

Power of Scholarships

Propelling Public Interest

Lifelong Ties

GW LAW

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
LAW SCHOOL MAGAZINE | SPRING 2023



ON THE MOVE

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Our talented alumni are giving back to GW in a variety of impactful ways—creating lifelong connections and strengthening the fabric of the law school.



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Expanding GW Law's Public Interest Community

GW Law's Public Interest and Public Service Program is soaring to new heights, propelled by a new alumni advisory council, a dedicated new program coordinator, and much more.



GW LAW

a magazine for alumni and friends

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“IT HAS BEEN MY JOY TO GET OUT ON THE ROAD AND MEET SO MANY MEMBERS OF OUR ALUMNI FAMILY THIS YEAR.”

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

ON THE MOVE

DEAR FRIENDS OF GW LAW,

I AM PLEASED TO PRESENT THE SPRING 2023 EDITION OF GW LAW magazine. Inside these pages, we proudly showcase some of the many exciting ways that our law school is on the move.

Our cover story introduces you to our largest cohort of new faculty members in more than a decade—and they have hit the ground running! This Fall, we welcomed three new tenure-track professors, ten full-time, permanent Fundamentals of Lawyering professors, and three new assistant deans of environmental law, energy law, and animal law. And as our magazine goes to press, our high-impact faculty buildout is continuing—with the addition of many more top legal scholars who will join our faculty for the 2023-24 academic year.

“The Transformative Power of Scholarships” shines a bright spotlight on five extraordinary GW Law students whose lifechanging merit- and need-based scholarships are opening doors of opportunity and shaping the next generation of legal leaders.

In “Expanding GW Law’s Public Interest Community,” we share the many exciting ways we are growing our public interest and public service program—from opening a public interest office staffed by a passionate new program coordinator, to launching a new alumni advisory council, increasing summer stipends for students, and introducing a brand new public interest mentoring program.

“An Intergenerational Commitment,” provides a window into the strong, lifelong relationship between GW Law and our amazing alumni, who generously give back to their alma mater as donors, mentors, advisory council members, moot court judges, and much more.

Rounding out this issue is a story about the advances we’ve implemented this year to enrich the student experience—including major technology upgrades and enhanced physical spaces where students can gather, study, and connect inside and outside the classroom.

It has been my joy to get out on the road and meet so many members of our alumni family this year. One of the highlights of the spring semester for me was a global alumni tour spanning both coasts, London, Geneva, Munich, and the midwest. I look forward to connecting with many more of you in 2023-24. Let me hear from you.

SINCERELY,

DAYNA BOWEN MATTHEW

Dean and Harold H. Greene
Professor of Law

GW Law Welcomes Two Inaugural Professors of Practice

GW LAW HAS HIRED TWO HIGH-PROFILE LEADERS TO SERVE AS THE LAW school's inaugural Professors of Practice. Nationally renowned national security lawyer Jonathan Cedarbaum will serve as the inaugural Professor of Practice in National Security, Cybersecurity, and Foreign Relations Law. Leading labor and employment lawyer Jeff Kohn will serve as the inaugural Professor of Practice for Business and Finance Law.



JONATHAN CEDARBAUM IS A PROMINENT NATIONAL SECURITY LAWYER WITH EXPERIENCE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

JEFF KOHN IS A PREEMINENT LITIGATOR WITH MORE THAN 30 YEARS IN PRIVATE PRACTICE AS A PARTNER WITH O'MELVENY & MYERS, SERVING AS THE FIRM'S MANAGING PARTNER FOR 11 YEARS.



Last year, the GW Law faculty voted to create the brand-new category of law professor for preeminent practitioners who bring a range of unique resources to the law school. The new professors of practice will teach core courses in their areas of expertise and help expand students' career opportunities by introducing them to their vast networks.

Cedarbaum is a prominent national security lawyer with experience at the highest levels of government. Prior to joining the GW faculty this year, he served as deputy counsel to President Biden and legal advisor to the National Security Council.

Over the course of his illustrious 25-year legal career, he has held positions in four presidential administrations. He worked at the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) twice—during the Clinton and Obama administrations—and, ultimately served as the acting assistant attorney general in charge of the OLC, which provides authoritative legal advice to the attorney general, the president, and all executive branch departments and agencies. He also has extensive private sector experience as a longtime former partner in the litigation, cybersecurity, and privacy practices at WilmerHale.

Kohn has been a preeminent employment lawyer in New York City for more than 30 years as a partner with O'Melveny & Myers, LLP, where he served as the firm's managing partner for 11 years. Recognized by Chambers USA as a top labor and employment lawyer, he has successfully represented industry leaders such as American Airlines, Morgan Stanley, Paramount Pictures, and Eddie Murphy.

A 1984 graduate of GW Law, he has been actively involved in the life of the law school for many years as a member of the Dean's Advisory Board and has taught in the GWNY program each year since its inception—earning widespread acclaim from students for his extraordinary dedication to teaching and their professional development.

"We are so fortunate to have these two bright stars as our inaugural Professors of Practice," says Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew. "They have had remarkable careers, and our students will benefit immeasurably from their teaching and mentoring. I look forward to the many contributions they will make to the GW Law community."

U.S. Voters' Belief in Election Fraud Poses Continuing Threat



Spencer Overton

GW LAW PROFESSOR SPENCER Overton, president of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies and author of the book *Stealing Democracy: The New Politics of Voter Suppression*, asserts that the popular movement built around election denialism threatens the future of U.S. elections.

About 30 percent of Americans believe the “big lie” that Joe Biden did not win the 2020 election, Overton said, adding that about 60 percent of those who identify as Republicans have embraced voter fraud

“THERE’S A REAL QUESTION ABOUT THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW IF AMERICANS DON’T HAVE CONFIDENCE IN ELECTION RESULTS.”

— Spencer Overton

theories. He said this misinformation remains persistent, even though courts and election administrators nationwide have found no widespread irregularities.

“There are some real consequences for the 2022 election and beyond because of these unfounded allegations of fraud,” Overton said. “We’ve seen barriers erected that make it harder to vote, as well as restrictions on voter registration, vote by mail, and drop boxes. We’ve also seen a push to move from machine counting of ballots to hand counting, which research shows is more prone to error and slower. There has been an uptick in violence and threats against office holders and election administrators, and also real potential for voter intimidation at the polls.”

“There’s a real question about the future of democracy and the rule of law if Americans don’t have confidence in election results,” Overton said.

On the federal level, he said reforms to standardize U.S. voting laws are needed. In

APPLYING RESEARCH TO ADVOCACY

THE U.S. GENERAL SERVICES Administration has appointed Professor Stephen Schooner, the Nash and Cibinic Professor of Government Procurement Law, as a commissioner of a new federal advisory panel focused on “driving regulatory, policy, and process changes to embed climate and sustainability considerations in federal acquisition.”

At the first meeting of the GSA Acquisition Policy Federal Advisory Committee, GSA Administrator Robin Carnahan celebrated the effort to “bring together top experts from around the country ... to help generate ideas for how we can improve the way government buys things and leverage the government’s buying power to advance important policy goals.”

Schooner said the committee’s work casts a wide net in identifying procurement models, best practices, and lessons learned.

“We are thrilled to see Professor Schooner appointed to this committee.

some jurisdictions, “antifraud” measures actually make it harder for legitimate voters to cast ballots. But he noted that election officials are not the only ones playing an important role. He called on tech companies to remove election disinformation and said the Department of Justice should deploy election observers and prioritize investigations into threats to election workers and voting rights.

“We’ve got to recognize that election denialism should not continue to be mainstreamed in our politics. It needs to be relegated to the fringe,” he explained.

He noted that there is no “silver bullet” that will solve the problem. He said resilient institutions that can stand up to the stress created by election denialism, open discussion about policy issues, and the formation of new coalitions based on common interests are also necessary.

Professor Overton has been sought out by national media, including NPR and MSNBC’s Alex Witt, for insight on election conspiracy theories, election-related violence, and lawsuits alleging voter fraud.



Stephen Schooner

As one of the leading voices on sustainable procurement in the United States, his contributions will be invaluable,” said Jessica Tillipman, assistant dean for Government Procurement Law Studies.

The accelerating effects of climate change can no longer be ignored, yet the federal government lags behind many other countries—and even some U.S. states—in deploying its massive purchasing power to stimulate markets

“WE ARE THRILLED TO SEE PROFESSOR SCHOONER APPOINTED TO THIS COMMITTEE. AS ONE OF THE LEADING VOICES ON SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT IN THE UNITED STATES, HIS CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE INVALUABLE.”

—Jessica Tillipman

and drive down the prices for goods and services that cause less harm to the environment.

“That’s a squandered opportunity,” said Schooner, “particularly to the extent that the federal government spends more than \$500 billion a year ... buying everything from office supplies to weapons systems, to fleet vehicles and new construction.”

Schooner has increasingly focused his

efforts on practitioner-oriented publications in order to generate discussion of climate change within the professional community. GW Law students and graduates have been involved with his work, and Schooner said he is gratified and inspired by the level of student engagement.

He has also teamed with representatives from industry and the Environmental Protection Agency to create a Community of Practice with the National Contract Management Association, the nation’s largest professional organization in this arena. And he has been discussing the issue with consumer media and on podcasts, including Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew’s podcast, Testimony.

He is also teaching GW Law’s first sustainable procurement course.

“Adding a sustainable procurement course to our curriculum is a very exciting development,” said Tillipman. “Not only will it expose our students to this emerging area of procurement law, but we look forward to the ideas they will generate and the important scholarship they will ... produce and, hopefully, publish on sustainable procurement-related topics.”

PROFESSOR DARDEN NAMED TO USPTO’S PATENT PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL



Lolita Darden

PROFESSOR LOLITA DARDEN WAS appointed in December to a three-year term on the U.S. Patent and Trademark

“THIS IS A PRESTIGIOUS HONOR GIVEN THAT THE PATENT PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL CONSISTS OF ONLY NINE MEMBERS WHO ADVISE THE DIRECTOR AND THE AGENCY.”

—John M. Whealan

Office’s (USPTO) Patent and Trademark Public Advisory Council. The elite group is composed of nine intellectual property (IP) experts who participate in quarterly meetings to discuss the USPTO’s patent and trademark operations and advise the USPTO director.

“This is a prestigious honor given that the Patent Public Advisory Council consists of only nine members who advise the director and the agency,” said

John M. Whealan, Associate Dean for Intellectual Property Law.

Darden joined GW Law last year as a visiting associate clinical professor and director of the new Intellectual Property and Technology Clinic. She is a registered patent attorney whose scholarship focuses on the protection and preservation of intellectual property rights for under-resourced creators and inventors.

“I am excited to join the Patent Public Advisory Council (PPAC), as I believe innovation to be a critical component of economic growth and job creation,” Darden says. Citing a 2018 MIT study, she explains, “Since the 1970s, innovation (as measured by fundamental productivity growth) appears to have slowed from an annual increase of 1.9 percent to 0.7 percent – and so has economic growth. I look forward to working with other members of the council to do great things to incentivize innovation and to continue to improve our patent system for all.”

The Global Impact of Professor Sean Murphy



Sean D. Murphy

GW LAW PROFESSOR SEAN D. Murphy was recently appointed by the president of the World Bank to serve as chair of a Court of Arbitration in a case filed by Pakistan against India. The case concerns whether the design features of two Indian hydroelectric power plants, which sit upstream from waters that flow into Pakistan, are inconsistent with the terms of the 1960 Indus Waters Treaty between the two countries.

“It is a great honor to be selected to serve as chair of the Court of Arbitration. I expect the court to address the matters at hand fairly, carefully, and in strict

“ I EXPECT THE COURT TO ADDRESS THE MATTERS AT HAND FAIRLY, CAREFULLY, AND IN STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE PARTIES WHEN RATIFYING THE INDUS WATERS TREATY. ”

– Sean D. Murphy

compliance with the rights and obligations undertaken by the parties when ratifying the Indus Waters Treaty,” said Murphy, the Manatt/Ahn Professor of International Law.

For the past two years, Murphy has represented the Republic of Armenia before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, Netherlands. The proceedings involved two cases between Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, in which each side requested interim measures of protection from the Court.

The Court issued its decisions on February 22, granting Armenia’s request that Azerbaijan “take all measures at its disposal to ensure unimpeded movement of persons, vehicles, and cargo along the Lachin Corridor,” through which supplies pass from Armenia to ethnic Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh. By contrast, the Court denied Azerbaijan’s request for an order from the Court that Armenia assist it in finding landmines and booby traps allegedly laid in Azerbaijan.

“It was a great honor to represent Armenia before the International Court, where we presented arguments in favor of the immediate opening of the Lachin Corridor, as well as the lack of any connection between Armenia and [the] laying of mines or setting of booby traps in Azerbaijan,” said Murphy.

Murphy also recently took his legal education expertise to Tanzania, where he taught the law of the sea at the Summer Academy on the Continental Shelf. The academy, jointly organized by the African Institute of International Law and the University of the Faroe Islands, brought together 28 government lawyers and hydrographers, mostly from across Africa, for detailed lectures and workshops on the legal and geological aspects of the continental shelf.

A CONVERSATION WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR FOR GLOBAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE

U.S. AMBASSADOR FOR GLOBAL Criminal Justice Beth Van Schaack visited GW Law in February for a fireside chat hosted by GW Law’s National Security, Cybersecurity, and Foreign Relations Law and International and Comparative Law Programs. The discussion, titled “The Biden Administration’s Approach to International Criminal Justice,” was moderated by Professor Laura A. Dickinson, the Oswald Symister Colclough Research Professor of Law.

Ambassador Van Schaack, who is the first woman confirmed to the position, opened the conversation with a brief description of her office, which serves as the U.S. Department of State’s diplomatic arm supporting efforts to erect global tribunals and coordinate atrocity response and prevention. She noted her office’s past and present efforts to support accountability efforts in Ethiopia, the Central African Republic, the Middle East, and Myanmar.

Next, the ambassador discussed U.S. policy toward Ukraine, which she described as encompassing three pillars that aim to strengthen Ukraine’s hand

ALONSO-YODER RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

THE CENTRO DE LOS DERECHOS DEL Migrante (CDM), an immigrant advocacy organization chaired by Fundamentals of Lawyering Professor Cori Alonso-Yoder, was honored with the Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Alonso-Yoder, who has served as president of CDM’s board since 2021, began working with the organization in 2009 as a law clerk in Mexico during her first summer of law school.

The award, signed by President Biden, states that CDM was selected “for its outstanding record of assisting



U.S. Ambassador for Global Criminal Justice Beth Van Schaack

on the battlefield, support the humanitarian crisis resulting from the conflict, and ensure accountability for breaches of international law. She highlighted the challenge and importance of coordinating with international partners to establish tribunals and explore issues such as head of state immunity, and efforts to draft and ratify a treaty prohibiting crimes against humanity.

At the conclusion of the program, Van

Schaack fielded student questions related to human rights concerns such as China's persecution of Uyghurs and ecocide. She emphasized that we are facing an "all hands on deck" moment—not just with Ukraine but with the state of the planet, and stressed that there are numerous places for emerging lawyers to plug in and contribute to international criminal justice, human rights, and international law.

PREVENTING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AIR TRAVELERS



Alfreda Robinson

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Secretary Pete Buttigieg appointed GW Law's Associate Dean for Trial Advocacy Alfreda Robinson to serve on the Anti-Discrimination Subcommittee of the Aviation Consumer Protection Advisory Committee.

Robinson will be one of 19 members who will review airlines' policies, procedures, and practices to prevent discrimination against air travelers based on race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, ancestry, gender identity and sexual orientation, and then make recommendations as to best practices to the Department of Transportation. The longtime GW Law dean is also the former president of the National Bar Association (NBA) and former chair of the NBA's Standing Committee on Judicial Selection.

"I am honored and excited to serve on this critically important U.S. Department of Transportation Committee," Robinson says. "I look forward to sharing my expertise, knowledge, and representative voice to ensure that our nation's traveling public is free of any form of discrimination."



Professor Cori Alonso-Yoder (left), accepting the Presidential Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons on behalf of the Centro de los Derechos del Migrante.

thousands of migrant workers to defend their rights and its years of tireless advocacy to advance a more just and humane migration process free of forced labor and other forms of exploitation."

