Beyond the Ivory Tower | Advancing Cybersecurity Law | New Faculty Scholars

CYBERSECURITY IN THE NATION’S CAPITAL
Solutions to the Pressing Issues of Our Time
12

Beyond the Ivory Tower

GW Law professors are making a real-world impact—bringing their legal expertise to bear on the most pressing issues of our time.

18

Stretching National Security’s Reach

GW Law is expanding its national security law offerings with two groundbreaking MSL programs at the cutting edge of cybersecurity.

28

Giving Back

GW Law alumni are “paying it forward,” resulting in a record year of giving propelled by gratitude and passion.

34

Law in Action

From assisting immigrants at the U.S.-Mexico border to volunteering their legal services to people in need, GW Law students are answering the call to serve.
DEAR FRIENDS OF GW LAW,

I AM DELIGHTED TO PRESENT THE SUMMER 2022 EDITION OF GW LAW magazine. Inside these pages, we proudly spotlight some of the incredible members of our GW Law family who contribute their time, talent, and treasure to address the pressing challenges of our time.

Our cover story, “Stretching National Security Law’s Reach,” introduces you to our law school’s trailblazing, new Master of Studies in Law (MSL) programs at the cutting edge of cybersecurity. These “only at GW” programs, which can be taken fully online, connect two of our signature programs—national security law and government procurement law—with our expertise in cyber law, providing our students with a competitive edge for jobs at the center of power.

In “Beyond the Ivory Tower,” we share the stories of six extraordinary GW Law professors whose impactful work is making a difference around the globe. From advancing human rights law to expanding legal protections for victims of domestic violence, our faculty scholars are setting legal precedent and helping to solve some of the world’s most difficult issues.

Our philanthropy feature shines a bright spotlight on our amazing alumni who are giving back to the law school in record numbers—transforming lives and the law. One stellar example is Bobby Burchfield, JD ’79, who made the largest gift in GW Law history—creating an endowed professorship of First Amendment and free speech law that will help place our law school at the center of civic discourse on one of the fundamental issues of our day.

And last but far from least, “Law in Action” profiles some of the many ways that our students volunteer their time and legal expertise to help others—from assisting immigrants at the U.S.-Mexico border to increasing access to justice for the underrepresented and underprivileged.

In June, we were thrilled to host our first in-person Reunion in three years, and it was a celebration worth waiting for! I also was overjoyed to “hit the road” this spring, traversing the nation to connect with newly admitted students and the wonderful members of our alumni family. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the months ahead.

Enjoy the magazine and have a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

SINCERELY,

DAYNA Bowen Matthew
Dean and Harold H. Greene
Professor of Law
GW LAW WELCOMES 14 NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

Four Faculty Scholars Receive Tenure-Track Appointments

GW Law is deepening its expertise across the curriculum with the addition of three accomplished associate professors of law in fall 2022. Professor Courtney G. Joselin, whose legal scholarship focuses on same-sex and unmarried couples, joins the Law School in 2023.

Heidi Liu is known for her research into how legal decision-makers use information in courts, boardrooms, and negotiations as well as the emergence of laws that restrict information. Her work covers job applications and jury instructions, looks at gender stereotyping and risk taking, and informs employment discrimination.

“I was drawn by the vibrant research community at GW and how it pairs intellectual rigor with compassion,” says Liu, who received an AB in economics magna cum laude from Harvard College and a JD and PhD in public policy from Harvard University. Liu’s research appears in the Journal of Legal Studies, the Southern California Law Review and the Harvard Business Review. Her scholarship has been supported by Pivotal Ventures; the Laura and John Arnold Foundation; the Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy; the Women and Public Policy Program; the Mind, Brain and Behavior Program; and the John M. Olin Fellowship at Harvard.

Kathryne M. Young, meanwhile, has gained international recognition for her work into how people come to hold beliefs about the law and the consequences of those beliefs on both civil and criminal law. She will teach evidence and professional responsibility, as well as courses related to criminal law and procedure, access to justice, and sociology of law.

“GW Law is on an amazing trajectory, with a serious commitment to policy work, cutting-edge empirical scholarship, and hands-on legal education,” she says. “After a day of talking to the faculty, staff, and students here, I knew I wanted to be a part of it. I’m thrilled to join such a dynamic community of scholars.”

Young has undertaken empirical studies on police-citizen interactions, parole hearings, illegal gambling, and legal education. She is an associate editor of Law & Society Review and co-founded and runs two collaborative research networks—Everyday Legality and Rural Sociology—at the Law & Society Association. She was named an ABF/JPB Access to Justice Scholar by the American Bar Foundation two years ago.

Young’s work, some of which has been funded by the National Science Foundation, appears in Harvard Law Review, Law & Society Review, California Law Review, Stanford Law & Policy Review, Fordham Law Review, the Federal Sentencing Reporter, and other law reviews and social science journals.

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.”

– Heidi Liu

GW Law is on an amazing trajectory, with a serious commitment to policy work, cutting-edge empirical scholarship, and hands-on legal education.”

– Kathryne M. Young
She has been cited by the Washington State Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court. Prior to joining GW Law, Young taught sociology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where she won the university’s Distinguished Teaching Award. She also taught evidence at Western New England Law School. She has a BA, JD and PhD from Stanford University and an MFA from Oregon State University.

Tania N. Valdez joins GW Law from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law, where she served as director of the Immigration Law and Policy Clinic. The focus of her teaching and writing is the relationship between administrative agencies and the federal courts, with an eye on the differences in the procedural and substantive protections that each offers noncitizens.

“I am thrilled to join the GW Law community, given the stellar reputation of the law school and its leadership, the faculty’s dedication to impactful scholarship and excellence in teaching, and the motivation and brilliance of the student body,” Valdez says. “GW Law’s location in the nation’s capital also makes it the perfect academic home for me, as an immigration scholar seeking to remain connected to migrant communities while shedding light on their relationship to the branches of government.”

Valdez has a BA from Colorado State University and a JD from University of California, Berkeley School of Law. She began her legal career as a clinical instructor at Berkeley Law’s East Bay Community Law Center and served as a staff attorney for the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Valdez clerked for Judge Kristen L. Mix at the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado and litigated civil rights cases in federal and state courts at a boutique law firm in Denver.

Her scholarship has been published by the Notre Dame Law Review and the Washington University Law Review.

When she joins GW Law as a professor next year, Courtney G. Joslin will teach in the areas of constitutional law, employment discrimination, and family law, as well as sexual orientation, gender identity and the law.

“I’m so thrilled to be joining the vibrant GW Law community, including the outstanding family law faculty, starting in fall 2023,” she says.

