

class notes

ALUMNI NEWSMAKERS

1960s

Martin Weisfuse, JD '69, of Weisfuse & Weisfuse has been named one of the best personal injury lawyers of 2025 in Staten Island by *Forbes*.

1970s

Michael Heyman, JD '72, was appointed as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Alaska.

James Volling, JD '79, was honored by the American Bar Association with the Pro Bono Publico Award, the ABA's highest pro bono recognition. He serves as senior counsel at Faegre Drinker.

1980s

Steven Anderson, JD '82, has joined Becker as shareholder. Eric Breslin, JD '82, a partner at Duane Morris, received the tenth annual Duane Morris Pro Bono Leadership Award.

Dorn McGrath III, JD '82, has joined the Washington, D.C., office of Dickinson Wright as a member. His practice focuses on government contracts.

William D. Addas, JD '84, was elected an independent member of the Rithm Capital Corp. board of directors.

Glenn A. Wood, LLM '85, has joined Rubin and Rudman as chair of the firm's environmental and land use group. Wood was also selected for inclusion on the 2025 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Environmental Lawyers list.

Kivutha Kibwana, SJD '88, the former governor of Makueni County in Kenya, will direct the new Master of Laws Programme at Daystar University.

1990s

John Erly, JD '90, was appointed by Maryland Governor Wes Moore to serve as chair of the District 12 Trial Courts Judicial Nominating Commission. He is a partner at Cumberland & Erly, which he co-founded in 1995.

Evan Koster, JD '90, has joined Baker Botts as a partner in the firm's corporate practice and as head of its derivatives practice based in New York.

Janene M. Marasciullo, JD '90, has joined the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University as director of the Fairbridge Investor Rights Clinic and an adjunct professor.

Mark Bank, JD '91, of Bank Rifkin has been named one of the best divorce lawyers in Detroit by *Forbes*.

Tod Cohen, JD '92, a leader in artificial intelligence, data protection and technology-related law, has joined Manatt, Phelps & Phillips as a partner in the firm's San Francisco-based digital and technology group.

Dean Conway, JD '92, has joined Carlton Fields as a shareholder in the firm's securities litigation and enforcement practice.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Interpreting the Halls of Power

IN A TOWN LIKE WASHINGTON, D.C., FULL OF TALKING POINTS and tight-lipped politicians, **PAMELA BROWN, MSL '23**, never was content to take anyone's word at face value. As a long-time investigative journalist for CNN, she always knew how to ask the right questions.

But when the soundbites got more slippery and the stakes higher, she craved something sharper. So, in the middle of juggling her young children and a demanding job at CNN, she did the unimaginable: she went to law school.

"For professionals like journalists who need to understand the law to be better at their jobs," said Brown, who is the daily co-host with Wolf Blitzer of *The Situation Room* on CNN, "a Masters of Studies in the Law was like a program that had been written just for me."

The MSL gave Brown a new kind of journalistic strength. She dove deep into emerging issues like artificial intelligence (AI) and copyright, writing papers that would become eerily prescient as generative tech took center stage. Fraud and corruption classes taught her to untangle the legal labyrinths behind high-profile headlines about cryptocurrency and autonomous systems.

"It gave me confidence to not just ask questions, but to ask the right ones, and know when someone's dodging the answer," she said. "I know when they're pretending to answer and when they're just buying time. And I've learned how to press harder—smarter."

GW's faculty helped shape that edge. From courses on international corruption to sobering classes on national security and war crimes, Brown was able to translate legal nuance into journalistic

“ I REALLY LIKED BEING AT GW. THEY BUILT A PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR CAREERS WHO AREN'T LOOKING TO START OVER, BUT TO LEVEL UP. ”

— Pamela Brown

Michelle A. Johnson, JD '92, was appointed to serve as an administrative judge for the Queens' (New York) Supreme Court, Criminal Term.