Alonso-Yoder's service to the Latino community also was recognized with the Hispanic Law Conference's 2020 Edward Bou Award and the DC Courts' 2016 Legal Community Award.

European Commission Director-General Calleja y Crespo Addresses Energy Challenges



Director-General Daniel Calleja y Crespo

A DELEGATION LED BY DANIEL Calleja y Crespo, the director-general of the legal service of the European Commission, visited GW Law in the fall to discuss energy and climate issues.

The director-general kicked off the day with a presentation titled “Facing the Perfect Storm: What is the EU Strategy Addressing the Current Geopolitical, Energy and Climate Challenges?” During his address, he spoke about the European Union’s efforts to ensure energy security while also achieving its climate goals.

Calleja y Crespo cited the surge in commodity prices, renewed supply chain disruptions, and weakening global growth as challenges. At the same time, he said, the

war in Ukraine and uncertainty around gas and oil exports from Russia have added to the COVID-induced economic stresses.

He outlined near-term measures that the European Union has taken, such as emergency support to those most affected by high energy prices, energy conservation incentives, and the encouragement of energy efficiency measures. He said there will be continued investment in renewable energy, improved interconnections, and the removal of investment bottlenecks.

The director-general’s address was followed by a lively discussion moderated by GW Law Associate Dean for International and Comparative Legal Studies Rosa Celorio.

BRAND-MANATT LECTURE: BELLINGER DISCUSSES NATIONAL SECURITY LAW CHALLENGES

JOHN B. BELLINGER III, A PARTNER at Arnold & Porter, delivered the 2022 Brand-Manatt Lecture titled “International and National Security Law Challenges for the Biden Administration.” Bellinger has held several senior presidential appointments, including serving as legal adviser to the Department of State, senior associate counsel to the president, and legal adviser to the National Security Council under President George W. Bush.

His wide-ranging lecture highlighted critical areas where international and national security laws are playing an important role in U.S. foreign policy, notably in marshaling the global response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Against that landscape, Bellinger called for the Biden administration to be more forceful in making Russia account for its violations of international law.

He also urged greater U.S. engagement with the International Criminal Court on its investigation into the commission of war crimes in Ukraine. However, he said that he did not support the creation of a special international criminal tribunal to address whether Russian officials have committed the crime of aggression.

China was also discussed during the lecture. Bellinger expressed concern over the lack of a legal analysis from the Biden administration on China’s treatment of its Uighur population and the challenges

GW LAW REVIEW HOSTS FOREIGN RELATIONS LAW SYMPOSIUM

THE *GEORGE WASHINGTON LAW Review’s* annual symposium on the Law of U.S. Foreign Relations brought an impressive lineup of legal experts to GW for presentations and discussion.

The November symposium, cosponsored by the American Society for International Law, included an energetic



John B. Bellinger III

arising from China’s conduct in the South China Sea.

Elsewhere, he said the administration needs to address the Taliban’s return to power in Afghanistan, efforts to resume a nuclear deal with Iran, the use of force against and detention of terrorists, the provision of immunity to foreign officials, and the loss of bipartisan consensus on the value of Senate consent to the ratification of treaties.

The Brand-Manatt Lecture was established by Joseph L. Brand, JD ’63, and Ambassador Charles T. Manatt, JD ’62. The late Mr. Brand was a partner at Squire Patton Boggs and a former GW trustee. The late Mr. Manatt founded Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP, was the former U.S. ambassador to the Dominican Republic and served as chair of the Democratic National Committee. The lecture was cosponsored by the American Society of International Law, the American Bar Association International Law Section, and GW Law’s International Law Society.

SHAPIRO LECTURE: RESPONSIBLE ENERGY INVESTMENTS ARE KEY TO ADDRESSING ENERGY POVERTY

ASSISTANT DEAN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL Law Studies Randall Abate launched a new discussion forum, the J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Distinguished Lecture on Global Climate Change and Energy Law, with an inaugural presentation by Dr. Damilola Olawuyi of Hamad Bin Khalifa School of Law in Doha, Qatar.

In a lecture titled “The Search for Climate and Energy Justice in the Global South: Shifting from Global Aspirations to Local Realization,” Olawuyi spoke about the need for governments and business enterprises to scale up responsible energy investments in response to rising energy poverty levels and energy injustice across the world.

“In 2022, more than 1 billion people—13 percent of the world’s total population—still lack access to electricity, with about 600 million of those in Africa,” said Olawuyi, a professor of international law and the global vice chair of the International Law Association. “Even in communities with energy access, reliability and affordability remain key issues. Environmentally preferable transition fuels, such as natural gas, have key roles to play in addressing the current energy poverty emergency facing our world.

He said there is an urgent need for business, governments, and other stakeholders “to scale up energy and climate-smart infrastructure investments needed to defeat rising energy poverty levels



Randall Abate with distinguished guest speaker Damilola Olawuyi

and enhance a just, inclusive, and rights-based energy transition that leaves no one behind.”

Olawuyi warned that continued emphasis on decarbonization, without a commensurate flow of investment and technologies to scale up renewable and low-carbon energy programs in Africa, could bring unjust transitions and massive economic crises, while weakening the abilities of countries in the Global South to accelerate progress on their UN Sustainable Development Goals.

GW Law’s new Shapiro lecture series seeks to open discussion by globally recognized experts and leaders on pressing issues linked to climate change and energy law. This first lecture was attended by lawyers in government, business, and academia, as well as professionals in the fields of finance, engineering, science, and sustainability.

keynote address by Yale Law School Professor Harold Hongju Koh. He spoke about contemporary challenges at the intersection of foreign relations, national security, and constitutional law.

Ashley Deeks of the University of Virginia School of Law moderated a panel that discussed how foreign affairs power is allocated among the three branches of government. The panel featured discussion and debate by Jean Galbraith from the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, Jide Nzelibe from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, and Michael

Ramsey from the University of San Diego School of Law.

Another panel, focused on U.S. courts and their role in adjudicating questions of foreign relations law, was moderated by Carlos Vázquez from Georgetown University Law Center. Participants were Curtis Bradley from University of Chicago Law School, Maggie Gardner from Cornell Law School, and Ingrid Wuerth from Vanderbilt Law School.

The symposium concluded with a “fireside chat” moderated by GW Law Professors Sean Murphy and Edward

Swaine and was followed by a Q&A session with GW Law’s Laura Dickinson, Darin Johnson from Howard University School of Law, Paul Stephan from the University of Virginia School of Law, David Stewart from Georgetown University Law Center, and Margaret Taylor from the United States Agency for International Development. They discussed the recently granted certiorari petition in a Foreign Sovereign Immunity Act case, the contemporary role of the Senate in U.S. foreign relations, and immigration.

BLSA Students Take Capitol Hill



THE BLACK LAW STUDENT Association (BLSA) spent the day on Capitol Hill in February for a Black History Month-inspired event. The program, spearheaded by BLSA's Black History Month Committee co-chair Leila Diallo and sponsored by Representative Troy Carter (LA-02), included a series of meet and greets with the members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) and a guided tour of the United States Capitol.

In addition to meeting Rep. Carter and his chief of staff, Chonya Davis Johnson, students also had the opportunity to meet Representatives Joyce Beatty (OH-03), Andre Carson (IN-07), Glenn Ivey (MD-04), Lucy McBath (GA-07), Eleanor Holmes-Norton (DC), Sheila Jackson Lee (TX-18), and Ilhan Omar (MN-05). The members stressed to students how their legal education and training empowers them to help make our country stronger.

"The members know the Field Placement Program at GW Law very well, and students noted that member after

member emphasized the value of externships and the unique opportunities available to them as GW Law students," said Keri A. McCoy, assistant dean for field placement and advisor to BLSA. "Many of the more than 500 GW Law students who extern each year work at the White House, U.S. House, and U.S. Senate. It's impossible to overstate the value of that experience and the professional connections our students gain from it."

The afternoon concluded with a tour of the Emancipation Hall, a press conference on gun violence, and a few final photos with members of the CBC. Reflecting on the significance of the day, McCoy stated, "Though most, if not all, of our Black law students and Black professionals holistically are accustomed to being the only Black person in countless spaces, on this unseasonably beautiful and transformational day, we stood together in this grand structure built by our enslaved ancestors, united by the understanding that we would never walk alone."



EQUITY INSTITUTE CHARTERED AT GW

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON University Institute for Racial, Ethnic and Socioeconomic Equity, better known as "The Equity Institute," has received its official charter. The institute's establishment officially opens a new collaborative, interdisciplinary chapter for GW researchers addressing questions of racial and socioeconomic justice.

The institute held its annual spring Global Equity Workshop April 26, featuring presentations of research alongside networking opportunities and workshops on relevant issues, like how to establish meaningful community partnerships. Next steps will also include the search for the institute's inaugural executive director.

GW Law Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew, who launched the preliminary Equity Institute Initiative in 2021, will serve as its inaugural faculty director. The formal establishment of the institute is a marker of GW's commitment to justice and also will help cement GW's reputation as a resource to support scholars, governments, and communities in meaningful, data-driven policymaking, she said.

"The university's decision to charter a new research institute dedicated to the principles of equality, fairness, and freedom means everything," Matthew said. "It means that at the dawn of our third century, GW has dedicated its resources to support faculty and students who seek to improve societies near and far, by contributing to the work of eradicating discrimination, bigotry, prejudice and inequality—to advancing the cause of justice, both here in the United States and around the world."

The institute already is bringing together scholars and policymakers from

across the disciplines. Ten projects received Equity Institute seed funding last year, with more upcoming. It hosted its inaugural research showcase last September, featuring 23 research presentations from 10 schools at GW and keynoted by scholar and commentator Eddie Glaude. The Equity Institute will support the development of new research collaborations, provide support for faculty submitting equity-related grant proposals and scholarship, expose students to the best practices of participatory based research and facilitate authentic community research partnerships.

“As an institution whose academic and research mission focuses on solving society’s most urgent problems, GW is well-positioned to meet the challenge of racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic inequality, one of the most pressing, complex issues of our time. The chartering of the Equity Institute signals the

“ THE CHARTERING OF THE EQUITY INSTITUTE SIGNALS THE UNIVERSITY’S STRONG AND DISTINCTIVE COMMITMENT TO LEVERAGING OUR ACADEMIC STRENGTHS AND LOCATION IN ORDER TO ADDRESS EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES.”

– Christopher Bracey

university’s strong and distinctive commitment to leveraging our academic strengths and location in order to address equity and social justice issues,” Provost Christopher Bracey said.

Innovation and collaboration, of course, are at the top of Matthew’s wish list for the future of the Equity Institute. She and her team envision a kind of web, enabling partnerships between GW and the wider community as well as within the university. One initiative she hopes to bring to fruition: a “maker’s space” at which GW students in science, technology, engineering and math can share cutting-edge technological know-how with high school students from predominately underrepresented groups in Washington, D.C.

While the institute’s future is bright, Matthew said its present is just as compelling.



GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT LAW STUDENTS EXPERIENCE A DAY IN THE LIFE OF LOCKHEED MARTIN

SENIOR LOCKHEED MARTIN ATTORNEYS AND EXECUTIVES OFFERED GW LAW students an up-close look at what is involved in being in-house counsel for a large aerospace and global security company.

The 45 students from the GW Law Government Procurement Law Program who visited Lockheed Martin’s Global Vision Center in Crystal City, Va., met with senior Lockheed Martin employees and took part in interactive tours of several product demonstration centers.

The students’ visit began with a welcome from Beth Kramer, JD ’95, Lockheed Martin’s associate general counsel for environmental, safety, and health law. Kramer sits on the GW Law Government Contracts Advisory Council. The students also met with Marianne Lavan, Lockheed Martin’s senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary. She described her career journey, provided students with advice on how to develop their legal careers, and encouraged them to pay it forward by serving as mentors to the next generation of lawyers.

“This was an unparalleled experience for our students,” said Assistant Dean for Government Procurement Law Studies Jessica Tillipman. “Not only were they able to spend the day learning from Lockheed Martin’s attorneys, but they were also treated to an incredible tour of the company’s demonstration centers.”

Students toured the Lockheed Martin Global Vision Center, which highlights corporations focused on global security, commercial markets, and scientific discovery. They also saw the Fighter Demonstration Center, where they learned about Lockheed Martin’s two 5th generation fighter aircraft: the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter and the F-22 Raptor. In their visit to the Rotary Wing Innovation Center, students were able to experience a CH-53K helicopter simulator.

The day concluded with a panel discussion on “Lawyering at Lockheed Martin.”

“This was truly an ‘only at GW Law’ experience that has enhanced our students’ government procurement education in an unprecedented way,” said Tillipman. “We are grateful for Lockheed Martin’s hospitality and its longstanding support of our students and the Government Procurement Law Program.”





THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF SCHOLARSHIPS

BY SARAH KELLOGG

OPERATING A LAW SCHOOL WHERE STUDENTS OF ALL BACKGROUNDS and circumstances are fully represented requires more than a fair-weather commitment. Such a standard must be woven throughout a law school's mission and culture – and, importantly, it's financial aid programs.

GW Law has demonstrated that commitment often and profoundly by building a record of comprehensive and lasting financial support for its students, who come to the law school with different educational backgrounds, financial needs, life experiences, and family circumstances.

The drive for sustained and comprehensive financial aid offerings has come from the top, with GW Law Dean and Harold H. Greene Professor of Law Dayna Bowen Matthew making growing and diversifying the law school's financial aid opportunities a central focus of her tenure. "We must reduce the cost of law school attendance to continue attracting the best and brightest students to GW Law," says Matthew.

Historically, the Law School has provided substantive institutional financial aid to a wide range of students, including those who receive merit-based scholarships and need-based grants and loans. This academic year, 81.4 percent of JD students at GW have been rewarded financial aid through the law school, with 1,244 students receiving merit scholarships and 176 students receiving need-based grants. Scholarships are funded, in part, through generous alumni donations, which support the next generations of GW Law students.

ILLUSTRATION BY MICHAEL AUSTIN



"I WAS DRAWN TO GW LAW SPECIFICALLY BECAUSE OF THE STRONG EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM. I WAS REALLY EXCITED ABOUT HAVING HANDS-ON LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES."

— KAILEY MCNEAL

"These are extraordinary students who might not be able to attend GW Law or who might choose another school without our scholarships," the dean says. "We hope our many scholarships give students the freedom to pursue any specialty, including public interest law, because they won't have to worry as much about debt."

Increasing access to a quality legal education for all students, regardless of financial resources, has long been a priority at GW Law. "We select our scholarship recipients for their high potential because GW Law is a national leader at identifying the competencies that make great lawyers," Matthew says. "We are able to consider both quantitative and qualitative predictors of success because professional identity formation has been a bedrock of our curriculum for the past decade through our award-winning Inns of Court and innovative Fundamentals of Lawyering programs."

Moreover, GW Law is committed to building a community where all forms of diversity thrive. "It is essential we have the voices of many students from varied backgrounds represented here at GW Law," says Matthew. "This is our opportunity to open doors to the legal profession and prepare the next generation of leaders for a pluralist, global society."

This past year, GW Law has invested heavily in that principle. Matthew launched the Open Doors Scholarships to enable outstanding students with high potential and significant financial need to attend law school. The first 10 student scholars began classes in September 2022. For those students, most of them first-generation college students, the scholarship, \$120,000 for full-time students, is foundational in setting their courses in law school and, quite possibly, their careers.

The group is excelling academically and on the job market. The inaugural cohort of Open Doors scholars has secured summer jobs, high grades, and leadership positions throughout the law school. "The outcomes have been terrific," says Matthew. "We are making a historic difference by investing in the next generation of problem solvers and changemakers who will lead our world."

Another way that GW Law provides financial support to exceptional students is through merit scholarships. The law school's pioneering Presidential Merit Scholarship program enrolls some of the nation's highest achieving JD applicants who earn full-tuition scholarships through a binding and rigorous selection process. Presidential Merit Scholars serve as leaders in the GW Law community and beyond, contributing to the profession in diverse and inspiring ways.

"Merit scholarships pave the way for high-performing students to choose GW Law over other top law schools so they can get the unique, DC- infused education that only GW provides," Matthew says.

Presidential Merit Scholar Kailey McNeal

LIKE MANY LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS, KAILEY MCNEAL was drawn, in part, to GW Law because she was interested in public policy and government and wanted to be in Washington, D.C., the epicenter of public policy in the United States.