Joslin is widely published in top law journals and she is a co-author, with William N. Eskridge Jr. and Nan D. Hunter, of the textbook “Sexuality, Gender, and the Law.” Joslin has twice been honored with the Dukeminier Award, which annually recognizes the best legal scholarship on sexual orientation and gender identity law.

She served as the Reporter for the Uniform Parentage Act (2017) and is an elected member of the American Law Institute.

Joslin received her undergraduate degree from Brown University and her law degree from Harvard Law School, where she was an executive editor of the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review.
10 FUNDAMENTALS OF LAWYERING PROFESSORS JOIN FULL-TIME FACULTY

TEN ACCOMPLISHED FUNDAMENTALS of Lawyering professors will join GW Law’s full-time faculty this fall following the decision to make the innovative first-year program a permanent addition to the law school’s curriculum. The flagship 6-credit course was launched on a trial basis in the fall of 2019.

Fundamentals of Lawyering faculty members—drawn from law firms, governmental agencies, nonprofits, and academia—bring decades of experience and critical practice skills to the classroom. The program emphasizes professional identity formation and client-centered problem solving, as well as legal research and writing, litigation, and oral advocacy, positioning students to be practice ready from day one.

Cheryl Kettler, Associate Professor of Law, Fundamentals of Lawyering

Katya Cronin, Associate Professor of Law, Fundamentals of Lawyering

Natalia Blinkova, Acting Writing Center Coordinator; Associate Professor of Law, Fundamentals of Lawyering

Jennifer Wimsatt Pusateri, Associate Professor of Law, Fundamentals of Lawyering

Leslie D. Callahan, Associate Professor of Law, Fundamentals of Lawyering

Robin Juni, Associate Professor of Law, Fundamentals of Lawyering

Robert Parrish, Professor of Law, Fundamentals of Lawyering Program

Erika Pont, Interim Associate Director; Coordinator of the Dean’s Fellow Program; Associate Professor of Law, Fundamentals of Lawyering

Cori Alonso-Yoder, Associate Professor of Law, Fundamentals of Lawyering Program
GW LAW STUDENTS WERE treated to a privileged conversation with former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius on March 2.

Sebelius, a main architect of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), one of the most consequential pieces of legislation in modern U.S. history, told a packed audience at the George Washington University Student Center Amphitheater about the behind-the-scenes strategies employed during the fight for ACA approval. Her presentation was part of the Kahan Health Law Initiative Distinguished Speaker Series, which was moderated by Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew.

President Barack Obama appointed Sebelius to his cabinet in 2009 to accelerate the passage of universal health care during the emergence of the H1N1 influenza. Sebelius described the ACA as artfully crafted and said it took creative work and careful strategic communication to legally change wording and reallocate resources, ultimately leading to the measure’s passage in March 2010.

“It would have never happened without that kind of effort and that kind of mission-driven work, and I think that’s going on all over the place where, if you get stopped in front of one door, you figure out another,” Sebelius said.

She advised GW Law students that they should always look at regulations and languages in order to exhaust all legal options in working to pass a bill. She also said that she knew the ACA would eventually end up before the Supreme Court. In a landmark 5-4 decision in 2012, the Supreme Court ruled that the individual mandate provision of the ACA was constitutional.

Sebelius also noted that while the ACA faced opposition from members of Congress, it received a more favorable response from local government leaders who saw how it could help reduce their expenditures, such as on drug plans in jails and mental health services.

“What happened was as soon as we crossed that line, we had allies that ceased to be partisan and were much more interested in their constituencies,” said Sebelius. “You have to get through the legislative fray in order to plant the flag, but once that flag is planted, you need everybody mobilized around what that means.”
of Agriculture, first as assistant general counsel, then as associate general counsel of marketing, regulatory, and food safety programs. Prior to that, her roles included assistant general counsel in the Office of General Counsel for education activity in the U.S. Department of Defense.

To minorities and other underrepresented groups in national security and the military, Ricci underscored the need for persistence.

“You may have to go after what you want more than once,” she said, adding that it is important to connect with mentors who can act as champions and advisors. “Seek [your champions] out. If someone’s not reaching down to you, reach up.”

Ricci spent more than two decades in the Army before she began her civilian career. She served as assistant general counsel in the Office of the General Counsel, deputy staff judge advocate with Army Intelligence and Security Command, chief of international law for U.S. Central Command, and administrative law attorney in the Office of the Judge Advocate General.

She was also a platoon leader during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm.

At the GW Law event, Ricci also talked about the military’s progress in implementing recommendations of the Committee and Department of Defense Independent Review Commission, which undertook an assessment of the work climate at Fort Hood and its impact on soldiers and units. In particular, the five-member commission, which included Ricci, looked at sexual assault and sexual harassment prevention.

Ricci said it is crucial that more women and individuals from diverse backgrounds be involved in work such as that of the Fort Hood commission.

“For me, it’s all about the diversity of views. Everything that is different about human beings can be brought to bear in excellence. You need diversity to achieve excellence,” Ricci said. “It’s not just about race or ethnicity, but about including all humans as they are.”

DEAN MATTHEW KEYNOTES HEALTH LAW SYMPOSIUM

GOOD HEALTH IS A BYPRODUCT of justice, and the health of minority populations is undermined by racial inequality, Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew said in her keynote address at GW Law’s 2022 Health Law Symposium.

Matthew, the Harold H. Greene Professor of Law, told an audience of national health law experts that Black and brown people die sooner than white people with the same ailments, the result of inequities that undermine health. Matthew is recognized as an expert on disparities in health, health care, and the social determinants of health. Her new book, “Just Health: Treating Structural Racism to Heal America,” was published in February. In brief remarks to introduce the keynote address at the March 18 symposium, Professor Spencer Overton said Matthew’s work on health inequalities has created a roadmap for policymakers to improve the lives of citizens.

Structural racism affects where you eat, where you live, where you work, and where you go to school, Matthew said. It determines how resources, opportunities, and power are allocated. She noted that in the United States, people of color are more likely to live in densely crowded neighborhoods, work at jobs that can’t be done remotely, and, during the COVID-19 pandemic, die at higher rates than whites.

“Law is the mechanism that institutionalizes white superiority,” Matthew said. “Law is the mechanism that can dismantle it.”

GW LAW ROUNDTABLE: FDA-PTO PANELISTS ADDRESS KEY NATIONAL ISSUES

A GW LAW ROUNDTABLE BROUGHT together representatives from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) for a lively four-hour discussion on the complex relationship between drug patents and the cost and availability of pharmaceutical products.

Twenty expert panelists—including past and present government officials, industry professionals, and academics specializing in patent law and public health—joined more than 200 participants at the Jan. 21 Zoom webinar.

“We were pleased to host this premier roundtable spotlighting timely issues at the intersection of the FDA and the PTO,” said Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew. “GW Law plays a vital role in bringing together preeminent scholars, government officials, and industry leaders for important discussions that help forge solutions to important issues impacting our nation and our world.”

