GW Law Scholars Awarded Emeriti Status

THREE GW LAW PROFESSORS WHO retired at the end of the 2020-2021 academic year have been honored with emeriti status. Professor of Law John F. Banzhaf III, Theodore and James Pedas Family Professor of Intellectual Property and Technology Law Martin J. Adelman, and William Thomas Fryer Research Professor of Law Roger E. Schechter were given the special status in recognition of their long and exemplary service to the school.

Professor Banzaf taught at GW for more than 50 years and is best known for using the law as a tool to address the health dangers of smoking and other social issues. His legal complaint with the Federal Communications Commission led to a ruling that required TV and radio stations to provide free on-air time for anti-smoking messages. He also created a charitable organization, Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), that became a major force in the anti-smoking and nonsmokers’ rights movements.

His legal complaint with the Federal Communications Commission led to a ruling that required TV and radio stations to provide free on-air time for anti-smoking messages.

Professor Adelman brought a global reputation in the area of patent law when he joined GW Law’s Intellectual Property Law Program more than two decades ago. He served as co-director of the program and co-director of the Dean Dinwoody Center for Intellectual Property Studies. He is credited with expanding the IP curriculum and faculty size, and he oversaw creation of the Intellectual Property Advisory Board.

In his more than four decades at GW Law, Professor Schechter has guided multiple generations of students through courses in tort law, copyright law, trademark law, and product liability law. Known for his humor, he is also a prolific scholar, having written numerous articles and books, including casebooks and references works on trademark, copyright and patent law.

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Roger E. Schechter
GW Law Grads Land Coveted Supreme Court Clerkships

DAVID FOX, JD ’12, WAS IN A TEXAS courthouse elevator when Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer phoned to offer him a clerkship. Shocked, Mr. Fox called the justice’s chambers the next day to make sure the offer for the 2017-18 term was real. A recent study ranked GW ninth nationally in placing Supreme Court clerk graduates between 2017 and 2021. GW Law graduates have filled the highly competitive clerkships in four of the past five years. On two occasions, two graduates clerked in the same year. Each of the nine justices hires four clerks a year. Whitney Hermandorfer, JD ’15, recently completed a clerkship with Justice Amy Coney Barrett and previously clerked for Justice Samuel Alito. Zachary Tyree, JD ’17, began clerking for Justice Barrett in July 2021. Both credit Bradford Clark, GW Law’s William Cranch Research Professor, with helping them land their clerkships. “GW Law devotes substantial resources to supporting our students’ efforts to obtain clerkships at all levels,” said Mr. Clark, who clerked for former Associate Justice Antonin Scalia from 1989-90. GW has a dedicated Clerkship Committee, co-chaired by Mr. Clark and Professor Laura Dickinson, to advise students on when, where, and how to apply for clerkships. “Our curriculum prioritizes broad legal knowledge across a range of essential subject matter areas and ensures that all students have substantial writing and research experience. Our location also enables students to participate in a wide variety of externships with government entities during law school, including working for judges at all levels,” Mr. Clark said. “The competition for Supreme Court clerkships is fierce, and only the very best students receive interviews for these positions,” he added. Mr. Fox, now litigation counsel at Elias Law Group, called his Supreme Court clerkship an “unparalleled opportunity to confront some of the most difficult legal questions in the country, in the company of some of the best lawyers in the country.” Ms. Hermandorfer, an associate at Williams & Connolly, said her clerkships were “the honor of a lifetime,” adding that although Justices Alito and Barrett “each have distinct styles of communicating and thinking through cases, both approach the preparation process and their relationships with their clerks with great respect.” Clerking for them, she said, was “both humbling and inspiring.”

Whitney Hermandorfer, Professor Bradford Clark, and David Fox on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court—where all three completed clerkships over the years.

RESEARCH ON ‘PUNITIVE SURVEILLANCE’ DRAWS ACCOLADES

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW Kate Weisburd was awarded the Reidenberg-Kerr Award for Outstanding Scholarship by a Junior Scholar at the 2021 Privacy Law Scholars Conference (PLSC). The award recognizes her groundbreaking research on the use of electronic ankle monitoring within the criminal justice system. A paper focused on the research, “Punitive Surveillance,” will be published in the Virginia Law Review in 2022. PLSC Chair Ari Waldman called Professor Weisburd’s work “a generative, pathbreaking, and insightful piece of scholarship.” “I’m really proud of the paper, but I’m even more proud of the research conducted by GW Law students,” said Professor Weisburd. “The research was not easy and involved tracking down, reading, analyzing, and coding thousands of pages of agency records.” “Punitive Surveillance” also received
CELORIO ASSUMES LEADERSHIP ROLE AT AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

ROSA CELORIO, ASSOCIATE DEAN for international and comparative legal studies and the Burnett Family Professorial Lecturer in International and Comparative Law and Policy, has been appointed chair of the Membership Committee and Next Generation Initiative at the American Society of International Law (ASIL).