Ann Coffin, JD '93, a renowned expert in energy law, has joined Baker Botts as a partner in the firm's global projects practice in Austin.

James E. Salitan, JD '93, has joined ConcertAI as general counsel.

Katayun Jaffari, JD '95, chair of the corporate governance and ESG practices and co-chair of the capital markets and securities practice at Cozen O'Connor, was installed as chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Joshua M. Henderson, JD '96, a principal in the San Francisco office of Jackson Lewis, has been appointed leader of the firm's national workplace safety and health group.



clarity. “I came away not just more informed, but more fluent,” she said.

But for all the firepower the MSL gave her, Brown is quick to credit the community around it. The flexibility of evening and online classes and the intentional design of the program made it not just possible but joyful. “I really liked being at GW,” she said. “They built a program for people in the middle of their careers who aren’t looking to start over, but to level up.”

Brown had the opportunity to feature one of her own professors on air, engaging Jessica Tillipman, associate dean for government procurement law studies and distinguished professorial lecturer in government contracts law, practice & policy, in a thoughtful discussion about Trump administration policies in February 2025.

Now, from the anchor desk, Brown wields her knowledge of the law to cut through confusion, legal spin, and political fog. She sees herself as sharing that understanding with viewers to help educate them and prepare them for the day.

“A simple part of my job is informing people about what’s happening in the world around them, and that’s a big responsibility,” said Brown. “The stakes are really high for me in making sure that we inform people with the facts and the truth.”

— Sarah Kellogg

Darren V. Roman, JD '96, has joined Dorsey & Whitney as of counsel in the firm’s finance and restructuring group in Phoenix.

Regine Thompson, JD '96, a district magistrate judge in Kansas, was re-elected to a second term as president of the Kansas District Magistrate Judges Association.

Julie Anna Potts, JD '97, CEO and president of the

Meat Institute, was named 2024 Most Impactful Woman of the Year by the Women’s Meat Industry Network.

Alex Vogel, JD '97, was appointed by Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin to serve a six-year term on the board of directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority.

Luis Torres, JD '98, has joined Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky & Popeo as a member

of the firm’s energy and sustainability practice.

Scott M. Grossman, JD '99, was appointed to serve as chief judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Florida.

Piper F. McKeithen, JD '99, was appointed by Maryland Governor Wes Moore to serve on the Baltimore City Circuit Court.

2000s

Daanish Hamid, JD '00, has joined Potomac Law as a partner in the firm’s Washington, D.C., office.

Zachary Cunha, JD '01, has joined Nixon Peabody as a partner in the firm’s government investigations and white-collar defense practice. He is a former U.S. Attorney for the District of Rhode Island.

Charles Darr, JD '01, has joined the Cruise Lines International Association as president and chief executive officer.

Jason M. Marks, JD '01, was appointed chief legal officer of Prilenia Therapeutics B.V., a clinical stage biotechnology company focused on developing novel therapeutics to slow the progression of neurodegenerative diseases and neurodevelopmental disorders.

Jeffrey P. MacHarg, JD '02, the managing partner of Fox Rothschild’s Charlotte office, was featured on *North Carolina Lawyers Weekly’s* Managing Partners to Watch list.

Vinu V. Pillai, JD '02, has joined Morris & Dickson as chief compliance and regulatory officer.

Paul J. Cornoni, JD '03, was named the 2025 Pro Bono Attorney of the Year by the District of Columbia Bar Association. He is a partner at Regan Zambri Long and an adjunct professor of trial advocacy at GW Law.

John R. Spagna, JD '03, has joined the New York firm Clayman Rosenberg Kirshner & Linder as a partner. He is the former chief of the New York State Attorney General Office’s real estate enforcement unit.

Kenneth English, JD '04, was sworn in as a Superior Court judge for Sonoma County, Calif., in January.

Col. James H. Kennedy III, LL.M. '04, has assumed the role of chief executive officer and dean of New England Law/ Boston. He previously served as the commandant of the Air Force Judge Advocate General’s School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama.