"I knew it would be good for me to be in D.C. It felt like the right place to be for my career," says McNeal. "And I was drawn to GW Law specifically because of the strong externship program. I was really excited about having hands-on learning opportunities."

A Dallas, Texas, native, McNeal attended Pitzer College in California. Graduating with honors and a bachelor's in political studies, McNeal decided that a JD would be a great way to pursue her interest in social justice, animal welfare, and racial justice. But the cost of law school was a hurdle for her.



“I was still on the fence about going to GW,” says McNeal. “As a bi-racial Black woman, who is really interested in public interest law, I want to use my law degree to empower other people and to uplift voices in my community. If I was going to do that, I needed to be conscious about where to go to law school and how to deal with the financial pressures so I would have the freedom to choose my career direction.”

The announcement she was receiving a full-tuition Presidential Merit Scholarship put any hesitations to rest, and McNeal chose GW Law. Yet, as remarkable as her grades and test scores were, she still felt ill at ease at times because she didn’t have a lot of touch points in the law to explain the ins and outs of law school. To ease that feeling, she found helpful professors and the support of good friends.

“I found a great community in the Black Law Students Association,” she says. “Being a Black student in law school can be alienating at times. It’s not a GW-specific thing. It’s that the legal profession doesn’t have a lot of Black attorneys in it. It’s helpful to have a real community.”

While her passion remains at the intersection of animal protection and racial justice, she’s also developed an interest in criminal law while in law school. She’s had an internship at the U.S. Department of Justice, and she plans to participate in the appellate criminal defense clinic. “My experience lends itself nicely to criminal law,” says McNeal, “because so many of the issues in criminal law are related to racial justice.”

Open Doors Scholar Cindy Huang

THE URGE TO GIVE BACK WAS A FREQUENT MOTIVATOR for Cindy Huang, as she advanced steadily through public schools in her native Taiwan, eventually riding her excellent grades and test scores to attend National Taiwan University to obtain a Bachelor of Laws.

Growing up in a working-class neighborhood in Taipei, Huang watched as legal problems were visited upon her family’s friends and neighbors. “They didn’t even know how to hire an attorney, and if they had, they didn’t have the economic resources to hire someone,” says Huang. “There were a lot of injustices.”

Today, Huang is using that motivation to give back to succeed as

“AFTER I GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE, I WORKED FOR A U.S. LAW FIRM IN ITS HONG KONG OFFICE. I REALIZED I WANTED TO WORK ON TRADE ISSUES AND CROSS-BORDER TRANSACTIONS.”

– CINDY HUANG

an Open Doors Scholar at GW Law. She is studying international trade law and looking for a way to leverage her interest in international trade to benefit communities like her own and others.

“After I graduated from college, I worked for a U.S. law firm in its Hong Kong office. I realized I wanted to work on trade issues and cross-border transactions,” says Huang, who is clerking at the Delaware Court of Chancery this summer. “I saw the law firm’s dedication to its clients, but also to giving back on a larger scale—making sure there are vaccines available to everyone and supporting renewable energy that is friendlier to the environment. It was exciting to do something positive for society.”

As a first-generation college student, Huang knew that she couldn’t count on her parents and other relatives to help her determine where to head next in her academic career. “I had to rely on myself because my parents couldn’t give me any guidance, so it’s been more difficult. But I’ve also been able to meet a lot of people who have been willing to help me and share tips.”

Huang, who has a passion for languages, says most first-generation students have a knack for finding solutions to difficulties, and they tend to be proactive in their problem solving and willingness to ask for help. She says her fellow Open Door Scholars have given her a “sense of belonging” despite the fact she didn’t know anyone when she came to the United States for the first time to attend GW Law. “I am so lucky to be an Open Doors Scholar because I know I wouldn’t be here without it.”

Merit Scholar David Liss

GW LAW THIRD YEAR STUDENT DAVID LISS HAS AN unlikely background for a new attorney who wants to practice cutting-edge cybersecurity law. He worked as an archaeology intern in Rome, and he has a passion for Roman history and the classics, and a deep familiarity with Latin.

Eventually, though, a life in the law seemed eminently more practical. Today, archaeology has become a prized hobby, and Liss is focused on taking the bar this summer and clerking for a judge in D.C. Superior Court. “I had to look at my career realistically,” says Liss. “Cybersecurity is a newer and vastly growing field, with developing law. The ability to become an expert in a rapidly developing area really appealed to me.”

A native of Columbus, Ga., Liss was excited to come to Washington, D.C., because he’s spent most of his life living in a small town. Even his college, the University of Georgia, was located in Athens, another small town. While he had scholarships to stay in Georgia for law school, the thought of coming to Washington was too enticing.

“I was given an excellent scholarship to come to GW, and that really made it possible,” says Liss. “GW was a very enticing opportunity, because I would actually get to live in not only a big city, but really one of the most important cities in the world. It has everything under the sun.”

Before he came to GW Law, he had one more detour to take. Graduating from college, he deferred acceptance to GW Law for a year so he could spend time in Northern Italy teaching English to students in Berlingo, which is 40 miles from Milan. But that opportunity was cut short by the pandemic, and he was forced to skip his final semester there. As he says now, “the world turned upside down.”

Liss says GW Law’s merit scholarship helped him to gain



“GW LAW WAS A VERY ENTICING OPPORTUNITY, BECAUSE I WOULD ACTUALLY GET TO LIVE IN NOT ONLY A BIG CITY, BUT REALLY ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CITIES IN THE WORLD. IT HAS EVERYTHING UNDER THE SUN.”

–DAVID LISS

more real-life experience in the law. Without the financial burden shackling him to part-time jobs, he was able to apply for different externships, working at the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, among many. “I ended up being able to really experience the law before I even left law school,” says Liss, who says his ultimate goal right now is to become a federal prosecutor. “The scholarship has made all the difference.”

Open Doors Scholar Zeba “Raisa” Shah

THE LIFE OF ZEBA “RAISA” SHAH HAS A CINEMATIC quality to it. Growing up in New Mexico and California, her parents worked in fast food restaurants and health care facilities to support their family. After high school, she became the first person in her family to attend college. In her last semester at the University of Pennsylvania, she took an internship in Washington that led to her serving as an executive assistant for three years with the U.S. Senate Leader, Sen. Charles Schumer, D-New York.

“It truly feels like a dream,” says Shah. “It was an incredible experience. It made it hard to choose between me continuing to work in the Senate or going to law school. But I didn’t want to have regrets later in life for not trying to open as many doors as possible and giving myself the opportunity to be able to do whatever I wanted to do.”

But her interest in law school alone wasn’t a guarantee it would happen. Her parents had always hoped she would become a doctor, and they worried how she was going to afford such a financial investment. “Immigrant parents are going to be a little bit more risk averse,” she notes. “Getting the scholarship really helped reassure them because they knew that I was going to be taken care of.”

Shah says her commitment to learning is the result of her father’s long road to his own undergraduate degree. She graduated in May 2019 with a bachelor’s degree, and her father earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing that December after years of taking classes part-time. “My dad’s a big part of why I was not afraid to pursue higher education. He’s an example of it never being too late to change your life trajectory and change your career trajectory,” she says.

Being a first-generation law student also comes with advantages, a sort of resiliency that allows students to seek help or ask questions that others may avoid. “I genuinely believe that first-time students are so much more resourceful because we weren’t born with the same advantages,” says Shah. “We know how to speak out and take a lot more initiative because we always have to go out of our way to seek

out these resources that other students don’t have to. We’re always trying to break the knowledge gap and catch up with our peers.”

Shah says the programming for Open Doors Scholars acknowledges that the problem for first-generation college students isn’t money alone. Too many universities give scholarships, and then leave students to fend for themselves without the supports that level the playing field, she says. “Money opens the door,” says Shah. “It literally allows us to come, but it’s easy to get lost in this space where a lot of our peers have parents who are lawyers or who have professional backgrounds and institutional knowledge. Without the community of people in a similar space, I would argue it would be really, really daunting to be here.”

Open Doors Scholar Devin Woodson

GROWING UP IN MARYLAND, DEVIN WOODSON knew the District of Columbia-Maryland-Virginia (DMV) metropolitan region pretty well, so when he decided he wanted to go to law school, there was only one school for him, GW Law.

“I knew I wanted to go to law school as soon as I set foot in undergrad, because I wanted to be able to make a difference,” says Woodson. “But how I was going to get to law school was one challenge, and how I was going to get to GW Law, I knew that would be an even bigger challenge.”





"I KNEW I WANTED TO GO TO LAW SCHOOL AS SOON AS I SET FOOT IN UNDERGRAD, BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE."

-DEVIN WOODSON

Enter the Open Doors Scholarship, which turned out to address both challenges. Woodson remembers getting word of the scholarship and knowing that his dream for a GW Law degree was one step closer. "I remember getting an email that was like, 'Congratulations, you got a scholarship,' and I was on the Metro," he says. "I called my dad and I was like, 'I haven't read the whole letter, but I think we just hit the lottery, dad.'"

Raised by William Woodson, he watched his dad work two jobs and raise a child while going to school at night. "He always encouraged me to go to college," says Woodson. "He was like every parent; he wanted my life to be better than his. It was something he really wanted for me because he hadn't had that opportunity. He's my hero."

As he considers his future, Woodson is thinking international corporate law. He is drawn to the idea of helping write international treaties between countries and finding opportunities for people to come together in such a divisive time.

Woodson says the Open Doors scholarship group has become more than colleagues, they're friends. Most of the Open Doors Scholars are first-generation college students, and it can be very lonely immersing yourself in a profession that is not even on the horizon for most of their families.

"We're trying to figure out law school together, and when you find your community, it makes it so much more comfortable. And I'm happy to have the Open Doors Scholars as my community."

"IMMIGRANT PARENTS ARE GOING TO BE A LITTLE BIT MORE RISK AVERSE. GETTING THE SCHOLARSHIP REALLY HELPED REASSURE THEM BECAUSE THEY KNEW THAT I WAS GOING TO BE TAKEN CARE OF."

- ZEB RAISA SHAH

A Community of Support

GW LAW UNDERSTOOD THAT ALL THESE IMPRES- sive scholars were relieved of the financial burden with their scholarships, but that they would need the broader support of the GW Law community to thrive in law school because many of them were first-generation law students.

That community came to life, in part, in August 2022 with the launch of the highly regarded Footnotes Pre-Orientation program for 1L students, which offered both first-generation and other students the chance to "learn the ropes" of law school in a low-key setting. The program, which occurred in the two days prior to freshman orientation, drew 177 students.

"The two days of programming before the actual orientation started were so helpful," says Shaw, noting there were a lot of first-generation students like herself in the group. "Creating a cohort of people who understand us has been really, really important, and I appreciate the law school finding another way for us to make connections."

The program, under the leadership of Associate Dean for Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Carmia N. Caesar, recognizes the reality that law school isn't like other higher education experiences where students regularly turn in papers and take tests, receiving feedback nearly weekly from professors and teachers. The pressure to learn an inordinate amount of material in a short period—and have little feedback other than a mid-term and final—can be overwhelming. Footnotes gives students a heads-up about how law school works and where to seek support.

"I feel like the program took a lot of the edge off because I hadn't ever been to a law school before or known a lawyer," says Alexander Dorsey-Tarpley, a Footnotes and Open Doors scholar. "I did experience a lot of imposter syndrome at first, and I still feel it occasionally now, but I think the Footnotes program helped me conquer some of it. I haven't felt as alone because I had people I could talk with. I had a community."

Matthew believes GW Law and other law schools must be committed to turning a legal education into an opportunity to advance the next generation of law scholars and practitioners. "An education in the law is life-changing, and we try to give our students the resources they need to turn their talents and dreams into fulfilling careers," says Matthew. "Through their lives, they will contribute to our society in very real and important ways we can't even imagine today."



GW LAW ON THE MOVE



BY MARY DEMPSEY



GW LAW HAS BEGUN A HIGH-IMPACT buildout of its faculty, adding new tenure-track professors, expanding the full-time faculty in its standout Fundamentals of Lawyering Program, and bringing on three new assistant deans in influential areas of legal education. Since her arrival at GW Law in 2020, Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew has announced five new endowed professorships, a pivotal tool in attracting and retaining top level scholars.

“A law school is as strong as its faculty. Faculty is what draws students, builds reputational strength, and attracts the attention of the kind of judges and lawyers that recruit graduates,” says Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew. “GW is attracting the best new scholars to continue its historical strength as a home for intellectual giants in the legal academy. Our newest faculty members match our history of great classroom teachers and our vision for a tightly knit scholarly community.”

“We are hiring faculty because we are on the move.”

The dean says the new tenure-track doctrinal faculty—Associate Professors Heidi Liu, Kathryne Young, and Tania Valdez—will advance GW Law’s research agenda, inform national policy, “and inspire students in the classroom.”

“GW IS ATTRACTING THE BEST NEW SCHOLARS TO CONTINUE ITS HISTORICAL STRENGTH AS A HOME FOR INTELLECTUAL GIANTS IN THE LEGAL ACADEMY.”

– DEAN DAYNA BOWEN MATTHEW

“These are excellent scholars who have the ability to influence the direction of a field of study and still have impact on the ground,” Matthew says.

Liu conducts empirical research into what she calls “forbidden information” in the law, or occasions when legal decision-makers have access to information they should not know or apply. As examples, she points to jurors who hear testimony they are instructed to disregard or employers who are told to turn a blind eye to demographic details they already know.

“There’s a long legacy at GW Law of research that impacts policy,” Liu says. “I’m excited for the opportunity to learn from colleagues who are at the forefront of law and policy conversations and who are deeply engaged with the real-world impact of their work.”

She adds that she’s eager to have students work with her on her research.

Young, meanwhile, joined GW Law in 2022 to teach criminal law and procedure, access to justice, the sociology of law, and



evidence and professional responsibility. She is an associate editor of *Law & Society Review* and secretary-elect of the Law and Society Association. In 2020–2021, the American Bar Foundation named her an ABF/JPB Access to Justice Scholar.

“Lawyers have the potential to increase economic and social equality by understanding that they are not merely cogs in a legal machine, but crucial members of an enormous ecosystem of legal issues—only a small slice of which end up making it to formal resolution,” Young says. “Understanding this broader context of legal practice can give rise to new collaborations, innovative designs for justice provision, and the just resolution of a broader swath of legal problems.”

Young looks at civil justice problems and a combination of factors—from employment and housing to age, gender, and class—to see how they affect people’s experiences with the law. She is also the author of *How to Be Sort of Happy in Law School*, which is standard reading at dozens of law schools across the country.

The third new tenure-track faculty member, Tania Valdez, is an immigration scholar who has focused on noncitizens’ interactions with administrative agencies and federal courts, with a lens on the differences in procedural and substantive protections offered to immigrants. She joined GW from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, where she led the Immigration Law and Policy Clinic and supervised law students appearing before the immigration agencies, the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado, and the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Valdez’s scholarship has been published in the *Notre Dame Law Review* and the *Washington University Law Review*.

She began her legal career as a clinical instructor at Berkeley Law’s East Bay Community Law Center. She later served as a staff attorney for the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, clerked for Judge Kristen Mix at the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado, and litigated civil rights cases at a boutique law firm in Denver.

FUNDAMENTALS OF LAWYERING DISTINGUISHES GW AMONG LAW SCHOOLS

TEN FULL-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS ALSO JOINED the innovative Fundamentals of Lawyering Program in the fall, solidifying the centerpiece of the most significant reform of the law school’s first-year curriculum in a generation. With these hires, the program stands as a leader in the legal academy and a model for other schools who wish to train “practice-ready” lawyers beginning on the first day of law school.

Associate Professor Brooke Ellinwood McDonough, like

some other new permanent hires, had already been teaching as a visiting faculty member in the program. She says Fundamentals of Lawyering, which has drawn the attention of other law schools, is “revolutionary in its focus on developing lawyers who can hit the ground running and be practice ready after graduation.”

“Our focus on developing the practical skills necessary to represent clients is unique to GW Law. It’s our response to the simple fact that legal employers expect more from law students these days, and it enables GW Law to differentiate its graduates from those of other law schools,” says McDonough, who received her undergraduate and law degrees from GW.