“The American Society of International Law is a cornerstone institution and major convener in the area of international law. It has a paramount role in disseminating knowledge and promoting discussion of contemporary issues in this field,” said Associate Dean Celorio.

“I very much look forward to opening new avenues to promote membership engagement and the development of a new, vibrant, and diverse generation of international law experts and practitioners who will continue the work of ASIL.”

GW Law has a diverse curriculum in international and comparative law and a faculty with strong ties to government entities, law firms, nonprofits, and international and regional organizations. Associate Dean Celorio’s appointment will benefit GW Law students as they learn from her about the latest developments in international and comparative law.

“This is a very important role as the society seeks to cultivate new members, including students, and to develop programs of interest to them,” said GW Law Professor and former ASIL President Sean D. Murphy. “It also demonstrates how Associate Dean Celorio is highly valued in her field in terms of substantive knowledge, leadership, interpersonal skills, and creative thinking.”

Associate Dean Celorio teaches regional protection of human rights, international human rights of women and fundamental issues in U.S. law. She joined GW Law in 2018 after working for more than a decade as a senior attorney at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States.


Kate Weisburd

honorable mention in the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section on Criminal Justice Junior Scholars Paper Competition for 2021.

In the article, Professor Weisburd examines whether fundamental constitutional rights—such as the right to protest, to attend religious services, or to privacy—can be taken away as punishment for a crime. Her article acknowledges that while the answer is not obvious, the question is critical as new forms of non-jail punishment surface, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Examples include surveillance technology such as GPS-equipped ankle monitors, smart phone tracking, and searches of electronic devices, all of which collect and analyze the location, biometric data, speech, and other information for tens of thousands of people on pretrial release, probation, and parole.

Drawing on original empirical research from nearly 300 state and local policies, Professor Weisburd said such surveillance should be subject to constitutional limits. A website is being created to share the original records obtained during her research.

“I’M REALLY PROUD OF THE PAPER, BUT I’M EVEN MORE PROUD OF THE RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY GW LAW STUDENTS.”

– Kate Weisburd

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– Rosa Celorio
Saltzberg Receives ABA Pickering Achievement Award

The award carries both professional and personal significance for Professor Saltzburg, who became acquainted with Mr. Pickering when they both mediated cases for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

“We had conversations about his two-year clerkship with Supreme Court Justice Frank Murphy and my clerkship with Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall,” said Professor Saltzburg. “John and Justice Marshall were good friends. Both were devoted to civil rights and greatly admired each other.”

Six months before the Pickering Award, Professor Saltzburg received the 2021 American Bar Foundation Fellows Outstanding Service Award in recognition of his longstanding advocacy for civil rights, civil liberties, human rights, and criminal justice reform. He has taught civil procedure, constitutional law, criminal law, criminal procedure, evidence, and trial advocacy at GW Law.

“I have been encouraged by deans of the GW Law School to flex my professional muscles and to try new things,” Professor Saltzburg said. He specifically noted support for his efforts in 1996 to create the Master’s Program in Litigation and Dispute Resolution.

In 1991, Professor Saltzburg was one of four co-founders of the National Institute of Military Justice (NIMJ), along with then-GW Law Associate Dean John Jenkins. NIMJ was created to increase public awareness and understanding of military justice issues and to improve the investigation and prosecution of crime by military personnel and courts.

Professor Saltzburg has also held a number of government positions, including independent counsel in the Iran-Contra investigation, deputy assistant attorney general in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, the Attorney General’s ex-officio representative on the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and director of the Treasury Department Tax Refund Fraud Task Force.

“WE HAD CONVERSATIONS ABOUT HIS TWO-YEAR CLERKSHIP WITH SUPREME COURT JUSTICE FRANK MURPHY AND MY CLERKSHIP WITH SUPREME COURT JUSTICE THURGOOD MARSHALL. JOHN AND JUSTICE MARSHALL WERE GOOD FRIENDS. BOTH WERE DEVOTED TO CIVIL RIGHTS AND GREATLY ADMIRE EACH OTHER.”

– Steve Saltzburg

PROFESSOR STEVE SALTZBURG, the Wallace and Beverley Woodbury University Professor of Law and co-director of the Litigation and Dispute Resolution Program, has seen his 50th year as a lawyer marked by two prestigious honors.