Shawnte M. Mitchell, JD '04, was appointed chief legal officer and corporate secretary of Olema Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company.

Amy E. Moses, JD '04, was appointed to serve as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the district of Rhode Island. She took the bench in May.

Katherine White, JD '04, was appointed deputy director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection at the Federal Trade Commission.

Piyush Gupta, LL.M. '05, was appointed head counsel of Etihad Airways in the United Arab Emirates.

Lesley Janzen, JD '05, has joined Cleary Gottlieb as

ALUMNI PROFILE

A Journey from Law to Sustainability

AS A COLLEGE STUDENT, **ANDREW MAYOCK, JD '95**, SECURED an internship in the office of U.S. Representative Joe Kennedy. That formative experience planted the seeds of a career devoted to public service and ignited a passion for leveraging government policy as a catalyst for change.

That early introduction to the inner workings of Washington, D.C., while studying at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, set Mayock on a trajectory that would carry him from GW Law to high-level roles in the federal government and the White House. Over the course of his career, he would go on to serve under three U.S. presidents: Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, and Joseph Biden.

GW Law proved instrumental in making those ambitions a reality. Mayock chose the institution not only for its academic excellence but also for its unparalleled proximity and access to the epicenter of American politics. For him, law school functioned as both a rigorous education and a strategic launchpad.

"I had an internship at the National Economic Council," said Mayock, who now serves as vice chancellor for sustainability at the University of Colorado Boulder. "I loved the internship and the people I was working with. In my third year, I'd take my classes in the morning, and then I would show up at the White House at noon and work until midnight. It was an extraordinarily fulfilling experience for a young professional."

Over the next two decades, Mayock navigated a dynamic path in and out of government service. His roles included special assistant and senior advisor during the Clinton administration, executive secretary at the Department of the Treasury, and deputy director of management at the Obama-era Office of Management and Budget. Under President Biden, he held the post of chief sustainability officer

“WHETHER I’M IN THE GOVERNMENT OR IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR OR HERE IN THE NONPROFIT UNIVERSITY SECTOR, LAW AND POLICY FEATURE PROMINENTLY IN EVERY ROLE.”

— *Andrew Mayock*



at the White House, among others. In the private sector, he brought his expertise to leading consulting firms McKinsey & Company and Booz Allen.

"I ended up working on a lot of Washington-centric issues, and I built a very Washington-centric career as a result," said Mayock. "I was either in the Executive Branch in those three administrations or a management consultant in Booz Allen and McKinsey serving public sector clients. It really wasn't until I moved to climate that my geographic opportunity set expanded."

Mayock's transition to climate and sustainability work felt like a natural evolution. Within the Biden administration, he turned his attention to environmentally conscious policymaking, blending his legal and economic acumen with an intensifying commitment to climate action. His work now reflects a deep recognition of the pressing need to safeguard the planet's future.

Through it all, the foundation laid at GW Law remains a cornerstone. "Whether I'm in the government or in the private sector or here in the nonprofit university sector, law and policy feature prominently in every role," said Mayock. "The legal landscape writ large—how a bill becomes a law, how to read a law, how the regulatory system works, how litigation works, and how to be a strong partner with the general counsel feature prominently in all major activities."

— *Sarah Kellogg*

a partner in the firm's New York office, focusing on capital markets transactions.

Rahul Rao, JD '05, has joined White & Case's Washington, D.C., office as a member of the antitrust team.

Taria Barron, JD '06, has joined the American Public Transportation Association as general counsel.

Jennifer Y. Chi, JD '06, founder of Live Good Inc., has been named a top "Innovator of the Year" by California's *Orange County Business Journal*.

Jason S. Gould, JD '06, has joined Lowenstein Sandler as a partner in the firm's white-collar defense and litigation practices. He most recently served as chief of the health-care fraud unit at the U.S.

Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey.