Senior Associate Dean Michael Abramowicz and David Kappos, former director of the PTO and a partner at Cravath, Swaine & Moore, welcomed the panelists. Associate Dean for IP Law John Whealan and Teresa Rea, a partner at Crowell & Moring and former PTO acting director, served as moderators.

The discussion addressed the value and cost of secondary pharmaceutical patents and the interplay between the timing of drug patenting and drug development and approval. Panelists also talked about the Orange Book, the comprehensive publication of FDA-approved drugs and the patents that protect them.

“Programs like this one are a shining example of our law school’s influence and impact both within and outside the legal academy,” Dean Matthew said.
GW Law Scholars Awarded Emeriti Status

THREE GW LAW PROFESSORS WHO retired at the end of the 2021-2022 academic year have been honored with emeriti status. Freda H. Alverson Professor of Law Charles B. Craver, Henry St. George Tucker III Research Professor of Law Lawrence A. Cunningham, and Associate Professor Miriam Galston were given the special status in recognition of their contributions to the legal field and legal education.

Both Craver and Galston have been at GW Law for more than three decades.

Craver is a global expert in labor law, employment discrimination law, and legal and international negotiating. He has written or coauthored more than 16 books, among them “Alternative Dispute Resolution: The Advocate’s Perspective”, “Skills & Values: Alternative Dispute Resolution”; “Legal Negotiating”; and “Employment Law Treatise.”

“During my 36 years at GW I had the pleasure of working with such wonderful and stimulating students. I also was associated with such accomplished and kind colleagues,” says Craver. “My most memorable external activity was the honor of being a mediator in South Africa in late 1993 when they were ending apartheid and establishing their interim constitution.”

Over the past four decades, Craver has taught negotiation skills to more than 100,000 lawyers and professionals around the world. He is a member of the American Law Institute and the National Academy of Arbitrators. In 2018, he received the ABA Dispute Resolution Section Award for Outstanding Scholarly Work.

Cunningham, meanwhile, is the founding faculty director of GWNY, GW Law’s semester-long business law program in New York City. He says developing the program was like “creating a dream factory, a program where scores of students have unlocked their professional potential.” He also led the Center for Law, Economics, and Finance (C-LEAF), which developed the Quality Shareholders Initiative.

Cunningham has published 20 books, including the bestsellers “The Essays of Warren Buffett: Lessons for Corporate America”; “The AIG Story”; and “Berkshire Beyond Buffett: The Enduring Value of Values.” In addition to his research articles, which have appeared in leading legal journals, he wrote “Cunningham’s Quality Investing,” a column featured on financial news and analysis website MarketWatch.

“Joining GW Law in 2007, I felt like a baseball player being called up to the major leagues. It put me in the top flight of law professors, as the faculty has among the deepest benches of leading scholars and teachers across virtually all subject areas,” Cunningham says.

Corporations, state debtor and creditor rights, federal bankruptcy law, state and federal law covering nonprofits, and jurisprudence count among the areas of expertise of Galston, who joined the GW Law faculty in 1990. She is also a noted political philosopher.

“I am proud of several articles I wrote in the area of political advocacy, as well as several in the area of medieval Arabic philosophy,” she says.

Galston’s book on early Islamic philosopher and jurist Alfarabi was translated into Farsi, earning her the Farabi International Award on the Humanities and Islamic Studies, conferred by the government of Iran; UNESCO; and the Islamic World Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

She served in several faculty leadership positions at the university and, in 2016, received the Trachtenberg Prize for Service. For several years she also co-chaired the Subcommittee on Political and Lobbying Activities of the Exempt Organizations Committee of the Tax Section of the ABA.
GW LAW PROFESSOR BRACEY NAMED PERMANENT PROVOST AT GW

PROFESSOR OF LAW CHRISTOPHER Alan Bracey has been named permanent provost of the George Washington University. As GW’s chief academic officer, he is responsible for the strategic and operational leadership of the schools and colleges, their deans, all teaching and research activities, and libraries and other academic support units.

“Chris is an outstanding professor, legal scholar, and academic leader who has served our university with great distinction for many years,” President Mark S. Wrighton said in announcing the appointment on Feb. 18. “It is clear that he understands our university’s history, culture and traditions, particularly in his work improving the student experience and collaborating closely with the faculty.”

Bracey had served as interim provost and executive vice president for academic affairs since June 2021. He served as GW’s vice provost for faculty affairs from 2016 to 2021.

“It is a true privilege to continue to collaborate with so many incredible colleagues as we confront new challenges in higher education and work to achieve our shared aspiration of academic preeminence,” Bracey said.

A leading legal expert on U.S. race relations, individual rights and criminal procedure, Bracey joined the GW Law faculty in 2008. He served as GW Law’s senior associate dean for academic affairs for four years and as interim dean from June 2019 to August 2020.

He is the author of “Saviors or Sellouts: The Promise and Peril of Black Conservatism, from Booker T. Washington to Condoleezza Rice” and co-author of “The Dred Scott Case: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives.”

GW LAW HONORS VANITA GUPTA WITH CHARLES R. RICHEY EQUAL JUSTICE AWARD

GW LAW RECOGNIZED THE LONG civil rights activism of Associate Attorney General of the United States Vanita Gupta by bestowing upon her the 2022 Honorable Charles R. Richey Equal Justice Award.

“Associate Attorney General Gupta symbolizes the kind of career that Judge Richey would have loved: a fierce advocate for civil rights both inside the government and out,” Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew said at the April 18 award event. “Ever since she finished law school, equal justice under the law has been her beacon, and we are proud to honor her for her many achievements and those yet to come.”

Gupta is the No. 3 ranking official at the U.S. Department of Justice, where she supervises multiple litigating divisions, including the Civil Division, Civil Rights Division, Antitrust Division, Tax Division, and Environmental and Natural Resources Division.

GW LAW PROFESSOR BRACEY NAMED PERMANENT PROVOST AT GW

EMILY HAMMOND JOINS OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

GW LAW PROFESSOR EMILY Hammond is the university’s new vice provost for faculty affairs. Hammond, who joined the GW Law faculty in 2014, most recently served as the law school’s senior associate dean for academic affairs.

Hammond was on leave for the 2021-22 academic year, serving as deputy general counsel for litigation, regulation and enforcement at the U.S. Department of Energy.

DEAN MATTHEW RECEIVES NATIONAL HEALTH LAW TEACHING AWARD

IN RECOGNITION OF HER excellence in health law scholarship and teaching, Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew was named the 2022 recipient of the prestigious Jay Healey Teaching Award, presented by the American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics (ASLME).