The program concentrates on students’ professional identity formation, instilling the core competencies that prepare them to excel when they graduate. GW Law’s approach supplants the outdated Legal Research and Writing Program model taught by part-time faculty, and it dovetails with GW Law’s award-winning Inns of Court Program, which puts students in contact with advisers who help them develop their careers.

Fundamentals of Lawyering assigns students to small cohorts that engage in legal work for a fictional company. Not only do students build experiential learning, but professors in the program bring their experience from work in private practice, government agencies, and nonprofits to help students think through their career aspirations.

“The Fundamentals of Lawyering faculty focus on leadership and professional identity formation. That focus and our concentration on individualized skill and value building is putting us ahead of the academy,” Matthew says.

The new faculty members work under the guidance of the program’s Interim Director Iselin Gambert, whose scholarship crosses several areas, including critical animal studies, critical race theory, food law and policy, and feminist legal theory; Associate Director Anita Singh, who has extensive experience with the Department of Justice, including in national security; and Interim Associate Director Erika Pont, who serves as the Fundamentals of Lawyering liaison to the Inns of Courts Program and directs the Dean’s Fellows Program.

Cheryl Kettler, one of the new full-time associate professors, has been involved with Fundamentals of Lawyering since its launch. She also taught in the prior Legal Research and Writing Program. “Having been in practice for many years, including as a partner in law firms, and having been a recruiter for a company that sought partners to relocate to other firms, I have been in a lot of discussions about what preparation students need,” Kettler says. “I think Fundamentals of Lawyering is definitely the wave of the future, and GW Law is really at its forefront. Other schools are now trying to stake out their place, but we’re ahead of them. To my knowledge, there is no other program like this.”

According to Kettler, what the program does better than its



predecessor is create a more accurate experience of what it is like to be in practice. In the past, students practiced writing memos to clients. Now they are assigned to hypothetical clients with a problem that must be solved. They use information from websites created for the clients, and other documents, to come to understand the business they represent and how best to help their clients—before and during litigation.

“We used to talk about... things that go on in the trial. Now we talk about what happens pre-trial. We talk about discovery, problem solving, consultation with the client,” Kettler says.

The program also gives students more mentoring and one-on-one access to faculty and dean’s fellows, helping them build better networks and positioning them to attract better job offers. McDonough says upper-level professors have noticed improved performance from students coming out of the new program.

ALUMNI GIFTS UNDERPIN PROFESSORSHIPS

GENEROUS ALUMNI PROVIDED SUPPORT TO recruit, reward, and retain faculty at GW Law, including three new endowed professorships.

“I am delighted to celebrate the awarding of three endowed professorships in our renowned Intellectual Property and Technology Law Program,” the dean says.

Daniel Solove, one of the nation’s leading scholars in the field of data privacy law, was named named the inaugural Eugene L. and Barbara A. Bernard Professor of Intellectual Property and Technology Law. The professorship was made possible by a gift from the estate of Eugene Bernard, JD ’51.

Dawn Nunziato, an expert on free speech and technology, was tapped to become the Theodore and James Pedas Family Professor of Intellectual Property and Technology Law. Nunziato is a First Amendment expert who has been breaking ground with her collaborations across the university, including with the GW Institute for Data, Democracy and Politics.

Professors Nunziato and Robert Brauneis, who is co-director of the Intellectual Property Law Program, have been awarded a large grant to study tech solutions that advance fairness and content integrity in providing marginalized and underrepresented communities with access to justice and educational resources.

The Honorable F. Scott Kieff was named the Stevenson Bernard Professor of Law. An internationally renowned scholar specializing in the interface among law, technology, business, and international trade and security, Kieff is a former commissioner of the U.S. International Trade Commission.

A fourth faculty position—the Patricia Roberts Harris Research

Professorship—will be held by Spencer Overton, who follows Roger Fairfax in the role.

“We are thrilled to welcome Professor Overton back to our faculty following a leave of absence during which he successfully led the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies,” the dean says. “Professor Overton’s research agenda will build on his scholarly work in voting rights with a project titled The Multiracial Democracy Project that will expand the work of the Equity Institute.”

The project will undertake research, develop a new course at GW Law, bring together academic and government leaders for dialogue, train experts to testify at legislative and agency hearings, and organize groups to write and file amicus curiae briefs at the U.S. Supreme Court.

For the first time in more than a decade, the school also is broadening its Jacob Burns Legal Clinics. In December, Dean Matthew announced the appointment of two full-time faculty to lead new clinics (see sidebar, page 22).

SUBJECT MATTER DEANS SET GW LAW APART

THE LAW SCHOOL HAS ALSO HIRED THREE NEW assistant deans who are experts in expanding specialty fields where GW Law is highly regarded. Dean Matthew said these preeminent additions will raise the school’s visibility and provide new opportunities for students.

Randall Abate was named assistant dean for environmental law studies, an area where GW Law has been at the forefront for half a century. He joined GW in the summer to guide the program’s expansion to include local, national, and international challenges facing the planet.

He brings to GW three decades of experience in academia. Dean Abate was a full-time faculty member at six U.S. law schools and joined GW from Monmouth University, where he served from 2018 to 2022 as the inaugural Rechnitz Family and Urban Coast Institute Endowed Chair in Marine and Environmental Law and Policy.

Donna Attanasio, who had served as senior adviser for energy law since 2013, was also named an assistant dean, overseeing the Energy Law Program. Attanasio founded and directs the Sustainable Energy Initiative, a thought-leadership platform for developing energy policy that takes into consideration equitable economic growth, public health, and the environment. She and Dean Abate co-direct the school’s Environmental and Energy Law Program.

“There is certainly a new generation of law school students seeking experiences with a justice focus so, to a certain degree, we’re following a national trend in legal education. But I think GW is better positioned to become prominent in a very competitive legal

field,” Abate says. “GW is at the frontline of environmental law education, with distinguished leaders in environmental and energy law scholars in its programs.”

Abate characterizes the school’s environmental and energy programs as two sides of the same house, noting the importance of students receiving training in both fields to enhance their skill set and marketability after graduation. In response to that overlap, he developed the J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Distinguished Lecture on Global Climate Change and Energy Law, which launched Nov. 17 with a lecture by Dr. Damilola Olawuyi of Hamad Bin Khalifa School of Law in Doha, Qatar.

The environmental and energy law programs are deepening connections with other areas at GW Law—including international and comparative law, government procurement law, animal law, national security law, and business and finance law—and are strengthening long-standing partnerships across the university, most notably with Sustainable GW, GW Climate and Health Institute, the Environmental and Energy Management Institute, and the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

Attanasio draws on her 24 years of experience in private practice, and decades of involvement with the Energy Bar Association and GW Law’s extensive alumni network, to ensure the energy law program remains responsive to employer needs.

“I also have the privilege of working with an extraordinary group of adjunct faculty, including former commissioners of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and current government and private practitioners,” Attanasio says. “The depth of expertise in Washington, D.C., enables us to teach courses that many other schools cannot. These include specialty areas like atomic energy law, offshore wind, energy commodities, and emerging technologies.”

She says these courses complement and build upon fundamental energy law courses that address regulatory work before federal and state commissions in electricity, natural gas, and oil.

Internationally, Attanasio has helped the school finalize a collaboration with the University of Groningen in the Netherlands to introduce an LLM program. Students in that program will take courses at both schools over two semesters and, at the students’ option, a summer. They end up with two LLM degrees—one from each institution.

Rounding out the team of new deans is the inaugural Assistant Dean for Animal Legal Education Kathy Hessler, who will help develop a new Animal Law program—building on existing expertise within the school—and an animal law clinic. Hessler’s position grew out of a collaboration with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, which is providing funding to the school.

“Part of my interest in animal law is as a larger social justice interest and a developing area of the law. I see it as a unique lens on the law,” says Hessler, who received her undergraduate degree from GW. She says the program dovetails with innovative work taking place at GW Law and provides another opportunity for the school to stand out in an emerging area of law.

“It’s also a good example of intersectional work,” she says. “We’ll be working with environmental law, working with the public interest program, looking at property law. Animal law can be found across the curriculum, and one of my goals is to help provide resources for other faculty members to see where animal law touches their programs.”

Hessler helped develop the Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis and Clark Law School, directed the Aquatic Animal Law Initiative, and co-created World Aquatic Animal Day.

CLINICAL PROGRAM PUSHES FORWARD WITH BOLD EXPANSION

THE JACOBS BURNS COMMUNITY LEGAL CLINICS has brought on two outstanding new professors, continuing an ambitious expansion—the first in a decade—at what is already one of the nation’s largest clinical law programs. The new hires are part of a scale-up of tenured faculty.

Emily Benfer has been appointed to direct the Medical Legal Partnership Clinic, while Lula Hagos joins the law school to direct the Criminal Defense and Justice Clinic.

“One goal is to expand our clinical practice areas to respond to community need, student interest, and to create more synergies with our curricular strengths,” says Jacob Burns Foundation Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs Laurie Kohn. “The other critically important goal is to provide clinic seats to all students who want to take clinics.”

The clinical program has added four clinics in the last year and a half, and an Intellectual Property and Technology Law clinic will open in the spring. The expansion will bring the number of legal clinics at GW Law to 16, with as many as six more in the pipeline. Currently under discussion are future clinics focused on environmental justice, veterans’ affairs, business startups and innovation, racial justice and equity, policy and legislation, and animal law.

Before joining GW, Hagos served as an assistant federal public defender with the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of Virginia, representing indigent clients, including in complex fraud and terrorism-related offenses. She also worked for seven years in the Trial Division of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia.

She came to GW Law in 2021 as a visiting professor to launch the Criminal Defense and Justice Clinic along with Friedman Fellow Ilan Friedmann-Grunstein, a former assistant public defender in Miami. The clinic represents individuals charged with misdemeanors in D.C. Law students appear on behalf of clients, from arraignment through to sentencing or acquittal.

“Professor Hagos is the ideal hire to become the permanent director of the newly launched Criminal Defense and



Justice Clinic,” Kohn says. “Her substantial experience as a criminal defender at both the state and federal levels gives her a rare perspective on the criminal justice system and the practice of criminal defense. She is an innovative and compassionate teacher, a top-rate litigator, and a scholar with insight into the shortcomings of our criminal justice system.”

The Medical Legal Partnership, meanwhile, was established by four students who laid its foundation with Benfer’s leadership in fall 2022. It is on track to open as a capstone clinic this fall.

Medical-legal partnership clinics take an integrated approach to resolving health problems caused by social and legal issues, such as respiratory distress that results from exposure to mold or infestations in substandard housing or even the negative health effects of an eviction or lack of access to food. Students in the clinic work closely with graduate students and residents at the GW Milken Institute School of Public Health and the School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

This spring, the clinic is partnering with Bread for the City, a nonprofit advocacy organization that provides low-income D.C. residents with food, clothing, medical care, and legal and social services. In addition, the clinic is expected to collaborate with the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership, which was founded in 2006 at Milken Institute School of Public Health.

“Students in the clinic learn firsthand how access to justice affects every facet of life, especially health and well-being,” Benfer says. “Through collaboration across professions and integration into the medical home, clinic students become effective problem-solvers with the ability to diagnose and solve the root of a client’s problem and advance health equity and social justice.”

Benfer has founded and directed numerous award-winning medical-legal partnerships, and she served as a senior policy adviser to the White House and American Rescue Plan Implementation Team on eviction prevention and housing policy. She says the new clinic’s first focus is likely to be on housing law and policy and service to residents of D.C. Wards

7 and 8, where asthma rates are the highest in the city and the average lifespan is 15 years lower than in wealthier areas of the district.

The Intellectual Property and Technology Law Clinic, meanwhile, is slated to open its doors this spring under the direction of Lolita Darden, a registered patent attorney whose scholarship focuses on intellectual property rights for under-resourced creators and inventors. Darden previously directed Suffolk Law School’s Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Clinic, which offered pro bono counseling and legal services to new businesses. She brings deep experience in clinical teaching, patent and trademark law, and public service to the clinic and to GW Law’s Intellectual Property Law Program.

Darden was recently appointed to the Public Advisory Committee of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, where she will join a small committee of private-sector intellectual property experts who will advise the office.

An innovative new clinical model has broadened the expansion of the Jacobs Burns Legal Clinics. GW Law’s Civil Access to Justice Clinic features a slate of faculty with varying areas of expertise who collaborate teaching a seminar centering on access to justice, equity, change lawyering, and client counseling skills. The model’s flexible design allows the clinic to agilely respond to student interest, community need, and faculty availability.

The model also enables student-attorneys to develop their practical skills while investing a more limited amount of time to clinics—a recognition that not all students are able to devote the credits necessary to enroll in a capstone clinic. This two-credit model provides professional development, lawyering training, and identity formation opportunities to a broader population of GW Law students.

Three divisions of the Civil Access to Justice Clinic have operated over the last year: Family Law, Employment Law, and Medical Legal Partnership. Later this year, it will add an Educational Equity Clinic under the direction of Assistant Dean for Pro Bono and Advocacy Programs David Johnson.

Kohn, who directs the school’s Family Justice Litigation Clinic and Civil Access to Justice Clinic, says the latest academic year saw 380 students apply for 196 clinic openings. GW Law’s strategic goal is to guarantee by 2025 a clinic experience to every law student who wants one.

“ONE GOAL IS TO EXPAND OUR CLINICAL PRACTICE AREAS TO RESPOND TO COMMUNITY NEED, STUDENT INTEREST, AND TO CREATE MORE SYNERGIES WITH OUR CURRICULAR STRENGTHS.”

– LAURIE KOHN



A vibrant, diverse crowd of people of various ages, ethnicities, and genders. Three large, colorful speech bubbles are overlaid on the crowd. The top bubble is yellow and contains the word 'Motivated.' in blue. The middle bubble is red and contains the word 'Loyal.' in yellow. The bottom bubble is blue and contains the word 'Grateful.' in red. The background is a dense, colorful mosaic of human faces, representing a global and inclusive community.

Motivated.

Loyal.

Grateful.

GW LAW ALUMNI

AN INTERGENERATIONAL COMMITMENT

BY SARAH KELLOGG

Motivated. Loyal. Grateful. For GW Law alumni, those three words define their relationship with their alma mater, even long after they've graduated and gone on to successful legal careers. Their commitment is unmistakable, and it has kindled a desire by many to give back to the law school with their most precious of resources—their time.

No law school can thrive without devoted alumni, a vast corps of graduates who support the school's mission through financial and in-kind support. Alumni engagement programs are critical to building a lifelong association between school and graduate. Beyond financial contributions, the custom of giving extends to enlisting GW Law alumni in the business at hand—engaging, mentoring, and training current law students. The system has proven to be exceptionally effective, as alumni cycle back through the law school to help in numerous capacities with variable time requirements.

“Our talented GW Law alumni bring a high level of enthusiasm for giving back to the law school,” says Dean and Harold H. Greene Professor of Law Dayna Bowen Matthew. “Creating connections between our alumni and our current students enriches the students, the alumni, and the law school.”

The George Washington Law Alumni Association (GWLAA) has become a key partner in not only attracting new students but also providing current students with mentoring and guidance. Just look at the standout contributions of alumni volunteers in FY 2022: 105 alumni served as adjunct professors at GW Law; 98 alumni

“I’m not at the stage of my career where I can be contributing massive amounts of money to the school, so this is my way of trying to give back.”

— ADAM BOFILL



volunteered as moot court judges; 121 alumni attended student/alumni events; and more than 70 alumni called admitted students in spring 2022 to encourage them to attend GW Law. Clearly, alumni volunteer contributions are adding up.

Assistant Dean David M. Johnson, who oversees GW Law’s pro bono and advocacy programs, including its adjunct faculty, of which many are alumni, says alumni are eager to find a way to contribute in significant and small ways. “There is a real sense of community among alumni volunteers,” he says. “They’re giving to the law school, but they don’t think of it as giving. It is a level of engagement, both with students and other alumni.”

AN ABUNDANCE OF OPPORTUNITY

GW LAW OFFERS ALUMNI MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES to work with the school, whether joining advisory councils or serving on mock interview programs, judging a moot court competition, or becoming an adjunct faculty member. The focus of most of these programs is to bring alumni in direct contact with current students where they can share their knowledge and acumen.

Some of these opportunities come directly from GW Law or are offered in cooperation with the Student Bar Association (SBA) or the GWLAA. A good example of this kind of cooperation is the peer mentoring program for 1Ls, which brings the alumni office, the SBA, and the GWLAA together to support students.