Felix J. Kushnir, JD '06, has joined Fox Rothschild as a partner in the firm's corporate department in Washington, D.C.

Adam Copeland, JD '07, has joined Wilkinson Barker Knauer as a partner in the firm's Washington, D.C., office.

Patrick A. Fuller, JD '07, has joined Debevoise & Plimpton's Washington, D.C., office as counsel in the firm's banking group.

Zachary Sharpe, JD '07, has joined Lee & Ko as co-head of the international arbitration team.

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From the Courtroom to the Sound Stage

SWAPPING THE STAID CORRIDORS OF A LAW FIRM FOR THE glitz and grit of Hollywood backlots was less of a leap of faith for litigation attorney **BEN EVERARD, JD '09**, and more of a planned evolution as he sought to combine his passion for the law with his affinity for entrepreneurship and storytelling.

After leaving GW Law, Everard worked as an associate at the Los Angeles office of litigation powerhouse Quinn Emanuel. There, he worked in part on entertainment matters, and soon was immersed in cases that dissected the fine print of creative ownership.

"I think I ultimately came out to L.A. with the intention of getting involved with entertainment in some capacity," said Everard. "I just didn't know exactly what that route would be."

Exiting Quinn Emanuel, Everard immersed himself in the mechanics of film production, talent acquisition, and the labyrinthine business of financing movies. His legal background proved

“THERE'S A LOT OF CROSSOVER BETWEEN LITIGATION AND MOVIE-MAKING. BOTH REQUIRE STRATEGY, UNDERSTANDING HUMAN NATURE, AND KNOWING WHEN TO PUSH AND WHEN TO PIVOT.”

— Ben Everard

invaluable. He understood contracts better than most, knew where potential pitfalls lay, and had a sharp instinct for negotiations.

"I wasn't coming in blind," he said. "There's a lot of crossover between litigation and movie-making. Both require strategy, understanding human nature, and knowing when to push and when to pivot."

Everard also cultivated connections, bridging his legal network with industry insiders. His first production company partnership, Grey Matter Productions, quickly gained traction, bringing to life projects that merged his keen storytelling and screenwriting instincts with his unwavering attention to detail.



Ben and Mary Everard at the L.A. premier of "Family Switch"

Today, he is a Hollywood film producer, and his company, Everard Entertainment, is working with the biggest names in the movie business, including actors Chris Pratt and Arnold Schwarzenegger. His latest major production is the Skydance/Apple film "Way of the Warrior Kid."

Everard said one of his biggest challenges these days is navigating the ever-changing landscape of theatrical productions and streaming platforms, where artificial intelligence and digital disruption are redefining the film industry. He predicts cinemas will never disappear, despite the shrinking number, because it's still too good a night out and for a decent cost compared to sports and music venues.

Yet, his ambitions extend beyond saving the silver screen. His goal? To open doors for the next generation of creatives, particularly those who, like him, may have started their careers on an entirely different path.

"Sometimes you have to trust that the skills you've developed will translate into new spaces," he said. "Hollywood may seem worlds apart from litigation and the law, but at the end of the day, both industries are about understanding people and telling compelling stories."

— Sarah Kellogg

Michael Wise, JD '07, has joined Squire Patton Boggs. He will lead the firm's U.S. antitrust practice.

Sheldon Gilbert, JD '08, was named president of The Federalist Society. He previously served as Walmart's senior lead counsel for strategic initiatives.

Kyle Hepner, JD '08, was elected to partnership at

Robinson Cole. He is a member of the firm's intellectual property and technology group and the artificial intelligence team.

Seth Locke, JD '08, has joined WilmerHale, where he practices in the firm's defense, national security, and government contracts group.

Revathi Raghavan, LLM '08, has joined Paul, Weiss, Rifkind,

Wharton & Garrison as a partner in the firm's investment funds group, resident in London.

Stephen J. Snyder, JD '08, has joined Womble Bond Dickinson's Washington, D.C., office as a partner in the firm's business litigation practice group.