The Senior Lawyer’s Division of the American Bar Association selected Professor Saltzburg as the latest recipient of the John H. Pickering Achievement Award. The award, conferred in a virtual ceremony on Aug. 4, spotlights an outstanding lawyer who has been active in pro bono work and law-related societal issues affecting the elderly.

Professor Saltzburg has also held a number of government positions, including independent counsel in the Iran-Contra investigation, deputy assistant attorney general in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, the Attorney General’s ex-officio representative on the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and director of the Treasury Department Tax Refund Fraud Task Force.

“WE HAD CONVERSATIONS ABOUT HIS TWO-YEAR CLERKSHIP WITH SUPREME COURT JUSTICE FRANK MURPHY AND MY CLERKSHIP WITH SUPREME COURT JUSTICE THURGOOD MARSHALL. JOHN AND JUSTICE MARSHALL WERE GOOD FRIENDS. BOTH WERE DEVOTED TO CIVIL RIGHTS AND GREATLY ADMIRE EACH OTHER.”

– Steve Saltzburg

GOVERNING DURING A pandemic is tricky, Puerto Rico Gov. Pedro Pierluisi, JD ’84, told the audience at the opening event of the law school’s Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations.

“This pandemic is unpredictable,” said Gov. Pierluisi, who entered office on Jan. 2, 2021. “It humbles everybody because it’s so hard to predict. You need to listen and then strike a balance that makes sense. ... You need to realize that you don’t know it all. You need to surround yourself with people who know more than you.”

As part of the Sept. 21 discussion at the Jack Morton Auditorium, GW President Thomas LeBlanc welcomed the governor back to the university and thanked him for his “dedication to public service and improving the lives of others.” Then Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew led a discussion and took questions from audience members at the event.
A CONVERSATION WITH U.S. REP. SUSAN WILD

DURING A VIRTUAL EVENT TO celebrate Women’s History Month, U.S. Rep. Susan Wild, JD ’82, and her son Clay Wild, JD ’20, spoke with Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew about women in leadership, her advocacy for mental health, and the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol.

The Pennsylvania lawmaker noted that while women make up just more than a quarter of the members in Congress—a record—the leadership role of women lawmakers is the true measure of progress.

“So, it’s not enough to just think about the number of women but also to think about the number of women who have risen to leadership positions,” she said.

She pointed to Rep. Nancy Pelosi’s historic role as the first woman to serve as speaker of the House, as well as the growing number of women chairing “really important committees,” including the oversight, appropriations, financial services, and science, space and technology committees.

“Given how many women we have now, and also how accomplished many of them are, I expect that we are going to continue to see growing numbers of women in leadership positions in the House, and I think it’s incredibly important,” she said.

Rep. Wild and her son also discussed the lawmaker’s role as an advocate for mental health following her partner’s death by suicide in 2019 and her experience in the Capitol during the Jan. 6 attacks. She co-sponsored a bill calling for a memorial education exhibit about the attack.

“I THANK GW FOR THE FACT THAT I EVEN FINISHED. I’LL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL TO GW FOR THAT BREAK AND FOR ALLOWING ME TO GET LAUNCHED.”

– Rep. Susan Wild

She credited much of her success to the “strong” education she received at GW Law, as well as the support of faculty and staff who walked her through the student loan process as she struggled to pay for school even while working three jobs.

“I thank GW for the fact that I even finished,” Rep. Wild said. “I’ll always be grateful to GW for that break and for allowing me to get launched.”

In addition to supporting the Equal Rights Amendment, Rep. Wild has supported efforts to make sure public schools have adequate resources and advocated for universal preschool.
Three Prominent Leaders Installed as Endowed Professors

DEAN DAYNA BOWEN MATTHEW was formally installed as the Harold H. Greene Professor of Law at a virtual ceremony last fall attended by donors David and Maria Wiegand, who established the Greene professorship in 2000. The endowed professorship honors the legacy of the senior judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and the principal designer of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The Wiegands—former AT&T employees—said Judge Greene’s landmark ruling in the AT&T antitrust breakup case created the competitive environment that enabled them to successfully own and operate multiple telecom firms.

Judge Greene, who graduated first in his class from GW Law in 1952, worked as a lawyer in the U.S. Department of Justice before taking the bench. He arrived in the United States as a 20-year-old refugee from Nazi Germany and served as an intelligence officer during World War II.

“Our university aspires to advance GW Law’s long tradition of attracting, cultivating, and producing some of the finest minds across the spectrum of the legal industry and scholarship,” GW President Thomas LeBlanc said at the installation.