In fact, a number of GW Law offices and programs, from the Center for Professional Development and Career Strategy (Career Center) to the Office of Development and Alumni Relations (DAR) to individual academic programs, are seeking to incorporate alumni into law school activities. “We have good communication lines,” says Laura E.P. Sheehan, manager of alumni career services in the Career

Center. “We have invited alumni to present talks about the books they have published that were directly relevant to our current student body. In terms of mentorship programs, we are still very much in the nascent stages of getting that program up and running or reimagined,” she adds.

In August 2022, Scott Watkins, JD ’92, lectured about his recently published book, *The Insider’s Guide to Law Firm Land*, an inside view of how law firms operate and how law students can navigate the transition from law student to associate to partner. In September, GW Law hosted Samuel “Skip” Halpern, JD ’75, for a book talk on how to find joy in professional work. His book, *Wellsprings of Work, Surprising Sources of Meaning and Motivation in Work*, is being used by the Career Center to help students understand the relationship between work and well-being.

DAR, which actively recruits alumni and seeks new activities for alumni volunteers, is also partnering with the GWLAA this year to bring alumni to campus for special panels and alumni talks to strengthen connections between students, the law school, and alumni. “Our office is constantly working to secure alumni volunteers for a number of opportunities we currently have,” says Brent Vicino, GW Law’s executive director of constituent relations and development. “We are always looking for new ways to get our alumni involved and match them up with the needs of the various departments at GW Law.” The office also sought volunteers last year to serve as mentors for the newly created Open Door Scholars program, which offers scholarships to extraordinary students with serious financial need.

STRENGTHENING TIES THROUGH MENTORSHIP

THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTORSHIP COMES UP TIME and again in discussions with alumni volunteers, many of whom feel that their own personal commitment to mentoring students reflects GW Law’s longstanding belief in the power of mentorship to help current students and recent graduates find their paths forward in the world.

For Susan Bastress, JD ’81, volunteering has allowed her to weave her decades of legal experience with mentorship through GW Law’s annual competitions. As a volunteer arbitrator in the Spanogle International Commercial Arbitration Competition for more than a decade, she has watched law students confront the challenges of advocating before a panel of arbitrators and offered them guidance through the process.

Bastress, who had a long tenure with Squire Patton Boggs, says the arbitration competition gives students a chance to experience judicial figures challenging their views and their knowledge of the law, up close and personal. It’s an ideal opportunity to experience the pressure of being well prepared when arguing to win a client’s case.

“When I’m at the school, during the breaks in oral arguments, it’s my chance to really talk to the students about what challenges they face,” says Bastress, who says she likes to push students to be creative in handling complex arbitration cases. “Even though the legal market is very different now than when I graduated, I am able to share my own experiences of being in a large D.C. law firm with international offices serving multinational clients. To me, giving students an understanding of the diverse opportunities available to them seems like a very worthy reason to have alums go back and interact with students.”

It is, says Assistant Dean Johnson, who oversees GW Law’s student competitions. Alumni can offer the kind of real-world

experience that scholarship alone cannot always convey, and the competitions also give alumni a chance to reconnect every year. “Our alumni volunteers are giving their time on the weekends to do this. It does matter, and it does have an impact. It’s also fun to watch this all unfold and be a part of moot court,” he says. “You are teaching, but without having to grade all those exams.”

Moot court judge Justin Golart, JD ’12, encourages GW Law graduates to look for ways to volunteer. Golart had not participated in the Van Vleck Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition—GW Law’s premier advocacy contest—as a student, and he regretted not doing so. After all, it’s one of those rites of passage at the law school, so he was happy when Johnson welcomed Golart’s first time in a moot court as a judge.

“There’s a very high degree of satisfaction for me in contributing to GW Law,” says Golart, an associate at Troutman Pepper in Richmond, Va. “I feel very fortunate that GW accepted me as a transfer student, and that I got my law degree there. I definitely want to repay the school for the opportunity it gave me.”

That’s why Golart recommends alumni look for ways to give their time, noting that there are so many options. “I certainly encourage alumni to volunteer for GW Law,” he says. “But I also think we should look for something that we genuinely enjoy. Volunteering should be beneficial and meaningful, and fun.”

STEPPING IN AND STEPPING UP

FOR FRIENDS JAKE BERDINE, JD ’15, ADAM BOFILL, JD ’17, and Matthew Rosenberg, JD ’16, recruiting the next generation of legal scholars at GW Law has turned into a personal crusade of sorts. The three alumni volunteers are leading the Admitted Students Outreach Program, a subcommittee of the GWLAA Board, and rallying friends and GW Law graduates to help admitted students make their decisions about whether to attend the law school.

“When you’re having to make thousands of connections, that requires a large group of dedicated volunteers to help,” says Berdine, who is senior product counsel at OpenAI. “We’ve done a lot to streamline the process over the last seven years of the program and to require less of the volunteers’ time. And, I think, to make the program a lot more successful.”

Through the program, alumni volunteers contact admitted students and answer any questions they may have about GW Law, the university, the District of Columbia, or about going to law school, in general. The relationships that are formed can last a few minutes or live long past their original call, as volunteers offer their own insights and experiences about law school and post-law school life.

“This program showcases our terrific alumni community, which sets us apart from other schools,” says Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid Sophia Sim. “Our volunteers share what life was like as a GW Law student and what it’s like now as a practicing attorney. The alumni really come through for this program, but, to me, it’s a full-circle moment of alumni helping future members of our community.”

The program, which was launched in 2015 by Mike Lueptow, JD ’13, has been so effective that what started as a handful of volunteers speaking to a small percentage of the admitted students has morphed into a mega volunteer experience. Last year, more than

“I think GW Law is a particularly special place when it comes to mentoring. You learn that you’re not going to make it unless you find a team that’s going to support you.”

—MATTHEW ROSENBERG



70 alumni volunteers connected with admitted students. This year, the goal is to enlist 300 alumni volunteers to reach out to every admitted student, about 2,000 students. Berdine says their data suggest an admitted student who is contacted by the alumni program team is significantly more likely to attend GW Law than those not contacted.

It’s been another unique way for alumni to support the law school. “I’m not at the stage of my career where I can be contributing massive amounts of money to the school, so this is my way of trying to give back,” says Bofill, who is an associate corporate counsel at Amazon. “It gives younger alumni a chance to contribute significantly to GW Law and make a difference.”

It also is an example of one of those rare initiatives where the program is fully operated by alumni in support of and consultation with the law school. The three-person leadership team handles all the alumni recruitment, scheduling, call matchmaking, and voluminous data and spreadsheets on their own.

“I think every one of us who has been successful in the law has done it with mentors,” says Rosenberg, an associate at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP in California. “And I think GW Law is a particularly special place when it comes to mentoring. You learn that you’re not going to make it unless you find a team that’s going to support you. I think we’ve found those same principles in this program.”

It’s a message that strikes a chord with most alumni volunteers who feel their time on campus was enriched by the alumni they met through programs, events, and courses. GW Law is already offering a robust range of volunteer opportunities to unlock engagement, but there is always the potential for more as the law school continues to look for ways to supplement its traditional volunteer efforts and create even more appealing programs for alumni of all ages.

If you are interested in becoming a GW Law volunteer or are looking to philanthropically support GW Law, please reach out to DAR at 202.994.6117 or alumni@law.gwu.edu.

DEAN DAYNA BOWEN MATTHEW'S
ONGOING RESPONSIVENESS TO INPUT
FROM STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

EXPANDING PUBLIC INTEREST



GW LAW'S

BY MARY DEMPSEY

COMMUNITY



IN THE MIDDLE OF GW LAW'S Stuart Hall, Room 104A—a glass-walled office with a cascade of plants on its windowsills and a colorful backdrop of artwork—has become the brick-and-mortar emblem of the school's exciting growth in its Public Interest and Public Service Law program.

It is also a sign of Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew's ongoing responsiveness to input from students and alumni.

GW Law's new strategic plan calls for substantially augmenting the Public Interest and Public Service Law program, and no time has been wasted in pushing that goal forward. The program has unveiled a new alumni advisory council, increased summer stipends for students, hired a new public interest associate, and launched the Richey Fellows program to bring public interest lawyers to the school to connect with students. Even GW Law's highly regarded public interest preorientation program, unique in the nation, is getting extra energy.

*Anapaula Pérez-Gaitan, Fleischaker
Family Public Interest and Public Service
Program Coordinator*

One of the most exciting new resources inside Room 104A is the new Fleischaker Family Public Interest and Public Service Program Coordinator Anapaula Pérez-Gaitan. A \$525,000 gift from Marc Fleischaker, JD '71, and his wife, Phyllis, enabled Pérez-Gaitan's position and is providing kickstart support for other components of the program. The dynamic new administrator serves as a lynchpin for the program's recasting. She is upgrading the program's website pages, fielding student inquiries about summer stipends, posting news about the program to social media, checking the online calendar she created for students to book mentoring time with alumni, and identifying other ways she can help support the multi-pronged buildup of the program. She will also be assisting the new Richey Fellows and helping with the annual preorientation program for students interested in public interest and public service law.

"The importance of the office is that students now have a dedicated space to come and see Anapaula," says Alan Morrison, the Lerner Family Associate Dean for Public Interest and Public Service Law. "She'll have office hours and she can talk to them about how to get fellowships or summer jobs. It's both a physical space and a concrete symbol of the law school's expanding focus on public interest and public service."

Morrison says the program previously lacked the bandwidth to manage social media and be as active with the Career Center and other parts of

the Law School as it wished. The Fleischakers' generous gift, he says, is making a transformational difference.

"I hope the gift encourages other people to give and bring public interest law forward at GW," says Fleischaker, chair emeritus of ArentFox Schiff, the firm he joined—and remained with—after graduating from GW Law.

Fleischaker began his career in anti-trust law but also helped develop the firm's environmental practice and its work representing trade associations and nonprofits. He says public interest organizations have always interested him, and his volunteer service on some of their boards over the years provided him with pivotal lessons in leadership and put him into contact with dynamic people.

Seven years ago, he founded the nonprofit D.C. Affordable Law Firm, which brings experienced lawyers together with younger lawyers to serve clients. He toggles back and forth between the role of executive director and that of chairman of the board.

"We represent people who make too much money to get free legal services. We represent teachers and police officers and firefighters and people who work for the government and make \$40,000 a year and can't afford lawyers," Fleischaker says. "We started with six lawyers, all new graduates. Each year we hire five or six and we have a fellowship, so now we're up to 17 or 18 lawyers."

Given his interest, Fleischaker says he was pleased to be invited to join GW Law's new Public Interest and Public Service Law Advisory Council.

"There is a genuine excitement from each of our council members to actively participate. And I was very impressed by the dean and her commitment to lawyers working in public interest law," he says. "One thing we discussed at the first council meeting was the possibility of opening an office in the Law School where there would be a focus on public interest law, where students could get information and connect with mentors."

Fleischaker decided to step up to make the idea a reality.

Room 104A has quickly become the pulse point where GW Law students interested in public service can access strengthened programs and services to support their quest for public interest and public service jobs.

"Our Fleischaker Family Program Coordinator Anapaula Pérez-Gaitan is off to a flying start and our students are quickly reaping

rich rewards from her far-reaching work," Matthew says. "I am incredibly grateful to Marc and Phyllis Fleischaker for their incredible generosity which is helping to propel our Public Interest and Public Service program to a whole new level."

NEW PUBLIC INTEREST ADVISORY COUNCIL

ANOTHER SHINING EXAMPLE OF THE LAW SCHOOL'S burgeoning commitment to the program is the new Public Interest and Public Service Advisory Council (PIAC).

"It's been almost a year and a half now since a group of students entering their third year came to me and said, 'We think the school is not doing enough for the Public Interest Law program,'" Morrison says. "Dean Matthew immediately responded by asking the students to come in and talk to her." The dean quickly raised the summer stipends for students who take public interest internships, which typically carry no pay. It was the first increase in the stipends in 14 years. And to ensure the program continues to receive the resources it needs now and in the future, Matthew established PIAC—GW Law's first new alumni advisory council in a decade.

"It would be difficult to overstate the importance and impact of this new board where GW Law alumni commit their time, talent, and treasure to supporting GW's Public Interest Law students," Matthew says. "PIAC advises the administration on curricular and programmatic content that will best prepare public interest students for service; serves as a network to introduce students to opportunities for internships and employment; and contributes and helps raise funds to support the program's growth by increasing public interest student scholarships, stipends, and fellowships," she says. The advisory council's ultimate goal, she adds, is to endow a full-fledged public interest law center at GW Law.

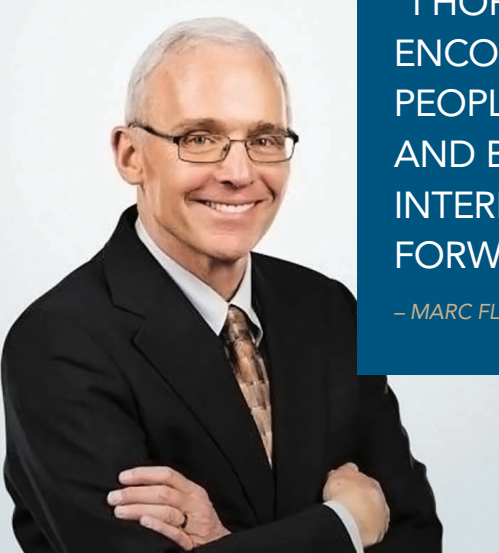
PIAC is chaired by Olajumoke "Jummy" Obayanju, JD '16, and Alessandro Terenzoni, JD '06. Obayanju directs the National Racial Equity Initiative for Social Justice with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. Terenzoni is deputy director of the Office for Civil Rights in the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs; he has also taught at GW Law. Morrison and National Family Violence Law Center Professor of Clinical Law Joan Meier serve as the council's faculty advisers.

The advisory council was the "brainchild" of two alumnae, Obayanju and Mike Michel, JD '15, who wanted to strengthen support for public interest students and diversify the alumni engaged in student life. Michel is corporate counsel at Marriott International and began the work of creating the PIAC after the idea emerged during a meeting of the Association of Black Alumni.

The group had its first meeting in December 2021 when 100% of its members gathered to get right to work. Already, the advisory council members have taken steps to become directly engaged with students, including acting as mentors and reviewing the curriculum for opportunities to add new public interest law courses. The goal is to link resources across the entire law school that can help support public interest students.

Obayanju describes the council as the school's most diverse, crossing race, ethnicity, practice areas, and other demographics.

"Many advisory councils have alumni from classes in the '70s, '80s, and '90s. We have members on our council who graduated in the '70s, and we have grads as recent as myself," she says. "We have members who are in positions of power to make decisions about employment and perhaps hire GW students. At the same time, we



"I HOPE THE GIFT
ENCOURAGES OTHER
PEOPLE TO GIVE
AND BRING PUBLIC
INTEREST LAW
FORWARD AT GW."

— MARC FLEISCHAKER



"I TELL MY STUDENTS THAT THE WORK IS INTELLECTUALLY CHALLENGING. YOU FEEL GOOD ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING. YOU WANT TO GO TO WORK EVERY DAY."

—ALAN MORRISON

have members like myself, not too far removed from university, who have fresh eyes about law school experiences and the current public interest sector.

"This council is also a way to open doors to alumni who felt excluded ... because of the financial barriers to serving on a council," Obayanju adds.

ADVANCING PUBLIC INTEREST CONNECTIONS

ANOTHER IMPORTANT NEW COMPONENT OF the Public Interest and Public Service Law program is the Richey Fellows program, which is funded through unused monies connected to the Charles Robert Richey Equal Justice Award. The annual award recognizes judges, lawyers, civil libertarians, and human rights activists who work for equal justice.

"We got permission to use some of the money to bring in public interest lawyers in mid-career for two or three days, four times a year, to meet with students and to encourage them to do public interest work," Morrison says. "We're aiming for the first fellows to arrive in the fall of 2023. We'll have two each fall and two each spring." Morrison encourages all those wishing to apply or to nominate someone to serve as a Richey Fellow to please send their names and contact information to publicinterest@law.gwu.edu or call 202-994-2680.