Kara M. Ward, JD '08, a former attorney and advisor with the

U.S. Department of the Treasury, has joined Baker Donelson as a shareholder in the firm's Washington, D.C., office.

Scott Armstrong, JD '09, has joined McGovern Weems as a principal in the firm's Washington, D.C., office.

Ian Barlow, JD '09, has joined Wiley Rein as counsel. He previously served for nearly a decade

as a Federal Trade Commission official, including a year as deputy director of the FTC's Office of Policy.

Dohm Chankong, JD '09, was elected a director of Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox. He is a member of the firm's electronics practice group.

Kristen Donaldson, LLM '09, has joined the National Association of Broadcasters as vice president of public policy.

Ricardo J. Pineres, JD '09, has joined the United States Senate Federal Credit Union as chief risk officer.

Michael Williams, JD '09, serves as the solicitor general of West Virginia, where he represents the state in strategic litigation and appeals. Before joining the Attorney General's Office, he co-led Bush Seyferth's complex-briefing and appeals group.

2010s

Ryan Keating, JD '10, has been elected to the partnership at Morris James, where he is a member of the medical malpractice group.

Tiana Bey, JD '11, was selected for inclusion in *Marquis Who's Who*. She is an attorney and principal at TAB PC in Washington, D.C.

Kristen W. Broz, JD '11, co-chair of Fox Rothschild's antitrust practice group, was recognized as a Washington, D.C., Rising Star by *The National Law Journal*.

Louis C. Formisano, JD '11, was promoted to special counsel at Duane Morris. He practices in the areas of environmental and real estate law.

Ian Moss, JD '11, the former deputy coordinator for counterterrorism at the U.S. Department of State, has joined Jenner & Block's Washington, D.C., office.

Meghan O'Kane, JD '11, was elected to partnership at Swerdlow Florence Sanchez Swerdlow & Wimmer, a leading Los Angeles-based labor and employment law firm.

John M. Robert, JD '11, has joined Polsinelli PC as a shareholder in the firm's tax group.

Rushab Sanghvi, JD '11, was named general counsel of the American Federation of Government Employees.

Charles C. Calloway, Jr., JD '12, has joined Greenberg Traurig as a shareholder in the firm's Chicago office.

Nathaniel Cohen, JD '12, has been promoted to counsel at Manatt. He represents some of the country's largest managed care organizations and health insurers in complex litigation matters in federal and state courts.

Will Friedman, JD '12, was inducted into the Brandeis University Hall of Fame. He was a member of the university's men's fencing team.

Jaclyn Goldberg, JD '12, was elected to partnership at Morrison Foerster. She is a member of the firm's transactions department and tax group, based in Washington, D.C.

Arthur Prystowsky, JD '12, was promoted to partner at Simmons Hanly Conroy, where he focuses his practice on assisting individuals and families affected by mesothelioma.

Aaron Bowling, JD '13, was elected to partnership at Arnold & Porter. He is a member of the firm's intellectual property and technology practice, resident in the Chicago office.

H. Thomas Felix III, JD '13, has joined Morrison Foerster as a partner in the firm's capital markets group.

ALUMNI PROFILE

A Bold Business Venture

WHEN MOST PEOPLE THINK OF A FEDERAL PROSECUTOR, THEY don't envision someone crafting berry-infused cider, fashioning cider-tasting flights, or guiding cider tours across Europe. For **LARA WORM, JD '07**, founder and CEO of Bivouac Ciderworks, the journey from prosecuting homicides to pressing cider has been anything but ordinary.

From the outside, Worm's shift seems dramatic. But in reality, she said she accesses her legal training daily, whether negotiating contracts, navigating regulatory hurdles, analyzing risk, or simply understanding how people think.

"I use my lawyer brain every single day," she said. "And I think it gives me a competitive edge."