“Dayna Bowen Matthew is an extremely deserving winner of the Jay Healey Award. She has long been recognized as an outstanding teacher, scholar, researcher, and writer,” says Edward J. Hutchinson, ASLME’s executive director.

“Her scores of admirers and friends in the health law community would agree she stands as an ideal of what the Healey Award was created to honor: the idea that teaching matters, and good teaching can make the world a better place. It was a great honor for everyone at ASLME to award the 2022 Jay Healey Award to Dayna Bowen Matthew.”
GW Law has entered a collaboration with the Animal Legal Defense Fund to develop innovative animal legal education initiatives through scholarship, curriculum, and policy. The Animal Legal Education Initiative (ALEI) seeks to elevate animal law as a stand-alone legal discipline that is fully integrated into legal education.

“ALEI will be a unique endeavor in legal education,” says Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew. “While there are a handful of other animal law programs, there is no program focused on the development of a discipline that comprehensively addresses animal law scholarship, curriculum development, and policy.

“ALEI is designed to fill this void, while simultaneously providing opportunities for students to learn and practice animal law,” the dean adds. ALEI will enable local, regional, national, and international faculty and students to collaborate on the development and integration of a comprehensive body of animal law and increase the capacity for, and rigor of, animal law education.

“The Animal Legal Defense Fund recognizes the continued expansion of animal law requires knowledgeable and skilled attorneys in all facets of law, including civil, criminal, and regulatory law, and in academia,” says Stephen Wells, executive director for the Animal Legal Defense Fund. ALEI, he continues, will be foundational in ensuring that law schools have the resources they need to train animal law attorneys.

GW Law faculty members are already active in teaching and producing animal law scholarship, and its strong clinical program and centers make it well suited for the anticipated growth of ALEI.

Shapiro Environmental Law Symposium Addresses Clean Air and Clean Water

Clean Air and Clean Water took center stage at the 2022 J.B. & Maurice C. Shapiro Environmental Law Symposium: EPA’s Regulatory Jurisdiction on Trial. The annual event, hosted by GW Law’s Environmental and Energy Law Program, focused on two pending Supreme Court cases concerning the scope of the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) authority to regulate under the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act.

The annual symposium brings leading professors, scholars, policymakers, and environmental experts to GW to address pressing issues of environmental and energy law. This year’s event, which took place on Zoom, featured three scholars who offered a balance of perspectives: Richard Lazarus of Harvard University, Jonathan Adler of Case Western Reserve Law School, and Robin Craig of the USC Gould School of Law.

Professor Robert Glicksman, the J.B. & Maurice C. Shapiro Professor of Environmental Law, and Richard Pierce, the Lyle T. Alverson Professor of Law, led a roundtable discussion on two headline-making Supreme Court cases.

The first case, West Virginia v. EPA, focuses on whether, and how, EPA can regulate greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change from coal-fired power plants. “This case also has a broader issue that involves what the scope of federal administrative agency authority is to regulate in ways that address important economic, social, and political questions,” says Glicksman.

The second case, Sackett v. EPA, addresses the scope of EPA’s authority to restrict discharges of pollutants into surface water bodies and wetlands.

“Both cases are important because of what they will tell us about the capacity of the two statutes involved to provide the health and environmental protections that Congress intended,” says Glicksman.

“The rulings in the two cases may also enhance the power of the federal courts to invalidate regulatory actions that infringe on the ability of businesses to operate in ways that create adverse effects for individuals and communities, Glicksman says. The Court is expected to issue a ruling in West Virginia v. EPA by June. A ruling in Sackett v. EPA is not expected until the fall or winter.

“Both cases are important because of what they will tell us about the capacity of the two statutes involved to provide the health and environmental protections that Congress intended.”

– Robert Glicksman
and practical obstacles to reining in public deception. She also shows the incalculable damage that can be caused by mendacity, as evidenced by President Donald Trump’s lies about COVID-19 and the 2020 election.

LIN HARMON-WALKER and co-authors Tseming Yang, Anastasia Telesetsky, and Robert V. Percival

Comparative and Global Environmental Law and Policy

LIN HARMON-WALKER, VISITING associate professor of law and interim director of the Environmental and Energy Law Program, joined other leading legal experts in developing a student-friendly approach to the study of global environmental law. “Comparative and Global Environmental Law and Policy” uses a multi-jurisdictional selection of judicial opinions and legal materials to familiarize students with governing and emerging legal principles in this rapidly evolving area of law. The book details how legal norms are applied to specific issues and provides exercises and discussion questions to reinforce the lessons.

DAYNA BOWEN MATTHEW

Just Health: Treating Structural Racism to Heal America

HEALTH CARE LAW IS AN AREA of expertise for Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew. In “Just Health: Treating Structural Racism to Heal America,” she explores how medical outcomes are worsened and life expectancies lowered by the deep structural racism in the United States. The dean presents evidence of discrimination in housing, education, employment, and the criminal justice system and then shows how those inequities undermine the health of minority populations. She also explores the unjust health care system and calls upon health care leaders and practitioners to dismantle barriers that are jeopardizing the wellbeing of millions of Americans. The book offers a pathway to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to be healthy. Dean Matthew is also the author of the bestselling book “Just Medicine: A Cure for Racial Inequality in American Health Care.”

CATHERINE J. ROSS

A Right to Lie? Presidents, Other Liars, and the First Amendment

IS THERE A CONSTITUTIONAL path for stopping a president whose untruths endanger lives and threaten democracy? Legal scholar Catherine J. Ross, the Lyle T. Alverson Professor of Law, tackles that question in “A Right to Lie?” Ross addresses the urgent issue of whether the nation’s highest officials, including the president, have a right to lie under the Speech Clause of the U.S. Constitution regardless of the harm caused. Ross looks at the daunting constitutional

and practical obstacles to reining in public deception. She also shows the incalculable damage that can be caused by mendacity, as evidenced by President Donald Trump’s lies about COVID-19 and the 2020 election.

LIN HARMON-WALKER and co-authors Tseming Yang, Anastasia Telesetsky, and Robert V. Percival

Comparative and Global Environmental Law and Policy

LIN HARMON-WALKER, VISITING associate professor of law and interim director of the Environmental and Energy Law Program, joined other leading legal experts in developing a student-friendly approach to the study of global environmental law. “Comparative and Global Environmental Law and Policy” uses a multi-jurisdictional selection of judicial opinions and legal materials to familiarize students with governing and emerging legal principles in this rapidly evolving area of law. The book details how legal norms are applied to specific issues and provides exercises and discussion questions to reinforce the lessons.