Because public interest law students face competing financial pressures, Morrison says work is underway to identify more money to enable them to do public service work. Among her other duties, Pérez-Gaitan is responsible for guiding students to the right resources for federal public service loan forgiveness, loan assistance through GW Law, and tuition discounts when needed.

The school also hopes more alumni will step forward with scholarship support for public interest law students.

This new attention on the program promises to have a multiplier effect, including in raising the profile of an iconic program at GW Law: the 13-year-old Public Interest Law Preorientation, the only initiative of its kind in the country. For three days each fall, some 100 incoming law students in the preorientation meet public interest practitioners and get a first-hand look at their work.

"The purpose is to introduce new 1Ls to legal Washington, D.C.," says Assistant Dean for Pro Bono and Advocacy Programs David Johnson, who oversees the preorientation. "You can point to any law student in our building, public service or not, and one of their top three reasons for picking GW is because it's in Washington. But if you don't get out, out into the District, you might as well be in Kansas."

Students in the preorientation are divided into small groups that visit judges, the D.C. mayor's counsel, advocacy organizations, the medical examiner's office, and D.C. Council members, among others. Upper class students or public interest law staff accompany the students.

"This year, Judge Gregory Maggs at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces invited the entire preorientation to his courtroom for a visit—and he brought in two attorneys who frequently appear before him in the courtroom. One was a prosecutor, the other defense counsel," Johnson says. "One mentioned that she'd always wanted to be a litigator but, as a lesbian, had never imagined herself joining the military. The number of questions she got from the students was off the charts."

The program also incorporates a community service element. All of the students spend a segment of their three-day preorientation volunteering for Bread for the City, a D.C. nonprofit that provides food, clothing, legal services, and other resources to low-income residents.

"They are working in a garden, packing up groceries. The 1Ls are together and laughing, making friends, and meeting like-minded people," Johnson says. "Students tell me that they love walking down the halls at school later, knowing people in other sections. It wasn't part of the goal of the preorientation, but it is a glorious byproduct."

Another bonus: Students interested in public interest law are automatically added to the school's pro bono listserve.

The Public Interest and Public Service Law program connects students with pro bono opportunities, encourages students to seek positions in the nonprofit and government sectors, and helps students find ways to fund their legal education so they can pursue careers outside of traditional law firms. Morrison says the overarching goal of the program is to help students understand why people choose to work in public interest law.

"I tell my students that the work is intellectually challenging. You feel good about what you're doing. You want to go to work every day. You think you can make a difference and that there are more important things for most people than making money," Morrison says. "And when it comes to opportunities to learn and practice public interest law, GW is probably the best in the country."

"WE HAVE MEMBERS WHO ARE IN POSITIONS OF POWER TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT EMPLOYMENT AND PERHAPS HIRE GW STUDENTS."

—JUMMY OBAYANJU



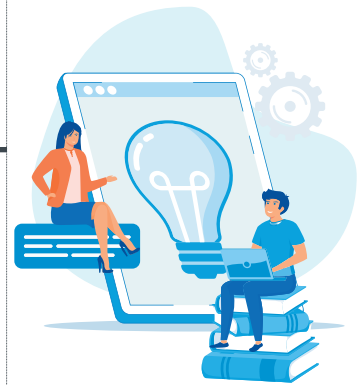
Upgrading the Student Experience

BY WILLONA SLOAN

“TO TWEAK A COMMON ADAGE, IF STUDENTS AREN’T HAPPY, no one is happy,” says Elizabeth Ewert, senior associate dean for administrative affairs. “That’s why streamlining the student experience is so important. Our goal is to create happy students and make their law school journey as smooth as possible.”



Creating a student-centric experience is one of the six pillars of GW Law’s newly adopted five-year strategic plan. To that end, the law school recently implemented a major technology upgrade by introducing a new learning management system that will save students time, help them stay organized, and reduce stress. GW Law students are also benefitting from enhanced physical spaces where they can gather, study, and connect outside of the classroom.



Tech Upgrades Improve Learning Experience

THE LAW SCHOOL BEGAN a phased implementation of Canvas by Instructure, a web-based new learning management system that will help students manage their course content in one place. “Canvas is the system of choice for an educational institution. It is the premier platform,” says Scott Pagel, associate dean for information services. Most top 25 law schools use this learning management system.

With Canvas, faculty can upload texts, videos, and other resources for each class session, and share learning goals and assignments, allowing students to easily access the content for each class and look ahead at the requirements for the semester. Students can communicate with each other and with their professors, and use the discussion boards for group work, questions, and collaboration. With the mobile app, which has already proven popular, they can access Canvas on the go.

“One of the most exciting things about Canvas is that it offers a really streamlined experience for students,” says Iselin M. Gambert, interim director of the Fundamentals of Lawyering Program. Canvas makes the need for students to log into two different content management systems to access

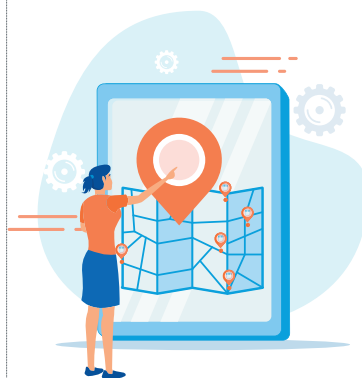
course content across various classes a thing of the past.

The Canvas rollout began for first-year law students this fall, and was completed on an aggressive timetable. From May to the start of the fall semester didn't leave much time for implementation by the Instructional Technology team, but they were dedicated to the task.

"We knew this was a heavy lift so a phased roll-out was agreed upon," says Chip Tomek, enterprise systems developer II. "The Dean felt very strongly about having the incoming class on Canvas from the very start of their studies. The student experience is always her primary concern."

There were a number of significant challenges for the team to make the implementation run smoothly, from learning how the new system works to seeking to minimize disruptions for faculty and students. In addition to providing training, the team also created templates to make it easier for faculty to get started with building out their courses. "Many of the faculty have jumped right in, and they have been creative in designing the site to meet their needs," says Pagel. This semester, Canvas system is being rolled out for second- and third-year students.

A second new tech system will make it easier for students to track their path toward graduation. The law school recently adopted DegreeMAP, an online advising and auditing tool that allows students and their advisors to easily track progress toward degree completion. DegreeMAP is used by the university, and with it, students can see their status in respect to the required curriculum and determine what electives and requirements are outstanding.



Upgraded Electronic Signs Point the Way

THE LAW SCHOOL ALSO recently upgraded the electronic signs around campus that publicize daily events and programs, provide timely info, and offer interactive maps. The signs give a snapshot of what's happening on campus, and help students navigate the complex maze of buildings to find their classes.

"Law school is hard enough without being lost in the building," Pagel says.



Creating Space for Community

THE NEW WELLNESS Room was spearheaded by the former president of the Student Bar Association (SBA), in response to the need for students to have a private place for prayer. The space for the old student mailboxes was repurposed to offer a light-filled, airy refuge



"Our goal is to create happy students and make their law school journey as smooth as possible."

— Elizabeth Ewert

that students can access to get away from the crowd. In addition to being used for prayer, it's a place where students can recover their wellness, de-stress, hang out, and relax.

"The Wellness Room offers students a space to take a breath when they need to. It is a quiet space for students to experience wellness however that works for them, whether that is reflection, meditation, prayer, or simply taking some quiet time alone," says current SBA President Nicole Kareem.

For students wishing to gather outdoors, the enhanced patio at Stockton Hall is just the place. For many students, being outside during the pandemic was a more comfortable experience, leading to large numbers of students utilizing the school's outdoor spaces to socialize and study. With more students on the patio, there was a need for more furniture and more power outlets to keep laptops charged, both of which are included among the upgrades. Additionally, a new propane grill was installed on the patio, where students can barbecue.

"Post-Covid, we've realized even more starkly how important the community environment is," Ewert says. "GW Law's strong sense of community is what makes it special, so we work hard to create space for that to flourish."

The upgraded space allows more students to engage in activities on Stockton Patio, including attending the SBA's weekly Weekend Windup. "When the weather is nice, students eat lunch together and various student organizations host activities such as speakers and arts and craft events on the patio," Kareem says.

GW Law's focus on enhancing the student experience is generating rave reviews both inside and outside the classroom. "These enhancements show me that GW Law understands that a legal education is about more than simply what is learned in the classroom," Kareem concludes. "A person's mental health, as well as the technology they use and facilities where they learn, are an important part of the experience."

Bridging The Gap Between Law and Medicine



Brett and Deborah S. Orlove

IN 1987, DEBORAH S. (Goldenberg) Orlove, JD '91, experienced what she calls her first legal dilemma. While working on her master's degree in neurophysiology at the University of Toronto, she saw that the research of two members of her thesis committee on treatments for Parkinson's and Alzheimer's

diseases was being scrutinized by the Canadian government for future potential bioethics issues, while her research, which also involved fetal brain tissue, was not. "I realized that there was a chasm in understanding between science and the systems that regulate it, including the legal system,"

says Orlove. "That realization prompted me to apply to law school and brought me to GW."

GW Law's Career Center introduced her to the Justice Department student internships, and during her 1L summer, she worked at the Civil Division Torts Branch, focusing on VA hospital cases

“ I REALIZED THAT THERE WAS A CHASM IN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN SCIENCE AND THE SYSTEMS THAT REGULATE IT, INCLUDING THE LEGAL SYSTEM. ”

– Deborah S. Orlove

and the Swine Flu vaccine injury litigation. "That internship really informed my career. I not only gained valuable litigation experience, an in-depth understanding of the Federal Tort Claims Act and governmental immunity, and learned about the inner workings of the Justice Department, but my 1L internship literally has opened every door to me since then."

After graduating, she joined the D.C. office of the Chicago-based law firm Katten, headed by a former Justice attorney. She focused on complex disaster litigation as well as cases under the Federal Tort Claims Act. Years later, she was pulled back to the federal government, joining the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) Office of Compliance. "Working at the CPSC was the most fulfilling job a lawyer with my background could have. It was an opportunity like no other, the chance to use my experience in litigating mass torts to prevent disasters and ultimately to save lives." While the small federal agency lacked the support and resources of a large firm, the collaborative efforts of the legal division with the scientific arm of the agency, including engineers and human factors experts, created the perfect framework

for a scientist-turned-lawyer like Orlove. "I could not have asked for a more perfect job," she says.

Brett Orlove, JD '91, graduated from GW Law the same year as his wife. During law school, he participated in what was then the Law Students in Court Bankruptcy Clinic, and experienced first-hand the importance of providing legal services to the local community. "I learned how much impact a law student can have on the lives of individuals who do not have the resources to pay for expensive legal counsel," he says. "It was very satisfying to help people navigate the bankruptcy process and come out with a fresh start at the end."

Brett began his legal career at Grossberg, Yochelson, Fox & Beyda during his 1L summer, and never left. His practice focuses on real property acquisitions, leasing, and property tax assessment appeals. "After more than 30 years, I am probably the only lawyer in our class who has held the same job since first year," he says.

While Deborah and Brett knew each other only in passing at GW Law, their paths would soon cross, and their lives intertwine. "We had common friends in law school, and were the same year, but didn't know each other well," says Deborah. "We met after law school, at a dinner with common friends through GW Law, and discovered that we lived just a few blocks apart in Dupont Circle. We were engaged six months after we met, and just celebrated our 26th anniversary." The couple has two adult children.

As their 30th law school anniversary approached, the Orloves began to reflect on the impact their GW experience had on their lives. "We wanted to give back to GW

because it had given us so much," Deborah says.

Through a substantial gift, the Orloves are helping to bring an innovative new program to GW Law. Their gift will sponsor the launch of a new Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) clinic within the Jacob Burns Legal Clinics at GW Law. "The Medical Legal Partnership is the perfect recipient of our gift, bringing together law and medical students to address issues in our community that depend on both medical and legal intervention for resolution. Brett and I are so excited to be a part of this important effort," Deborah states. "To say that Dean Matthew and Professor Laurie Kohn are changemakers is an understatement. They are true forces of nature for good. To help bring their vision of a Medical Legal Partnership at GW to reality is an honor."

The Orlove gift "not only supports the mission of the MLP, it makes it entirely possible," says Emily Benfer, director of the Medical Legal Partnership Clinic. The MLP is designed to expand the scope of specialty training and education at GW Law; enhance GW's footprint as a changemaker in the D.C. legal services community; and ensure that students have access to clinical training in an effort to help low-income clients resolve healthcare issues.

"The clinic addresses the legal root causes of health problems among low-income patients while also building the medical and legal fields' capacity for interprofessional and collaborative problem solving," Benfer says. "The skills developed in the clinic will prepare students to be exceptional lawyers, innovators, and stewards of justice."

— Willona Sloan

Accounting for Success

GREG BINGHAM, A PARTNER and forensic accountant at HKA Global Inc., believes government contracts and procurement students could use a little help when it comes to practicing law involving accounting and damages, and he's stepping up to help.

Bingham has funded the Greg Bingham Endowed Scholarship in Government Procurement, which will be awarded to a GW Law student focusing on government contract law with an interest or background in accounting.

"The practice of procurement law would be better if attorneys knew more about accounting," says Bingham, who often works closely with attorneys but isn't one himself. He has an MBA and a BS in electrical engineering.

A member of GW Law's Government Contracts Advisory Council, he has 37 years of experience in government contracts and cost accounting in the Washington, D.C., area. GW Law students may be familiar with Bingham, whose video-taped lectures on pricing and cost issues were included in an online government contracts course. He also taught Pricing and Cost Issues in Government Contracts as an adjunct professor.

"Sometimes I'll be in a conference room with attorneys, and we'll be going over some cost issue, and the attorneys will say, 'This is why I went to law school, so I didn't have to learn math!'"



Greg Bingham

notes Bingham. "It's a nice icebreaker, but it emphasizes to me how knowing some basic accounting is extremely helpful when it comes to government contracts."

Bingham says his hope is that the scholarship will help attorneys better interpret and negotiate contracts, as well as strengthen their abilities in overseeing government contracts that often require a broader knowledge of accounting.

"It will also make them better litigators," Bingham adds. "The legal and cost issues are so intertwined in many contracts. You can't put on blinders about cost issues and decide you'll just focus on legal issues. If you do, you'll miss a lot."

— Sarah Kellogg

“THE PRACTICE OF PROCUREMENT LAW WOULD BE BETTER IF ATTORNEYS KNEW MORE ABOUT ACCOUNTING.”

— Greg Bingham

Advancing Equity



Dan and Teresa Schwartz

TERESA SCHWARTZ, JD '71, knows firsthand how equity and access can transform a life. When she entered GW Law, women in law school were a rarity. Her law degree has carried her to an impressive career, including service in the federal government and three decades on the faculty at GW Law.

Dan Schwartz, JD '69, also has worked for social change since he and Teresa were in college. The Schwartzes recently advanced that commitment through a generous gift to GW's Equity Institute Initiative, a university-wide collaboration focused on community-linked research on racial and social inequality. GW Law is playing a pivotal role in the initiative.

"We've been in Washington since the mid-'60s and were very much involved

in the civil rights movement. We have continued to be involved, particularly on issues of equality and justice, both as lawyers and as contributors and participants in organizations in Washington," says Dan, who is senior counsel at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner in Washington, D.C.

When Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew approached the couple about extending their ongoing support of their alma mater and told them about the Equity Institute Initiative, she described an undertaking that resonated with them.

"We were interested because it was a program across various areas of academia to address issues of inequality and lack of equal access to health care and to financial support and to education. Those are all very appealing issues for us," says

Teresa, the J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Professor Emeritus of Public Interest Law at GW. The Schwartzes also recognized that it can be difficult to drum up philanthropic support for new efforts because donors want to see results before they open their checkbooks.

"You have to have faith in the people doing the program—and we do," Teresa says. "Dean Matthew is a forceful advocate for the law school and for equity. She spent her life and career working on these issues, and to be part of creating something new was exciting for us."

Dan notes that the initiative is powerfully positioned to leverage GW's location in the nation's capital.

"The university, when it is operating at its best, takes advantage of the tremendous resources in Washington that deal with the issues of policy, with racial equity..." he says. "The Equity Institute Initiative maximizes those capabilities."

Teresa and Dan were both undergraduates at Stanford University when they met in D.C. while taking part in a Stanford-in-Washington program. Dan worked for a senator from his home state, Utah, and Teresa worked for the Senate Commerce Committee, chaired by a senator from her home state, Washington.