Her reinvention as a cider master has been powered by the skills and mindset gained during her time at GW Law. "My personal superpower is storytelling," said Worm. "That's what I did as a trial lawyer, and that's what I do now as a brand builder."

When Worm was a prosecutor, she never expected to return to her family's roots in the hospitality industry. After all, she went to law school to escape the restaurant world. Yet today, she produces

“MY PERSONAL SUPERPOWER IS STORYTELLING. THAT'S WHAT I DID AS A TRIAL LAWYER, AND THAT'S WHAT I DO NOW AS A BRAND BUILDER.”

— Lara Worm

creative cider brands, with a taproom and restaurant that doubles as a community center, education hub, and adventure-themed gathering space.

People always ask Worm if she's living her dream. "This is actually my worst nightmare," she laughed. "The one thing I specifically planned not to do was find myself running a restaurant."

What began as a small regional operation has grown into a full-fledged brand, complete with local distribution, international press, and speaking invitations at industry conventions. She's on a mission to educate American consumers that cider is "as approachable as beer and as nuanced as wine." She's now preparing for the next

Nathan Vogler, JD '13, was elected to partnership at Morrison Foerster. He is a member of the firm's transactions department and patent group, based in Boston.

Virginia Lenahan, JD '13, was named chief international trade counsel on the Senate Finance Committee majority staff.

Leah Socash, JD '13, was elected to partnership at Milbank where she is a member of the trusts, estates, and exempt organizations group.

Max Bonici, JD '14, has joined Davis Wright as a partner in the firm's financial services practice in Washington, D.C.



phase: scaling the business, raising capital, and potentially becoming the “United States’ cider queen.”

“Having established a strong foothold in San Diego’s hospitality scene, we are now poised for the next stage of expansion,” she said. “To realize this vision, the company is selectively seeking strategic investors who share my passion and ambition and can help scale operations, expand distribution, and bring Bivouac’s distinctive ciders to a wider market.”

In a world where law degrees often lead to predictable paths, Worm stands out as a reminder that legal training can be the foundation for something entirely unexpected. “I loved being a lawyer,” she said, “but building this business lets me use my entire brain. And that’s powerful.”

— Sarah Kellogg

Benjamin Christoff, LLM ‘14, was promoted to principal at Fish & Richardson.

Kirsten Nelson, JD ‘14, has joined Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan as an associate. Nelson is a former assistant federal public defender and training attorney in Miami.

Lisa Mays, JD ‘15, was promoted to partner at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton. She is a member of the firm’s governmental practice group, where she advises on international trade compliance and investigations.

Margaret Beasley, JD ‘15, was promoted to senior counsel at Bracewell.

Gil Ben-Ezra, JD ‘15, was elected to partnership at Meland Budwick. He is a member of the firm’s commercial litigation and financial fraud practice groups.

Irene Lee, JD ‘15, has joined McEntee Law Group in Chicago as senior attorney.

Zach Pilchen, LLM ‘15, has joined Holland & Knight as senior counsel in the firm’s public policy and regulation group in Washington, D.C. He previously served as senior legal counsel for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of General Counsel.

Michael Selig, JD ‘15, has joined the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as chief counsel of a new task force dedicated to transforming the agency’s approach toward the cryptocurrency industry. Selig is a former partner at Willkie Farr & Gallagher.

Kesete Taye, LLM ‘15, has been selected for inclusion in *Marquis Who’s Who*. Taye serves as a trial attorney at Harmon Linder & Rogowsky.

Haider Andazola, JD ‘16, has joined Manatt, Phelps & Phillips as counsel. He focuses his practice on strategic regulatory and public policy across the health care industry.

Liliana Di Nola-Baron, JD ‘16, has joined the intellectual property law firm Panitch Schwarze Belisario & Nadel as counsel.

Matthew J. Michaels, JD ‘16, has returned to Barnes & Thornburg as a member of the firm’s corporate department in Los Angeles.

Nathan Richardson, JD ‘16, has joined Honigman as a partner in the firm’s litigation department in Washington, D.C.