DAYNA BOWEN MATTHEW

Just Health: Treating Structural Racism to Heal America

HEALTH CARE LAW IS AN AREA of expertise for Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew. In “Just Health: Treating Structural Racism to Heal America,” she explores how medical outcomes are worsened and life expectancies lowered by the deep structural racism in the United States. The dean presents evidence of discrimination in housing, education, employment, and the criminal justice system and then shows how those inequities undermine the health of minority populations. She also explores the unjust health care system and calls upon health care leaders and practitioners to dismantle barriers that are jeopardizing the wellbeing of millions of Americans. The book offers a pathway to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to be healthy. Dean Matthew is also the author of the bestselling book “Just Medicine: A Cure for Racial Inequality in American Health Care.”

CATHERINE J. ROSS

A Right to Lie? Presidents, Other Liars, and the First Amendment

IS THERE A CONSTITUTIONAL path for stopping a president whose untruths endanger lives and threaten democracy? Legal scholar Catherine J. Ross, the Lyle T. Alverson Professor of Law, tackles that question in “A Right to Lie?” Ross addresses the urgent issue of whether the nation’s highest officials, including the president, have a right to lie under the Speech Clause of the U.S. Constitution regardless of the harm caused. Ross looks at the daunting constitutional
The son of deceased dictator Ferdinand Marcos has launched a bid to become president of the Philippines. The specter of the Marcos family’s return to power no doubt resonates with GW Law Professor Ralph Steinhardt; he served as co-counsel 27 years ago in a lawsuit that found the elder Marcos responsible for torture and extrajudicial killings.

During his 36-year tenure at GW Law, Professor Steinhardt, the Lobingier Professor of Comparative Law and Jurisprudence, has helped build a legal platform that provides a vehicle for victims of human rights violations now living in the United States to bring claims against foreign governments and corporations. He is one of the founders of the San Francisco-based Center for Justice and Accountability. At the International Commission of Jurists, he was the only U.S. citizen on its expert legal panel on human rights obligations of multinational corporations, a theme of his published scholarship for 20 years.

Steinhardt is one of many GW Law professors who uniquely carry the expertise reflected in their scholarship and teaching to bear on real world issues of our day. They have set legal precedent, supported government policy to protect free speech and privacy, advanced human rights law around the globe, and countered internet disinformation.

Some of their work has even impacted GW’s own backyard. Following protests in the wake of the death of George Floyd, the D.C. Council approved emergency legislation that specified the conditions for an officer’s defense of justifiable force. The measure incorporated a model statute developed by Professor Cynthia Lee, the Edward F. Howrey Professor of Law.

Illustration by Michael Morgenstern
“One of the things I love about GW Law is that our faculty is engaged in real-life problem solving, real-life issues,” says Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew. “We do that in amicus briefs or letters to the editor, in public petitions, in legislative sessions, in boardrooms, and in courtrooms. Though we act always in our independent capacity, GW Law faculty enhance the law school’s reputation by lending their expert opinions to influence the public discourse wherever law is made.

“The students at GW Law learn from people who not only know the law but also make the law. They are learning from people who see law as a way to impact the world today,” Matthew adds, concluding, “this real-world impact aligns with our history and distinguishes GW Law as the oldest law school in the nation’s capital. We were established to bring legal expertise to bear on the most pressing challenges of our times.”

The Marcos case involving Steinhardt marked the first time the Alien Tort Statute from 1789 was successfully used to bring overseas human rights claims to a U.S. court. A jury in Hawaii awarded the plaintiffs nearly $2 billion in damages.

“I reminded one of my Philippine clients at the time … that she probably wouldn’t see much of that money. She said, ‘That’s OK. It’s enough to be believed,’” Steinhardt recalls. “For the plaintiffs in cases like this, it’s about accountability. Money couldn’t ever compensate for what happened to them.”

In a recent human trafficking case, the professor of international law has written an amicus brief pro bono to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals supporting fishermen who said they were forced to work under slave-like conditions for seafood companies whose products were sold in the United States. He has also appeared as co-counsel pro bono in cases before the U.S. Supreme Court testing and clarifying the reach of the Alien Tort Statute.

Steinhardt’s activism may unfold away from the classroom, but it rubs off on his students. One former student was involved in the high-profile lawsuit against Pfizer for administering experimental drugs to children in Nigeria without obtaining parental consent. And Steinhardt’s former research assistant, Scott Gilmore, served as lead counsel in the war crimes case that found the Syrian government responsible for the 2012 death of journalist Marie Colvin.

Professor Sean Murphy, the Manatt/Ahn Professor of International Law, is another faculty member whose influence reaches globally. He serves as counsel, arbitrator, and ad hoc judge before international courts and tribunals. He is currently representing Armenia before the International Court of Justice in The Hague, seeking the release of prisoners of war and civilians detained during the armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in late 2020.

Murphy is also the only U.S. national on the 34-member UN International Law Commission, a body set up the UN General Assembly. The commission’s mandate is to codify and progressively develop international law. Its projects often evolve into major multilateral treaties. When the commission meets every summer in Geneva for 12 weeks, Murphy brings two GW Law students along with him.

“Let’s say we’re looking at what the international rules are or should be to address rising sea levels from climate change. GW students are right there in the room, hands on, putting to the test their skills for research and writing and negotiating,” Murphy says. “It’s a wonderful opportunity for them because they get to see international law being made.”

Murphy also talks in his classrooms about his work as a member of Belgium-based L’Institut de Droit International, which has won a Nobel Peace Prize for its work promoting the development of international law. His casebooks on international law have been widely used.

Murphy joined GW Law in 1998 after more than a decade in the U.S. government. As the legal counselor at the U.S. Embassy in The Hague, he argued cases before the International Court of Justice, was the U.S. agent to the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal, and represented...
representing the new nation of Kosovo before the International Court of Justice. Serbia was challenging the legality of Kosovo’s 2008 declaration of independence. “We persuaded the court that the declaration of independence was not unlawful. It was a huge victory. It helped solidify the country’s standing as an independent country,” Murphy says.

He notes that international law is a broad field, and front-page news—including new technologies, climate change, refugees, migration, and war crimes—can fall within its purview. He often teaches from the headlines, giving his law students powerful insight into the role and rule of law well beyond what casebooks and treatises reveal.

“The dominant topic right now has been Russia’s military action in Ukraine. It raises all sorts of issues about territorial boundaries, use of force, human rights, war crimes, and international organizations such as the Security Council and NATO,” he says.

Social media mis- and dis-information, as well as online privacy and First Amendment free speech issues, are where Professor Dawn Nunziato, the William Wallace Kirkpatrick Research Professor, finds real-world problems that require her expertise. Before joining GW, Nunziato, whose background includes computer science, philosophy, and law, was one of the first lawyers in the internet practice group at Covington & Burling. She has since authored more than two dozen articles, as well as a monograph, titled “Virtual Freedom,” on free speech and the internet.