“We are delighted Dean Matthew will now lead the school through its next chapter.” Two GW Law faculty members were also recently installed as endowed professors. Sonia M. Suter, the founding director of the Health Law Initiative, is the inaugural Kahan Family Research Professor of Law and Professor Robert Brauneis is the inaugural Michael J. McKeon Professor of Intellectual Property Law.

The Kahan Professorship was made possible by a gift by trailblazing medical device lawyer Jonathan Kahan, BA ’70, JD ’73 (see page 36). Mr. Kahan, an adjunct professor at GW Law, is the author of the leading textbook on medical device law, and chair emeritus and member of the Dean’s Advisory Council. He also sits on the GW Leadership Advisory Council.

The professorship signals “the formal growth of health law at GW,” said Professor Suter, whose appointment to the professorship recognizes her prominent scholarship in health policy, bioethics and legal issues in medicine and genetics. She joined the GW Law faculty in 1999 after holding a Greenwall Fellowship in Bioethics and Health Policy at Georgetown and Johns Hopkins universities.

Dean Matthew, who is a leader in public health and civil rights law, said Professor Suter’s work will help “put GW’s health law program on the map.” The new professorship will help position GW Law as a leader in health justice, food and drug issues, and other important topics at the intersection of law, medicine, public health and science.

The McKeon Professorship, funded by a major gift by nationally known intellectual property trial and litigation attorney Michael J. McKeon, JD ’96 (see page 38), represents a major leap forward for GW Law’s pioneering Intellectual Property Law program.

“As the new McKeon Professor of Intellectual Property Law, GW Law IP Program Co-Director Robert Brauneis galvanizes GW’s preeminent position in the IP world.

“The McKeon professorship is a real ray of light for the IP Program and the Law School,” said Professor Brauneis, who is the co-author of a leading casebook on copyright law, a member of the managing board of the Munich Intellectual Property Law Center and an adviser on the American Law Institute’s Restatement of Copyright project.

GW LAW NAMES NEW SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN

DEAN DAYNA BOWEN MATTHEW announced the appointment of Professor Michael B. Abramowicz as the Jeffrey and Martha Kohn Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, effective June 1.

“[Professor Abramowicz] brings an outstanding combination of scholarship and pragmatic leadership to the Dean’s Office, and I am excited to work with him as we realize our vision to continue to grow GW Law’s outstanding reputation for scholarly impact, inspired teaching, and worldwide influence,” the dean said.

Professor Abramowicz is the Oppenheim Professor of Law. His areas of expertise include intellectual property, civil procedure, corporate law, administrative law and insurance law.

“I look forward to working with Dean Matthew, our faculty and students, and the entire GW Law community in continuing to strengthen the law school’s curriculum and all facets of
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW

Jeremy Bearer-Friend found himself in the spotlight twice recently. He received a Fulbright Award to the United Kingdom, where he will research poll taxes at the National Library of Scotland in the spring of 2022. And his proposal to end the longstanding practice of colorblindness in tax data collection and analysis, in order to ensure transparency on equity, influenced an executive order issued by President Joe Biden on his first day in office.

“President Biden’s Day One executive order will finally shed a light on how the burdens and benefits of our tax code are distributed. Access to these data will impact how Congress writes the tax code and how the IRS enforces it,” Professor Bearer-Friend said of the Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government.

With his Fulbright research, Professor Bearer-Friend seeks to deepen knowledge around tax filing as a forum for political expression and the use of capitation in tax policy. He will explore the anti-poll tax movement, which transformed UK tax policy and is credited in part with ending the government of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

“One of the joys of being a law professor is that I get to write scholarship that not only describes what the law is or has been, but also what the law should be.”

– Michael B. Abramowicz

GW Law’s former senior associate dean for academic affairs, Emily Hammond, was sworn in on June 1 as deputy general counsel for the U.S. Department of Energy.

“Now, we get to recognize Emily not only for their outstanding service to the law school and to the George Washington University community at large, but also to our nation,” said Dean Matthew.

“One of the joys of being a law professor is that I get to write scholarship that not only describes what the law is or has been, but also what the law should be,” said Professor Bearer-Friend. “Adding a comparative law perspective to my work will be invaluable for developing new tax ideas and new tax policy proposals.”

Professor Bearer-Friend joined GW Law after serving as acting assistant professor of tax law at New York University. His prior scholarship on fiscal citizenship and tax filing looked at the use of tax forms for voter registration. His more recent work on the need to include race and ethnicity information in U.S. tax data influenced President Biden’s decision to create an interagency data working group to promote equity in government action.