Aleksandra Rybicki, JD ‘16, was promoted to partner at the Washington, D.C., litigation firm Hollingsworth.

Daniel Sitter, JD ‘16, was promoted to partner at Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll. He is a member of the firm’s employee benefits/ERISA practice.

Kristin Elia, JD ‘17, was promoted to counsel at Venable. She focuses her practice on commercial real estate matters.

Brandon Flick, JD ‘17, was appointed to serve as administrative law judge for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Kevin Sayles, JD ‘17, was elected to partnership at Bousquet Holstein, where he is a member of the firm’s tax practice group.

Paul Seidu Tanye-Kulono, LLM ‘17, was appointed the acting director-general of the Ghana Ports and Harbors Authority.

Alexander Somodevilla, JD ‘17, LLM ‘20, has joined Manatt, Phelps & Phillips. He focuses his practice on health care and life sciences.

Erica Wible, JD ‘17, has been elected a member of McNees Malamut Law. Wible is president of the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Association of Bond Lawyers.

Ryan Chowdhury, JD ‘18, was promoted to principal at Fish & Richardson.

Sacred Huff, JD ‘19, was promoted to senior associate at Kalijarvi, Chuzi, Newman & Fitch in Washington, D.C. She focuses her practice on employment law.

Matthew Knabel, JD ‘19, was promoted to principal at Fish

ALUMNI PROFILE

A Voice for the Voiceless

IN A WORLD WHERE THE POWERLESS AND THE WEAK OFTEN GO unheard, **KITTY BLOCK, JD '90**, has spent her life ensuring that the most silent of beings, domesticated and wild animals, have a resolute advocate in their corner.

"I wanted to be a lawyer for the animals," said Block, president and CEO of Humane World for Animals, formerly Humane Society of the United States and the Humane Society International. "I knew a law degree would give me the tools I needed."

From the moment she stepped on the GW Law campus, she had a singular purpose in mind: wield her law degree not just as a credential, but as a finely tuned instrument for change on behalf of animals. Block immersed herself in environmental and international law, joining one of the school's first animal law groups. It was an era when animal rights were largely seen as sentimental rather than substantial.

After graduation, she joined the then Humane Society of the United States as a legal investigator and never looked back. Over the decades, she spearheaded the global expansion of Humane Society International, advocating for whales, endangered species, and farm animals on international stages. The Humane Society's legal team has taken on government agencies, led ballot initiatives, and argued before the Supreme Court. Most recently, it defended a landmark California law banning the cruel confinement of farm animals.

"Animal issues aren't a fringe cause," said Block. "They are interwoven with public health, climate change, and human welfare."

Despite leading a global organization, Block said she remains grounded in her legal training. "It's not just about emotion," she noted. "It's about building the argument, doing the science, polling

“ANIMAL ISSUES AREN'T A FRINGE CAUSE. THEY ARE INTERWOVEN WITH PUBLIC HEALTH, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND HUMAN WELFARE.”

— *Kitty Block*



the public—making the case." That mindset has helped turn once-marginal issues into matters debated at the highest courts.

She's a long way from her childhood in Nahant, Mass., where she was surrounded by stray animals and songbirds and growing an early sense for justice for animals. With her mother's guidance, she made her first legislative phone calls as a child in support of the Animal Welfare Act.

Block said her life is a lesson for law students today who may wonder if it's possible to feel deeply about a cause and still excel in the law. "If I think about my little girl self or even who I was in law school, this is not who I'd imagined I would become," said Block, who has been with Humane World for Animals for 33 years. "It wouldn't even be believable."

— *Sarah Kellogg*

& Richardson. He concentrates his practice on patent prosecution and strategy in the life sciences sector.

Anthony Patrone, JD '19, was appointed legal advisor in the Office of the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission.

2020s

Ali Bazzi, JD '20, has joined the Varnum law firm as a member of the firm's corporate practice team in the Birmingham office.