She currently chairs TikTok’s Content Advisory Council, a group of experts who counsel the social media platform on managing posts with harmful content. “We do this work with an eye toward respecting TikTok’s mission to inspire creativity and to bring joy to their users’ lives,” she says. “We address issues related to election integrity or conspiracy theories, to speech that is harmful to teens, such as eating disorder-related content.”

Nunziato and Robert Brauneis, the Michael J. McKeon Professor of Intellectual Property Law, are also pioneering new ground as co-directors of GW’s Ethical Tech Initiative. The cross-disciplinary effort housed in the Law School includes the participation of the School of Engineering and Applied Science, School of Media and Public Affairs, Milken Institute School of Public Health, and the Institute for Data, Democracy and Politics. More than a dozen GW Law students are involved as research assistants.

The Ethical Tech Initiative launched a year and a half ago in response to misinformation on COVID-19 and other issues. In exploring ways to effectively counter mis- and dis-information online, it works with applications including Twitter’s Birdwatch, a pilot program that allows select Twitter users to attach notes to posts containing false details. The initiative also makes available resources to researchers and policymakers, including through the creation of an online database of litigation that involves artificial intelligence.

Nunziato says one of the initiative’s most impactful undertakings is the use of technology to provide educational services to incarcerated persons. “We’re partnering with organizations that have placed tablets, like iPads, throughout the Bureau of Prisons system, and we’re developing paralegal-type courses,” she explains. “This would allow incarcerated citizens to learn about the law and maybe prepare for when they are returning citizens to be involved in the legal system.”

GW and the Ethical Tech Initiative have signed a memorandum...
of understanding for a pilot program with the D.C. Department of Corrections and the Public Interest Technology University Network (PIT-UN). GW’s College of Professional Studies is a partner in the project.

“Ultimately, the goal will be to provide paralegal training to incarcerated individuals so they can come out and become returning citizens with tools to lead productive lives,” says Nunziato.

Brauneis, who serves as co-director of the Intellectual Property Program at GW Law, says the Ethical Tech Initiative also hosts roundtables that explore ways technology could help the law, such as by assisting people who are not represented by lawyers in civil proceedings.

Brauneis is the co-author of a leading casebook on copyright law and of numerous articles on copyright, trademark, constitutional law, and algorithmic governance.

“As new technologies develop, traditional rules of copyright and trademark and patent are not really addressing the policy issues so we’re developing whole new areas of law,” he explains.

During a sabbatical from 2013 to 2014, Brauneis served as the first Abraham L. Kaminstein Scholar in Residence at the United States Copyright Office. He spent the year writing a report on ways to improve the office’s operations, including recommendations on electronic recording of documents transferring copyrights. The head of the office at the time was Register of Copyright Maria Pallante, a GW Law alumna. As evidence of the Law School’s deep expertise in copyright law, she had been preceded in the position by another alumna, Marybeth Peters.

Professor David Fontana, a constitutional scholar and the Samuel Tyler Research Professor, tracks patterns in judicial appointments and analyzes their long-term impact on the law. He consults with the U.S. Congress and presidential campaigns, and his scholarship, which includes the other branches of government, is found in leading law journals.

But Fontana does not confine his writing to professional journals. He has also published hundreds of articles and opinion pieces for popular media, helping the public to understand the courts, political power, and how democracy is affected by both.

His Aug. 2, 2021, cover story in The Washington Post Magazine, for example, detailed the ways political elite are divorced from the places and people they represent. Rather than anchoring among the constituencies they serve, Fontana said legislators turn their attention to locations with powerful and influential people and donors.

“That leaves many places in our country governed by strangers rather than neighbors—with disastrous consequences for American democracy,” Fontana wrote.

He refers to this as “power of place” in politics, and he is working on a new book that examines the phenomenon.

“There is an incredible obsession with the Supreme Court, but I also focus on the lower courts and not just what they are doing but also who is sitting on them,” he says. “It’s an area in which there is

ADVANCING LEGAL PROTECTIONS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

JOAN MEIER INSTALLED AS INAUGURAL NATIONAL FAMILY VIOLENCE LAW CENTER PROFESSOR OF CLINICAL LAW

For three decades, Professor of Clinical Law Joan Meier has been at the vanguard of a movement to reshape the way the courts handle domestic violence and parental custody cases. Too often, judges discount women’s stories of abuse, grant violent men access to their children, and put youngsters’ lives in danger, according to Meier. Fundamentally changing this imbalance is at the core of her research, teaching and service.

“For me, it has always been about changing the system. I was drawn to this career path because I wanted to teach the legal system to recognize and respond appropriately to domestic violence,” says Meier, who is the founder and inaugural faculty director of the National Family Violence Law Center at GW Law.

In recognition of her pioneering, lifesaving work, Meier was recently installed as GW Law’s National Family Violence Law Center Professor. The endowed professorship, created by a $2.75 million gift from an anonymous donor, ensures that the center’s advocacy and research continue at GW Law far into the future.

“It’s a huge thing for GW Law to have a center like this and to receive this kind of recognition for its work,” Meier says. “This endowment not only elevates and stabilizes the work; it will also help us expand our work, bring in more students, organize professional conferences, and provide expert curricula for training professionals around the country.”

“There is an incredible obsession with the Supreme Court, but I also focus on the lower courts and not just what they are doing but also who is sitting on them,” he says. “It’s an area in which there is
a real great opportunity to link the world of practice and the world of study.”

Fontana has tracked how nominees to federal judgeships were older under the Obama administration than under the Trump administration. He says the trend appears to be a purposeful strategy among Republicans “and something not really thought about by the Democrats.”

“The younger the judge, the longer they are on the court and the more cases they are deciding,” Fontana says. “They build up a jurisprudence. And they build up a network of former clerks and colleagues who can go out and disseminate their jurisprudence.”

GW Law’s Dean Matthew powerfully led the legal academy during the recent Senate Confirmation hearings when Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson was nominated for the U.S. Supreme Court. The letter of support the dean wrote to advance Justice Jackson as the first Black female justice was circulated among Black law school deans. Every single one—all 40 of them—signed the letter so that 100% of the nation’s Black deans spoke with one, unanimous voice.

The Jackson letter is not Matthew’s only contribution to current questions of law and policy. She is a sought-after speaker and commentator in the area of public health and civil rights law. She has been appearing frequently on radio and television, as well as at academic and professional conferences to discuss findings in her new book, “Just Health: Treating Structural Racism to Heal America.” Dean Matthew speaks to hospital directors, physicians, health care leaders, and other law professors to inform discussions on legal and policy reforms that will improve American health outcomes and increase life expectancy for people of color. She views that as among her contributions to a better world.

“GW Law is a special place. When we say, “Raise High,” we don’t just mean this as a sports cheer. We mean raise society higher, raise knowledge higher, raise the rule of law higher. We mean raise higher all the things that matter to a democracy,” Matthew says.