Before joining academia, Professor Bearer-Friend served as tax counsel to U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren. He currently is serving a three-year term on the editorial board of The Tax Lawyer, a peer-reviewed tax law journal published by the ABA Tax Section.

The recent recognition of Professor Bearer-Friend’s work spotlights GW Law’s rich curriculum in business law and tax and its distinguished faculty with strong ties to the financial communities in Washington, D.C., and New York.
JOAN S. MEIER, PROFESSOR OF clinical law and director of the National Family Violence Law Center at GW Law, said she hopes her work as a member of the NY Governor’s Blue-Ribbon Commission on Forensic Custody Evaluations will drive a groundbreaking effort with nationwide implications.

“I think this commission is incredibly important and potentially groundbreaking,” Professor Meier said. “Problems with custody evaluators in contested custody cases, especially those involving abuse allegations, are ubiquitous, particularly where the litigants have funds to pay for these private professionals.

“My personal hope is that the rest of the country will also be able to benefit from this effort,” she added.

In her nearly three decades at GW Law, Professor Meier has founded three pioneering and nationally recognized interdisciplinary domestic violence clinical programs, including the National Family Violence Law Center. She has published widely on domestic violence, custody, clinical teaching, criminal procedure, and Supreme Court decisions. She also founded and helped direct the national nonprofit Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project (DV LEAP).

Professor Meier said GW Law’s platform and venue for her research, advocacy, and teaching played an important role in her invitation to join the New York commission. She is the only commission member who is not from New York.

The award recognizes “outstanding contributions to the field of child maltreatment and the advancement of APSAC’s goals.”

The NY Governor’s Blue-Ribbon Commission on Forensic Custody Evaluations was formed in response to concerns about family court proceedings raised last year by the NY Governor’s Commission on Domestic Violence and COVID-19.

“Family court judges are responsible for making decisions that often have life-altering impacts on the individuals who appear before them,” then-Governor Andrew Cuomo said in announcing creation of the commission. “It is critical that judges have the most comprehensive, reliable information on which to base those decisions, especially when it comes to determining the best environment for a child.”

Professor Meier is also the recipient of the 2021 Outstanding Professional Award from the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (ASPAC).

The commission’s work will address issues of quality and equity.

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Roger A. Fairfax Jr.

“I am delighted that we will continue to have the opportunity to work together as deans, as we strive to make Washington, D.C., the most exciting place in the world to study law,” she added.

CHRISTOPHER ALAN BRACEY NAMED INTERIM PROVOST

LONGTIME GW LAW PROFESSOR Christopher Alan Bracey was named interim provost and executive vice president for academic affairs of The George Washington University in June.

A GW Law faculty member since 2008, Professor Bracey served as the university’s vice provost for faculty affairs since 2016—guiding the university’s efforts to support faculty teaching and research across all disciplines. He served as GW Law’s interim dean from June 2019 to August 2020.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to serve GW in the interim provost role,” Professor Bracey said. “I look forward to continuing to work with our incredibly talented faculty, deans, Provost’s Office staff, students, and all members of our community to support excellence in teaching and research and provide our students with a rigorous and fulfilling academic experience.”

Associate Dean Caesar previously served as assistant dean of career services at Howard University School of Law, where she was a member of the leadership team of the inaugural diversity, equity, and inclusion committee. Earlier in her career, she served as director of externships & the public interest law scholars program at the Georgetown University Law Center.

“One of Associate Dean Caesar’s top priorities is ensuring we implement all the elements of our Law School’s Juneteenth resolution to be an anti-racist law school,” Dean Matthew says. “We’re absolutely thrilled that she is joining our community to lead this important endeavor, especially as we embark on our strategic planning process.”

Associate Dean Warden, who holds a JD from Harvard Law School and an MBA from the Washington University in St. Louis, brings a wealth of experience and a bold new perspective on broadening market placement to GW Law. During his multifaceted legal career, he has served as general counsel at public colleges, a senior attorney advisor at the U.S. Department of Commerce, senior strategy manager at Hewlett Packard Enterprise, and an associate at Am Law 100 law firms.

Since arriving at GW Law in September to head one of the largest legal career counseling teams in the country, he’s been hard at work developing new programs and enhancing resources to facilitate successful job searches for recent graduates.

The team recently added a career services manager specifically tasked with deepening the Career Center’s relationship with alumni and alumni organizations. “Additionally, we will continue to build relationships with alumni who are interested in networking and participating in career development activities (such as mock and informational interviews and serving as panelists at workshops) with current students,” Associate Dean DeLisle says. “I am excited to join GW Law and look forward to working with such a talented and diverse group of students, faculty, alumni, and staff.”