Briana Imran, JD '20, an employment and civil rights attorney, has joined Washington, D.C.-based Kalijarvi, Chuzi, Newman & Fi.

Jaylla Brown, JD '22, has joined Larson as an associate in the firm's D.C. office.

Preston O. Eagan, JD '23, has joined Chamberlain Hrdlicka's Atlanta office as a member of the firm's tax controversy and litigation practice.

John Darby, JD '24, has joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings' corporate and securities

practice group in the firm's Birmingham office.

Alexandra E. Patterson, JD '24, has joined the Washington, D.C.-based litigation firm Hollingsworth as an associate.

Joseph Sinopoli, JD '24, has joined Fish and Richardson as an associate in the firm's intellectual property practice, where he focuses on patent litigation.

Jaden Taylor, JD '24, has joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings' corporate and securities practice group in the firm's Nashville office.

class notes

ALUMNI NEWSMAKERS

And What About You?

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GW LAW MAGAZINE
2000 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20052

in memoriam

The Hon. Joyce Hens Green, JD '51, Oct. 10, 2024

Martin Kirsch, JD '51, Nov. 24, 2024

Roy T. Englert, LLM '53, Dec. 11, 2024

Harry F. Manbeck, JD '53, Feb. 19, 2025

Sheldon Witcoff, JD '53, Feb. 21, 2025

Walter Bernkopf, JD '57, March 24, 2025

Theodore Pedas, JD '57, March 21, 2025

George O. Saile, JD '59, Oct. 25, 2024

Gordon Christenson, JD '61, March 13, 2025

Charles F. Geschickter, Jr., JD '61, Sept. 19, 2024

William S. Hochman, JD '62, Sept. 30, 2024

Ronald Natalie, JD '62, Feb. 7, 2025

Hal Cooper, JD '63, Feb. 25, 2025

Thomas Lampe, JD '63, Nov. 9, 2024

Douglas V. Rigler, JD '63, Aug. 22, 2024

Patrick Henry James, JD '64, Oct. 25, 2024

Raymond F. Altman, JD '66, Oct. 12, 2024

Gary Glasgow, JD '66, Feb. 28, 2025

Mary Anita Nordale, JD '66, Dec. 22, 2024

Thomas Currier, JD '67, Feb. 05, 2025

Leonard J. Suchanek, LLM '67, Oct. 5, 2024

Hon. Donald Haddock, LLM '68, Dec. 23, 2024

Henry Nickel, JD '68, March 20, 2025

Marshall Kresman, JD '69, Dec. 11, 2024

Robert L. Chase, LLM '70, Jan. 19, 2025

Richard A. Killworth, JD '70, LLM '72, Oct. 18, 2024

James R. Kruse, JD '70, Jan. 28, 2025

Robert David Bustard, JD '71, Dec. 20, 2024

Lorin Luchs, JD '71, March 17, 2025

Robert A. Rowland III, JD '72, Oct. 15, 2024

Donald G. Smith, JD '72, Sept. 27, 2024

Fred Wolf III, JD '72, Dec. 23, 2024

Ronald S. Frankel, LLM '73, Oct. 3, 2024

Alice T. Petizon, JD '73, Oct. 3, 2024

Daniel Ray Ferry, LLM '74, Nov. 12, 2024

Charles Fitzgerald Stuart, Jr., JD '78, Jan. 2, 2025

Dana Frances Arnold, JD '81, Jan. 3, 2025

Mary Krug, JD '82, Nov. 1, 2024

Kenneth Johnson, JD '84, Dec. 20, 2024

Walton Garrett Liu, LLM '85, Nov. 5, 2024

Leslie Lehnert, JD '88, Sept. 20, 2024

Ronald Krasnow, JD '90, March 20, 2025

Mark Toohey, JD '95, Nov. 23, 2024

FACULTY

Professor Steve Charnowitz, March 23, 2025