After graduation, Dan accepted a job in Washington as a press aide to a congressman.

"I realized when I came to

“THE UNIVERSITY, WHEN IT IS OPERATING AT ITS BEST, TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE TREMENDOUS RESOURCES IN WASHINGTON THAT DEAL WITH THE ISSUES OF POLICY, WITH RACIAL EQUITY.”

—Dan Schwartz

Washington that lawyers did everything, lawyers had all the power," Dan says. With that in mind, he applied to GW Law. Two years later Teresa, by then his wife, also decided to become a lawyer.

The couple describes their time at GW Law as transformative. Civil rights issues and Ralph Nader and consumer protection efforts were in the headlines. Teresa took part in a consumer protection clinic at GW Law, graduated first in her class, and ended up working as attorney adviser to Federal Trade Commission Mary Gardiner Jones. She then joined the law school as only its second female faculty member—and the first to begin teaching while pregnant.

She taught torts, products liability, and administrative law, eventually serving as associate dean for academic affairs. From 1995 to 1997 and from 1998 to 2001, she was deputy director of the Federal Trade Commission's Bureau of Consumer Protection. She also was a White House Fellow during the Carter administration, working on trucking deregulation.

Dan, meanwhile, carried his law degree into private practice. He subsequently spent eight years in the

government, at the Federal Trade Commission and as general counsel of the National Security Agency. When he returned to private practice, he worked in a number of federal administrative areas while also handling a strong portfolio of pro bono work, including in civil rights and voting rights and on cases involving the rights of individuals who have been arrested.

"I do think we are at a time, politically and culturally, that is very much like the '60s," Dan says. "There are great divisions in the country as there were then. People are looking at the law as a means by which they can most effectively influence how the political system operates, how they can promote the rights that we do and should have. One of the really great things, which is a difference from when we were in law school, is that there is so much more emphasis on diversity."

The Schwartzes note that they both benefited from access to GW scholarship support while "young and penniless." They are impressed by how Dean Matthew is opening access to GW Law while underscoring its reputation as one of the nation's standout law schools.

"From the faculty I've talked to, the dean manages to do a lot under challenging circumstances," Teresa says. "She's taken a strong leadership role, and she's got a lot of backing from the faculty to be creative and to improve the school over all."

"I also have a positive sense of the experience students are getting. And the dean is working extremely well with the alumni," she adds. "To have a dean who is as strategic as Dean Matthew is really a gift to the law school."

- Mary Dempsey

An Inspirational Gift

DAVID J. AND MARIA Wiegand are improbable GW Law donors. Neither they nor their children attended the law school. They aren't lawyers themselves. Yet, through their philanthropy, they have created multiple platforms for learning to flourish at GW Law.

In 2022, the Wiegands donated \$100,000 in seed money to establish the Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew Endowed Scholarship, a need-based, annual scholarship for talented minority students who have demonstrated an interest in civil rights or anti-trust law. The scholarship fund is open to contributions from other donors.

"We want to help people who have the talent and ambition but do not have the means and opportunity to capitalize on their skills," David says. "We have been especially inspired by Dean Matthew's commitment. We believe Dean Matthew will leave an important legacy, and we wanted to support her and the law school."

The fund will provide an annual scholarship for a law student who is a member of either the Black Law Student Association (BLSA), the Latin American Law Student Association (LALSA), the Native American Law Student Association (NALSA), or an equivalent organization.

"We hope the scholarship can become something much bigger over time than what we could make it on our own," says Maria. "We are inspired by Dean Matthew's vision



David J. and Maria Wiegand

for the school and for her students. She is a wonderful asset to the university."

Matthew was appreciative of the honor, noting that the Wiegands have been generous in supporting the work of GW Law as well as her own passion for creating multiple opportunities for students from different backgrounds to attend law school.

"I am deeply moved by this scholarship. While it is an honor to serve as dean, I am especially thankful that this scholarship will make it possible to attract the finest students," Matthew says. "I am grateful beyond words to the Wiegand family for its ongoing support of GW Law."

The Wiegands' philanthropic relationship with GW Law began when they endowed the Harold H. Greene Professorship of Law in 2000. U.S. District Court

Judge Harold H. Greene, a drafter of landmark civil rights and voting rights legislation, is most known for his 1984 decision dismembering American Telephone and Telegraph. The ruling made it possible for the Wiegands, former AT&T employees, to start a series of telecom companies, including Pathfinder Communications.

"Looking back over our long business career, we struggled because we didn't have college degrees. We didn't have a network of fellow alumni," says David, who lives with his wife in Orange County, Calif., where they focus on managing their real estate investments. "We're really a miracle, I think. That's why we ended the Judge Greene professorship. He created a landscape in which, despite our lack of education, we were able to become successful."

- Sarah Kellogg

class notes

ALUMNI NEWSMAKERS

1960s

Richard Slivka, JD '69, has retired as the Denver Broncos' general counsel after 22 years. He practiced private law in Denver for nearly 25 years before joining the Broncos' legal team.

1970s

Gregory C. Yadley, JD '75, a partner at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick LLP was recognized in *Best Lawyers in America*® 2023 as a Lawyer of the Year.

Brian O'Dwyer, LLM '76, was appointed by President Joe Biden to serve on the Commission on Presidential Scholars. He is a founder of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center and served as grand marshal of the New York Saint Patrick's Day Parade.

Judah Lifschitz, JD '77, an attorney at Shapiro, Lifschitz & Schram, was listed among the 2022 *Super Lawyers* in Washington, D.C.

Linda Rosenzweig, JD '77, has joined the Wagner Law Group, where she focuses on employment law and employee benefits law. She also serves as chair of the board of directors of the Olney Theatre Center and as president of the American Jewish Committee's Washington Region.

Bobby R. Burchfield, JD '79, who endowed the First Amendment Chair at GW Law, recently gave an interview with *Fire* where he explained the importance of the chair and what

motivated his generosity to give back to the law school.

Marcos Ronquillo, JD '79, one of Texas' most accomplished trial attorneys, has been named Leading Hispanic Business Arbitration and Litigation Attorney of the Year by *Acquisition International Magazine*.

1980s

Mark McNamara, JD '80, an attorney at Barclay Damon, was recognized in *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America 2023* in the area eminent domain and condemnation law.

Ronald Deutsch, JD '82, LLM '85, co-edited and authored the 5th edition of *Gordon on Maryland Foreclosures*, published by the Maryland State Bar Association. The text includes advice on fundamental procedures, techniques, and practical strategies for professionals engaged in Maryland foreclosures.

David Barr, JD '83, joined Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP as a partner in the firm's intellectual property practice.

Gail G. Holtzman, JD '84, recently joined the general counsel team at Taylor English Duma LLP in Orlando, Fla. She brings nearly 40 years of labor and employment experience to the firm's general counsel team.

Peter Rome, JD '84, a partner at Tucker Ellis LLP, has been recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2023 in the area of leveraged buyouts and private equity law.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Law and Service

TWO-TIME GW GRADUATE **LIZ PRICE, BA '83, JD '86**, BEGAN her career as an Arabic linguist with the U.S. Army. While stationed at Fort George G. Meade, an Army installation in Maryland, she learned about GW's Middle Eastern Studies program. "That's what first attracted me to GW," she says.

She landed a summer associate position with Alston & Bird after her second year at GW Law and joined the firm in 1986. She served as trial, regional, and national coordinating counsel in major national products liability matters until 2008, when she became chief legal talent partner. In this role, she oversees the hiring, training, development, compensation, and promotion of the firm's associates and counsel.

"I love working with people on their careers," she says. "I like helping people figure out what it is they want to do, what makes them excited, and what they're passionate about in the law—whether that's billable practice, non-billable practice, or engaging in community activities or committees in the firm."

From the beginning of her career at Alston & Bird, she knew it was the right fit. "I found the same kind of camaraderie and collegiality at the law firm that I found at law school," Price says. "It has a very special culture." The firm has been named consistently to Fortune's "100 Best Places to Work."

Throughout her career, she has prioritized community service through volunteering and nonprofit board leadership. She currently serves on the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) National Board of Directors and on the board of the Southeast Region of ADL, as well as being the former national chair of civil rights for the organization. "There's an incredible surge in antisemitism at this time in the U.S., and internationally," says Price. For ADL, the

“ I FOUND THE SAME KIND OF CAMARADERIE AND COLLEGIALITY AT THE LAW FIRM THAT I FOUND AT LAW SCHOOL. ”

— Liz Price

Sam Maizel, JD '85, a partner in the Los Angeles office of Dentons US LLP, was recognized as one of Los Angeles' Top 100 Lawyers for 2022 by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*. He also received the 2022 Outstanding Nonprofit Lawyer Award for distinguished service as outside counsel to nonprofit organizations by the ABA's Nonprofit Committee.

Michael Heim, JD '86, has earned repeat recognition by *Chambers USA* as one of the top intellectual property lawyers in the nation. He is the founding

partner and managing director of Heim, Payne & Chorush, a Houston-based intellectual property litigation boutique firm.

Andi Mudryk, JD '89, has been appointed to Sacramento County Superior Court. She is the first transgender person appointed to the California bench.

1990s

Stephen Comstock, JD '91, was named vice president and senior counselor for



top priorities are combatting antisemitism through activism and education. "It's about encouraging people to be allies, to stand up, and to speak out," she says.

She serves on the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust, a state organization established to ensure that the citizens of Georgia receive education on the Holocaust and genocides. She is also chair-elect of the Southeast Regional Board for UNICEF. "Working with children is important to me," says Price. "Having a stable, loving family, educational opportunities, regular health-care, and a supportive community are things that I think every child deserves."

For Price, who is listed in The Best Lawyers in America® and Super Lawyers, including as one of the Top 50 Women Lawyers in Georgia, GW Law taught her more than the legal skills she has used throughout her successful career.

"One thing I learned from GW was an appreciation for diversity," Price says. "It's such a diverse school, both at the undergrad and at the law school level. There are many international students, night students, people who work and attend school part-time, who serve in the military, and the government. It's a great way to learn and grow and appreciate the experiences and viewpoints of others."

— Willona Sloan

policy, economics, and regulatory affairs at the American Petroleum Institute.

Vipal Patel, JD '91, has joined the global litigation practice at Squire Patton Boggs as partner after a 20-year career at the Department of Justice.

Lisa Henneberry, JD '92, has joined Crowell & Moring as a partner in the firm's energy practice. She brings a wealth of experience in liquified natural gas projects, including serving as the lead project counsel for the first LNG terminal in Mexico.

Scott Ehrlich, JD '94, is head of mergers and acquisitions at Sklar Kirsh in Los Angeles. He also recently became an adjunct professor of law at Loyola Law School.

Daniel Goldfried, JD '94, was named deputy chief legal officer at Vesttoo, a fintech platform for insurance-linked investments.

Jonathan Werther, JD '94, recently rejoined Simulmedia to serve as executive vice president for operations and business development.

Blythe E. Lovinger, JD '95, has joined Kelley Drye & Warren LLP as a partner in the firm's labor and employment group.

Paul Vitrano, JD '95, co-founded Waev Inc., an electric vehicle manufacturer, and serves as the company's SVP and chief legal and policy officer.

Makan Delrahim, JD '96, recently joined Latham & Watkins as an antitrust and competition partner. Prior to joining Latham, he served as assistant attorney general in charge of the U.S. Department of Justice's Antitrust Division.

Jeff Firestone, JD '96, has been hired as the chief legal officer of RXO, a tech-enabled truck brokerage platform. Firestone most recently served as UPS's deputy general counsel for regulatory compliance and risk.

E. Bradley Gould, JD '96, was named managing partner at Fox Rothschild's New York office. He is a partner in the firm's intellectual property department.

Benjamin R. Hanan, JD '96, a partner at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick LLP has been recognized in *Best Lawyers in America*® 2023 in the area of mergers and acquisitions law.

Bertrand "Lance" Lanciault, JD '96, has joined Snap Inc. as chief compliance officer. He previously served as the senior vice president and head of compliance and risk at Peloton.

Margaret Rosenfeld, JD '97, a blockchain, cryptocurrency strategy, and regulatory thought leader, has joined Gryphon Digital Mining Inc.'s board of directors as an independent director. Since March 2022, she has served as the chief strategy and legal officer of Deltec International Group.

Robert Shriver III, JD '97, was nominated by President Joe Biden to serve as deputy

director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

Scott Bluni, JD '98, has joined Goodwin Procter after eight years at the helm of Kacvinsky Daisak Bluni PLLC, which he co-founded.

Sheryl Winarick, JD '98, has joined Grossman Young as of counsel, where she represents and advises clients on a wide range of immigration matters.

B. Kevin Burke, Jr., JD '99, was recently certified by the Ontario Legal Society as a foreign legal consultant. A shareholder in Buffalo-based Gross Shuman P.C., he has a wide range of cross-border clients.

Noam Fischman, JD '99, has joined Akerman as a partner. He previously was a shareholder at Polsinello, where he chaired the firm's mergers and acquisitions litigation group.

2000s

Saima Ahmed, JD '00, recently joined the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association as executive vice president and general counsel. He previously spent seven years in New York at the stock exchange, most recently as senior director of NYSE regulation and head of the market watch and corporate action groups.

Joshua Auxier, JD '00, a partner at FLB Law PLLC, was listed in *Best Lawyers in America* in the area of personal injury litigation-defendants.

Michael Brooks, JD '00, is the new executive director of The Center for Auto Safety. He joined the center as a staff attorney in 2000 and had served since 2017 as the organization's chief counsel and COO.

Donald E. English, Jr., JD '00, has been elevated to managing

ALUMNI PROFILE

A Life in the Law

SERENDIPITY HAS PLAYED A NOTEWORTHY ROLE IN THE legal career of **KENNETH R. PUHALA, JD '88**, who once seriously considered becoming a teacher and coach before going to law school and on to a successful career in international law.

"By the time I left Johns Hopkins [University], I was seriously thinking of being a high school teacher and basketball coach," recalls Puhala, who grew up in Frederick, Md. "I think I would have liked being a teacher and a coach, but I'm happy with my choice. It's been an interesting life."

Today, Puhala, who works in New York City, is chairman of Philadelphia-based Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP. He has been a partner at the firm since 2003, concentrating his practice on business litigation and arbitration, and litigation and transactions relating to cross-border debt restructurings. For nearly 20 years, the focus of his practice has been representing companies in Southeast Asia, particularly in Indonesia.

After law school, he worked at Jones Day for more than seven years, and then joined a boutique litigation firm as a partner. After another seven and a half years, he moved to Schnader. "Over the course of a career, you make some moves, and you try to make the best of them," Puhala says. "When I left Jones Day, it was a big move. I could have stayed there as many people do for their whole careers, and I could have been happy, but I wanted to try something on my own."

Early in his tenure at Schnader, he received a referral from a friend to work with a client in Southeast Asia, a first for him. What started as a one-off, soon became a burgeoning client list and successful international practice.

“WHAT I VALUE MOST FROM MY EXPERIENCES AS A LAWYER ARE THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT I HAVE FORMED WITH SOME REALLY GREAT CLIENTS AND REALLY GREAT COLLEAGUES.”

— *Kenneth R. Puhala*



"There was no grand plan to get involved in representing clients in Southeast Asia," says Puhala, who travels there frequently, chiefly to Indonesia. "I got a small case and then another and then the cases just got bigger and bigger. I looked up after 10 years, and I realized, 'this is what my practice is now.'"

After a lifetime in the law, Puhala said he's happy he made the choice he did so long ago to come to GW Law for many reasons, including a very personal one. He met Laura Siegel in his senior year at Johns Hopkins, and the two coincidentally had already chosen GW Law. They were married after their second year.

"It's been an exciting if unexpected life. What I value most from my experiences as a lawyer are the relationships that I have formed with some really great clients and really great colleagues," he says. "That's been the most fulfilling aspect of my career, and it's what I still enjoy the most."

— *Sarah Kellogg*

principal at Jackson Lewis PC's Baltimore office.

Heather Pinckney, JD '00, a veteran D.C. defense attorney, has been named director of the District's Public Defender Service.

Tatjana (Tanja) Vujic, JD '00, joined Jenner & Block LLP as special counsel in the firm's Washington, D.C., office. She leads the firm's novel transitions in energy and climate solutions practice.

