Status,” will be published by the University of Missouri Press in the spring of 2022.