15.5 million children live in families that have experienced partner violence at least once in the past year. “This endowed professorship will have great impact for many generations to come,” she said.

The groundbreaking National Family Violence Center is not the first entity Meier has established to advocate for women and children. Among the many highlights of her impactful career, she founded three nationally recognized, interdisciplinary domestic violence clinical programs including the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project (DV LEAP)—which was the first-ever national entity to provide pro bono appeals in domestic violence cases.

The independent nonprofit, which she launched in 2003, also works to strengthen the enforcement of civil protection orders and the criminal prosecution of abusers, challenging court rulings that endanger women and children. During her 16 years at the helm of DV LEAP, she co-authored 11 amicus briefs before the U.S. Supreme Court; represented domestic violence organizations and survivors of domestic violence in close to 100 state appellate cases; and helped develop and deliver training on domestic violence to judges, lawyers, and other professionals.

In 2019, Meier stepped away from DV LEAP, returned to the law school full time, and launched the National Family Violence Law Center to provide expert research and training, policy development, and selective amicus briefs.

Whether on briefs, in court, or with students in the classroom, Meier argues that judges and the court system do not understand the dynamics of trauma and abuse, and women going through the justice system after surviving abuse are often revictimized by a process hostile to their interests. A deference to fathers in custody cases—even when the abuse of their spouses is evident—is deeply entrenched in the legal system, Meier explains. Her groundbreaking 2019 research study, “Child Custody Outcomes in Cases Involving Parental Alienation and Abuse Allegations,” found that up to half of the women who report abuse by a child’s father end up losing custody to the spouse. In about two-thirds of domestic abuse cases, judges doubt what women tell them about fathers’ abuse.

Meier acknowledges that changing this aspect of the system has been an uphill battle, but also points to recent gains. They include reauthorization of a federal Violence Against Women Act that includes the first-ever child protective statute, state lawmakers’ growing attention to child homicides by parents, and improved media coverage of these issues.

The renewed Violence Against Women Act includes Kayden’s Law, named for a 7-year-old killed during an unsupervised visit with her father. It uses federal grants to encourage states to adopt more protective custody statutes and high-level expert training.

“…a big breakthrough,” Meier says. “This monetary incentive for the states has the power to really change the game.”

Meier’s new endowed professorship is also a gamechanger. “The creation of the center and the endowment itself are important not just for me, for GW, for the Law School,” she says, “but really important for the people in the world who are going through this.”
GW Law has carved out an exceptional reputation in national security and foreign relations law. It is now deepening that strength with its pioneering Master of Studies in Law (MSL) degrees that connect two of the Law School’s signature programs with its expertise in cybersecurity law. Both degrees can be taken fully online.

LLM students are also seeing an expanded roster of national security-related courses they can take online, in class, or both.


PHOTOS BY ELLIOTT O’DONOVAN
“The expanded programming takes advantage of the expertise of faculty members who, as scholars in the field and practitioners at the vanguard, have helped shape national security law,” says Lisa Schenck, associate dean for national security, cybersecurity and foreign relations law and the program’s inaugural director. “Our students also learn from leading experts on cyber law issues, and we have professors from the National Security Agency and the CIA.”

Anchoring the curriculum are more than five dozen courses addressing the most cutting-edge issues in the field, among them: Artificial Intelligence; Blockchain Law and Policy; Domestic Terrorism; and International Money Laundering, Corruption, and Terrorism.

Laura Dickinson, the Oswald Symister Colclough Research Professor of Law, is drawing on her work as special counsel to the general counsel of the Department of Defense and senior policy adviser to the assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights, and labor at the U.S. Department of State in developing an online section of National Security Law. Dan Solove, the John Marshall Harlan Research Professor of Law and a world-renowned expert in the privacy field, is developing an online section of Information Privacy Law.

Jessica Tillipman, assistant dean for government procurement law studies, describes another of the new courses—Other Transactions—as “a dynamic legal instrument that promotes the use of commercial and emerging technology.”

“Although federal spending on ‘other transactions’ has skyrocketed in recent years, increasing by 712 percent since 2015, these complex agreements are often complicated to design and execute, and they may be administered by government officials who lack the training and experience necessary to successfully develop and implement them,” Tillipman explains. “Understanding this emerging area of the law will not only better prepare students for careers in government procurement law, but it will provide them with a competitive advantage among their peers.”

The course was created and will be taught by Hallie Tremaine Balkin, learning director for other transactions at the Defense Acquisition University and a former associate counsel for the Naval Information Warfare Systems Command.

The expanded programming offers an unusual level of flexibility, enabling individuals to take a single course or enroll in the full MSL or LLM program. Students from other GW schools also can take courses.

Dickinson and Edward Swaine, the Charles Kennedy Poe Research Professor and one of the co-authors of a leading casebook on U.S. foreign relations law, are faculty co-directors of the programs. Last year, The Strauss Center for International Security and Law awarded Dickinson the prestigious National Security Law Scholarship for her article “National Security Policymaking in the Shadow of International Law.”

Other full-time faculty members involved in the curriculum include F. Scott Kieff, whose work on international trade and
innovation touches national security issues, and Steve Charnovitz, a prominent scholar of international trade law.

“In addition to full-time faculty, our adjunct faculty includes extraordinarily talented and experienced attorneys who served in senior positions within the U.S. government, international organizations, and the private sector,” Schenck says. “Among them are the former general counsel of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the former Army judge advocate general, and lead litigators from the Department of Justice in computer crime and domestic terrorism.”

For example, the Federal Intelligence Surveillance Act course is taught by Sean Park, deputy unit chief in the Office of Intelligence at the U.S. Department of Justice National Security Division.

### New Dual MSL Equips Government Acquisition Experts

ELIZABETH SULLIVAN, THE FIRST GRADUATE OF GW Law’s new Master of Studies in Law (MSL) for Government Contracts and Cybersecurity, is an ideal example of how GW Law’s Cybersecurity Program is a perfect fit for non-lawyers wishing to develop a deep understanding and expertise in cybersecurity law. Sullivan is president of D.C.-based Madison Services Group, a lobbying firm serving small and mid-sized government contractors. The MSL degree has deepened her expertise at the intersection of government procurement and cybersecurity, provided access to policymakers, and helped her streamline the bureaucratic challenges facing her clients.

“I don’t need a JD. This degree is exactly what I was looking for,” she says.

Sullivan’s work requires an understanding of government contracts so that she can help her clients and effectively lobby on their behalf. Increasingly, she found businesses came to her about concerns over the Department of Defense’s new cybersecurity certification. She enrolled at GW Law with the idea of getting an MSL in government procurement. Six months into the program, she knew she needed more.