Gregory H. Meyers, JD '01, has been appointed to the District

Court of the Fifth Circuit. He was previously associated with De Costa Hempey Meyers LLC as a partner and of counsel.

Bonnie Chong, JD '02, was named president and chief executive officer of Anthony & Sylvan Pools and elected to the company's board of directors.

Patricia Lee, JD '02, a partner at Hutchinson & Steffen, was appointed by Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak to fill a vacant seat on the Nevada Supreme Court. She is the first Black and Asian American woman to be

appointed to the Nevada Supreme Court. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she was an attorney at Hutchinson & Steffen for 20 years, where she specialized in complex commercial litigation.

Erica Lord, JD '02, was recently named chief fiduciary officer of BNY Wealth Management.

Adrien Pickard, JD '03, a construction litigation attorney at Shapiro, Lifschitz & Schram, has been named a Pro Bono Service Honor Roll member by the Virginia Access to Justice Commission.

Eric Harris, LLM '04, was named director of government relations and public affairs for Tetra Pak U.S. and Canada. He is a seasoned policy and sustainability leader with deep expertise in recycling.

Joshua B. Horvitz, JD '04, joined Armstrong Teasdale's Philadelphia office as a partner, where he specializes in real estate transactions.

Alan Mygatt-Tauber, JD '04, had his first book published in September 2022. The book, *Medellin v. Texas: International*

ALUMNI PROFILE

Coming Full Circle

GROWING UP IN A HOUSEHOLD with parents on both sides of the aisle, Federal Election Commission (FEC) Chair **DARA LINDENBAUM, JD '11**, learned to value debate and voting, so much so that she would take two trips to the polls on Election Day, one with her mother and one with her father.

Lindenbaum, who began her term as the Commission's chair in January 2023, takes the helm at a particularly fraught time in American elections and one where money is playing an increasingly pivotal role in political campaigns. The FEC is the independent agency whose purpose is to enforce campaign finance law in federal elections. There are six FEC commissioners, three from each major party, and they have six-year staggered terms. The chairmanship rotates annually between parties.

"We're dedicated to ensuring there are clear rules across the board on raising and spending money for all candidates and others participating in elections," says Lindenbaum, noting that it's a particularly important task in the period leading up to a presidential election year.

Nominated by President Joe Biden in February 2022, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on May 24, 2022, Lindenbaum was a partner at Sandler Reiff Lamb Rosenstein & Birkenstock P.C., before joining the Commission. An American election lawyer, she advised candidates, political committees, and organizations on a wide range of campaign finance and election laws and regulations at the state



“WE KNOW THE COMMISSION'S HISTORY, AND IT'S ONE WE DON'T REALLY WANT TO REPEAT.”

— Dara Lindenbaum

and federal level. She served as general counsel to the 2016 presidential campaign of former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, and as general counsel for Stacey Abrams' first Georgia gubernatorial campaign in 2018.

The FEC has long been a hub of activity, and occasional controversy. "We know the Commission's history, and it's one we don't really want to repeat," says Lindenbaum, referring to the FEC's periods of extreme case backlogs and stalemates. "There are things the Commission does incredibly well, like being the clearinghouse for federal campaign finance reports. Those are at the heart of the integrity of the system."

Before joining Sandler Reiff, Lindenbaum was an associate counsel in the Voting Rights Project at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, where she focused on election law and voting rights. She also externed at the FEC while in her 2L year at GW Law. "I loved everything I was doing," she says. "I learned a lot from Commissioner [Cynthia] Bauerly. It gave me an inside view of elections and campaign finance that stays with me to this day."

— Sarah Kellogg

Justice, Federalism, and the Execution of Jose Medellin, was published by the University Press of Kansas as part of its landmark cases series.

Jennifer Benda, JD '05, has joined Holland & Hart LLP as a partner. Much of her practice revolves around Section 280E of the federal tax code, a clause that forbids business deductions for entities trafficking in Schedule I substances.

Mike Chick, JD '05, was appointed by the Virginia legislature as judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for Arlington County and the City of Falls Church, Va.

Christopher Jeffries, JD '05, a principal at Kramon & Graham, was elected president of the Maryland Defense Counsel. A trial lawyer, he represents businesses in litigation matters, including breaches of contract and business defamation. He is a recipient of the *Daily Record's* Leadership in Law and VIP awards and was selected for the inaugural Hot List by Lawyers of Color LLC.

Debora Jones, JD '05, was named chief operating officer at Exterro.

Mónica Bernstein, JD '06, was promoted to executive vice president and general counsel at Crestline Hotels & Resorts LLC.

Leslie Sowers, JD '06, has joined Husch Blackwell as a partner in Washington, D.C.

Hussein Akhavannik, JD '07, has joined Blank Rome's intellectual property and technology practice group as a partner in the Washington, D.C., office. Prior to joining Blank Rome, he was a partner and co-leader of the life sciences team at BakerHostetler LLP.

Sarah Malik, JD '07, was appointed as a magistrate for the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Md., in 2022.

David Marcinkus, JD '07, has joined Kirkland & Ellis LLP as a partner.

Divani R. Nadaraja, JD '07, joined Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP as a partner in the firm's family law group.

Alexis M. Sáinz, JD '07, joins Hogan Lovells as partner and global co-leader of the space and satellite practice and a member of the infrastructure, energy, resources and projects practice.

Michael D. Barolsky, JD '08, was recently promoted to senior vice president and head of regulatory administration for U.S. Bank Global Fund Services.

Jonathan Bond, JD '08, rejoined Gibson Dunn's appellate and constitutional law practice after five years in the Office of the Solicitor General. During his time at the Office of the Solicitor General, Bond argued 10 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Alesha Dominique, JD '08, has joined Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP as a partner.

Amy Fairchild Haer, JD '08, was sworn in as an immigration judge in Atlanta.

Mary Kuntz, JD '08, a partner with Kalijarvi, Chuzi, Newman & Fitch P.C. in Washington, D.C., has been recognized in *Best Lawyers in America*® 2023 in the area of employment law.

H. Eugene Oliver III, JD '08, a partner at Evans Oliver PLC in Harrisonburg, Va., was elected to serve on the board of directors of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He is also a board member and past president of the Virginia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

William Wetmore, JD '08, recently returned to Akin Gump as a partner. He specializes in advising hedge funds and

ALUMNI PROFILE

Leading Lawyer

PHILIP ANKER, JD '82, IS ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST high-profile bankruptcy litigators, navigating multi-billion-dollar cases and earning accolades for his work. He has devoted his career to an area of the law he describes as "challenging and intellectually stimulating."

"You are dealing with litigation, asset sales, and bankruptcy plans. You are dealing with a bankruptcy code and other legal regimes," says Anker, who is co-chair of WilmerHale's Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring Practice Group in New York. "Over my career, I have dealt with contract issues, tort issues, tax issues, environmental issues, and many others. I work with many industries and have to learn how they operate—airlines, retail, oil, and gas."

He notes that bankruptcy law is seen by some in the legal field as the "last bastion of a generalist."

Anker is connected with some of the most prominent bankruptcy-related litigation in recent years, with a portfolio spanning cases involving Adelphia, the Boy Scouts, Enron, Global Crossing, Grupo Aeromexico, Intelsat, Lyondell, Refco, Sears, and the Tribune Chapter 11 case. He has argued in the Federal Court of Appeals on multiple occasions. He also has been involved in several consumer bankruptcy class action lawsuits.

Best Lawyers in America has listed him among the Best Lawyers in Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Law annually since 2005. In 2020, the publication declared Anker Lawyer of the Year in the area of bankruptcy and litigation. The 2012-2022 editions of *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* cited his bankruptcy and restructuring work. And *Benchmark Litigation* during the same period rated him as a Top 10 Practitioner in Bankruptcy Law.

Anker had a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Pennsylvania when he enrolled at GW Law. After law school, he

“BANKRUPTCY LAW IS SEEN BY SOME IN THE LEGAL FIELD AS THE “LAST BASTION OF A GENERALIST.””

— Philip Anker



clerked for a federal judge and then joined the firm that he has remained with through his career.

"I assumed I would stay at the firm only for a couple of years in our Washington, D.C., office and then go into the government, maybe with the Department of Justice," Anker recalls. "I had zero plans for making private practice my long-term career. I had zero plans to go into bankruptcy law."

But after working on a bankruptcy-related case, he joined the firm's new bankruptcy practice and found it far more stimulating than he ever expected.

Although he has worked on cases that have stood out for the sheer amount of money involved, Anker says "the legal issues can be as interesting in a smaller case as they can be in a larger case."

"The difference when there's an enormous amount of money at stake is that the clients are often more willing to let you dive in and leave no stone unturned. With smaller cases, even when they are fascinating, you have to be practical. It doesn't make sense to spend a million dollars to save a client \$500,000," Anker says.

Anker has mentored GW students, and his firm regularly hires GW Law graduates. He has some advice for recent grads.

"Private practice requires that you work long hours at times and, over my career, I have worked pretty darn hard. To do that long term, you need to enjoy what you are doing—your work needs to be fun," Anker says. "If I had to give advice to younger people coming out of law school, I would tell them to pursue something that they find interesting and fun, invest intellectually in what they are doing, and be open to change."

— Mary Dempsey

private equity funds on securities law, contract drafting, and mergers and acquisitions.

Lucy Zhao, JD '08, published an article titled "The risks and rewards of growing GAF Energy."

Ericke Cage, JD '09, was unanimously chosen to serve as the 13th president of the West Virginia State University (WVSU) by the university's board of governors. He had served as WVSU's interim president since September 2021.

Ethan Lucarelli, JD '09, was named legal advisor for wireless and international issues for the chairwoman of the Federal Communications Commission.

Susan Yoon Parker, JD '09, has joined Latham & Watkins LLP's Boston office as a partner in the private equity finance and banking practices.

Robert D. Pratt, JD '09, has joined Fox Rothschild LLP in Washington, D.C., as counsel in the firm's federal government contracts and procurement practice.

Jason N. Silberberg, JD '09, was promoted to partner at Frier Levitt, where he specializes in healthcare and life sciences litigation and regulatory matters. Prior to joining the firm as an associate in 2014, he served as a deputy attorney general in the New Jersey Attorney General's Office's Banking and Insurance Section.

2010s

Elizabeth A. Gray, JD '10, a professor at GW's Milken Institute School of Public Health,

was selected by the university's student-athletes as professor of the year.

Ashley E. Eiler, JD '11, has joined Wiley Rein as an of counsel attorney.

James Gelfand, JD '11, was promoted from EVP to president of the ERISA Industry Committee.

Cody Wamsley, LLM '11, has joined Coinbase Global Inc. as associate general counsel. His primary areas of practice are information security and privacy.

Joshua Weiss, JD '11, was appointed to the Denver Bar Association's Board of Trustees. Weiss is a shareholder in the litigation department at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck.

Jonathan Bench, JD '12, has been named one of *Super Lawyer's* Washington Rising Stars for 2022. He is an attorney with Harris Bricken who regularly counsels business owners on international business transactions.

Elizabeth Mastrogiacom, JD '12, recently joined the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) as senior counsel to the CFTC commissioner.

Rob Parr, JD '12, has joined Wilson Sonsini as a partner in the firm's Boston office.

Calmann Clements, JD '13, has been promoted to counsel at Haynes and Boone. He practices before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board on post-grant proceedings.

Rachel Adams Ladeau, JD '13, was recognized as one of *2023's Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch* in labor and employment law.

Thomas Ingalls, JD '14, was promoted to partner at Cozen O'Connor. His practice focuses on complex litigation matters.

Melissa Milchman, JD '14, is the recipient of the 2022 Tony Gobar Outstanding Juvenile Justice Specialist Award from the Coalition of Juvenile Justice. She serves as the juvenile justice specialist for the District of Columbia in the Office of Victims Services and Justice Grants.

Melanie Taylor, JD '14, of counsel in Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck's Denver office, has joined Make-A-Wish Colorado's Wishmakers Council.

Lt. Robert Baxter, JD '15, who serves as chief of operational law at U.S. Special Operations Command Europe, hosted a Professional Military Education program at Region Legal Service Office Europe, Africa, Central. He delivered a brief titled "NATO, Special Operation Forces, and the Joint Perspective."

Richard Hughes IV, JD '15, has joined Epstein Becker Green as a member of the firm's health care & life sciences practice in Washington, D.C.

Kyle B. Morse, JD '15, has been named counsel at BakerHostetler.

Keaghan Ames, JD '16, has joined the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission as counselor and senior policy advisor.

Chandos Cullen, JD '16, has joined the National Council of Urban Indian Health as director of federal relations. He also serves as a judge advocate in the United States Army Reserve.

Mark F. Mashack, JD '16, has joined Blank Rome as an associate in the firm's D.C. office, where he focuses his practice on patent diligence and procurement.

James Whittle, JD '16, has been named of counsel at Mintz. He is an experienced patent attorney and accomplished research scientist who advises life sciences companies on patent prosecution matters.

Jay Jackson, LLM '17, is the author of a new book, *Decent Discourse*. The book offers a hopeful, helpful, and historical way to push back against today's hyper-partisan culture of political discourse.

Carly E. Nixon, JD '17, recently joined Fox Rothschild LLP in Philadelphia as an associate in the privacy and data security department.

LieAnn Van-Tull, LLM '18, was sworn in as the president-elect of the Washington Bar Association in June. She is an associate with the food and drug packaging and tobacco and e-vapor practice groups at Keller & Heckman LLP.

Kate Geyer, JD '19, was featured on season 2, episode 1 of Kilpatrick Townsend's podcast "Sidebars." She is a patent litigation associate in Seattle.

Eashaa Parek, JD '19, GWNY '17, has joined O'Melveny, where she focuses on capital markets and the corporate legal space.

2020s

Morgan Bodenarain, JD '21, has joined the Federal Communications Commission as a legal advisor, where she focuses on digital equity issues.

Christopher Norman, LLM '21, is an associate at the Dallas office of Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman.

Zhanqi Xu, JD '22, GWNY '22, has accepted an offer as an associate in the Capital Markets Group in the New York office of Freshfields.

in memoriam

Lucy Ann Hapeman Dodge, JD '49
Nov. 4, 2021

Paul N. Kokulis, LLB '50
August 16, 2022

Louise Edelman Sagalyn, LLB '52
August 13, 2022

William Granberry, JD '53, LLM '54
June 24, 2022

Mary Jean Bastian, JD '56
April 23, 2022

Thomas Smith, JD '56
March 2022

Philip Fischer, LLB '59
May 23, 2022

Richard Lione, LLB '59
August 31, 2022

C. Sherfy Jones, LLB '61
May 2, 2022

Alfred Leavit, JD '64
Jan. 18, 2022

W. Lynn Hossner, JD '65
July 20, 2022

Richard G. Amato, JD '67, LLM '69
June 19, 2022

Leonard Blum, JD '67
Jan. 24, 2022

Mark Himelstein, JD '67
September 12, 2022

Percy H. "Terry" Russell, Jr., JD '68
Feb. 15, 2022

Joseph Norman Beecroft, JD '69
April 19, 2022

Robert Pass, JD '69
June 16, 2022

Theodore Fishman, JD '71
August 2, 2022

Carol Park-Conroy, JD '75
July 2022

Sebastian K.D. Graber, JD '77
August 4, 2022

John R. Hill, Jr, JD '78
August 19, 2022

Phillip Robinson, JD '86
July 6, 2022

William H. Shreve, JD '90
May 9, 2022

Grant Madden, JD '12
June 28, 2022

Andrew William Palmer, JD '22
August 26, 2022

FULL SPEED AHEAD

GW Law's campus is once again a hub of activity—hosting scores of conferences, symposia, celebrations, and distinguished speakers this year. On this page, we present a sampling of the many great events happening within our walls and beyond.



This spring, recently retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Breyer launched an “only at GW” series of exclusive interviews on his life and illustrious career.



Dean's Jean's Day provided a welcome study break for students.



Prominent IP attorneys Mike Gruber, LL.M. '11, and Alexander Gebert, LL.M. '11, co-hosted a GW Law reception in Munich, Germany.



Nevada Supreme Court Justice Patricia Lee, JD '02, returned to her alma mater to receive the 2023 Belva Lockwood Award.

GW Law students impressed a high-powered bench at the Van Vleck Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition—the law school's top oral advocacy contest since 1950.



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