“There were many, many issues with DoD’s cyber certification that affected our companies, and I couldn’t understand what 99 percent of it meant. I asked if there was a way to create a dual MSL with GovCon and cyber because they now go hand-in-hand in the federal government,” Sullivan says.

The answer was “yes.”

“I cannot speak more highly of this degree,” says Sullivan, who completed the program in December. “While you have lectures and reading material, the real value comes from the discussions in the classes—the discussion of real-life experiences. I use what I learned from this degree literally every day. I think every acquisition official in the government should be taking those classes,” she adds.

Portions of a paper Sullivan wrote for one of her cyber classes even made its way into the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2022. The course focused on the Department of Defense Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification, which introduces a third-party certification process to validate contractors’ cybersecurity compliance.

“Small businesses were telling me that this issue was problematic. For the paper, I dug into the history of cyber requirements for contractors and came up with a couple of solutions,” she says. “I put together a hearing for the House Small Business Committee that allowed me to effectively lobby my existing relationships, educate, and advocate on that issue.

“My cyber degree gave me an incredible boost,” she adds.

“Elizabeth Sullivan is a tremendous ambassador for the law school,” says Jessica Tillipman, assistant dean for government procurement law studies. “She has an understanding of why cyber is so critical for government contractors. She was actually the person responsible for convincing us that we needed this degree.”

Sullivan spoke with admiration about her professors.

“Look at Chris Lukins [the Lynn David Research Professor in Government Procurement Law]. He’s a leader in the foreign government contracting space. He travels around the world helping other countries set up their procurement systems,” she says.

She notes that the MSL has also made her part of a valuable network.

“This is D.C., and people here care about networks. The GW alum network in the GovCon space is so helpful, so inclusive, and so full of ongoing opportunities,” Sullivan says. “I run into GW alumni all the time in government.”

---

“I think every acquisition official in the government should be taking those classes.”

– ELIZABETH SULLIVAN
Schenck herself is the chief judge of the United States Court of Military Commission Review. Before joining GW Law, she served 25 years in the U.S. Army’s Judge Advocate General’s (JAG) Corps. In September, she was named the honorary colonel of the Army JAG Corps Regiment.

The expanded curriculum and degree programs are tailored to meet fast-moving national security priorities within the government and private sector. The MSL that links cybersecurity law with the Law School’s signature Government Procurement Law Program responds to the rise in government investment in cybersecurity.

“We have the No. 1 government procurement law program in the country, if not the world,” says Tillipman. “Adding this cybersecurity capability demonstrates how our school remains cutting edge and gives our students competitive advantage.

“We need cybersecurity specialists who understand government procurement. There’s a real demand for it,” she adds.

Stephen Schooner, the Nash & Cibinic Professor of Government Procurement Law and a retired Army JAG reserve officer, calls cybersecurity “one of the most vexing issues confronting government contracts practitioners over the last few years—and today.”

“Everything the government does, every citizen it serves and every service it provides depends upon information,” Schooner says. “Given the high degree of integration between contractors and the federal government in our current outsourced model ... private sector cyber vulnerabilities mean that the government is vulnerable.”

The Law School is working with the National Contract Management Association, one of the largest associations of procurement professionals, as well as the U.S. Department of Defense’s Defense Acquisition University, to promote the MSL.

The MSLs are designed for both public and private sector professionals who want to add to their knowledge but do not seek to practice law. Neither a JD nor a technology background is required for enrollment.

“The program is drawing the attention of professionals from the intelligence community, government contractors who want to get special expertise in cybersecurity, Department of Defense employees working in security clearance,” says Schenck. “Some of these are people who already know something about cybersecurity, but now they want to learn about cybersecurity law.”

The new offerings follow last year’s addition of two concentrations for JD students in national security and cybersecurity law and in national security and U.S. foreign relations law.

Schenck says that after GW Law began offering an LLM in national security and cybersecurity in late 2017, she “watched all the jobs that students were getting in cybersecurity.” She says that success prompted the creation of the new MSLs.

“The MSL program is responding to genuine interest by

“Understanding this emerging area of the law will not only better prepare students for careers in government procurement law, but it will provide them with a competitive advantage among their peers.”

– JESSICA TILLIPMAN
Cybersecurity and National Security Law Intersect in Public Service Careers

MELANIE HARRIS, JD ’13, EPITOMIZES WHAT IT MEANS to be a successful lawyer at the center of power. She was recently named special counsel for compliance with the Office of the National Cyber Director at the White House. She will serve as a special advisor for compliance policies, including managing confidential records and Freedom of Information requests and ethics matters.

Harris was drawn to study at GW Law because she aspired to a career in public service. She also was interested in national security law, including cybersecurity. Her GW Law studies combined the two, leading her to a position at the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), where she served more than seven years in the Office of the General Counsel.

In the DIA, Harris provided legal support to the agency leadership, as well as the Pentagon’s worldwide intelligence operations. Her work included a six-month deployment to Kabul, Afghanistan, which she called the pinnacle of her career.

“That was a very interesting experience for me as a civilian attorney. I advised on intelligence operations with that country. There’s just no experience like that, being deployed to a war zone and providing legal advice to operators on the ground,” she says.

In a separate assignment with the DIA, she advised on personnel matters.

When Harris was at GW Law, there was no cybersecurity program. She is a big fan of the decision to add MSL and LLM programs in cybersecurity, underscoring the stepped-up demand within government for expertise in that legal arena.

“The inclusion of cybersecurity into national security has introduced a level of complexity and nuance to intelligence operations and advising on those operations,” Harris notes. “I would advise GW Law students to take as many classes as they can on cybersecurity because that’s at the forefront of being a valuable attorney, whether students ultimately choose a career in government or the private sector.

“It’s a domain that continues to be increasingly important,” she says.

Harris studied political science and Spanish as an undergraduate, driven by an interest in international affairs. As she prepared to apply to the George Washington University, she was torn between getting a master’s degree in international affairs or studying law.

“At the time, I remember the law school marketing itself as having the broadest available curriculum of any law school in the country,” Harris says. “So, I really had the opportunity to pursue my interest in national security.”

GW Law faculty was the other deciding factor. In particular, she singled out Lisa Lisa Schenck, now the associate dean for national security, cybersecurity and foreign relations law.

“She is one of my greatest mentors and she introduced me to people who ended up having a profound impact on my career,” Harris says. “I would not be where I am without her.”

Harris says her GW Law experience brought together “academic scholarship, a well-connected faculty and exposure that comes from … the proximity of the Law School to the seat of government.”
Emerging Technologies Specialist with Army Turns to GW Law to Build Skills

ELIZABETH CHIRICO’S WORK WITH THE U.S. ARMY—“stressful and exciting all at the same time”—focuses on new and emerging technologies that can be used to streamline government procurement.

“It’s stressful because a lot of the things we want to try to do haven’t been done before. There can be many hurdles or requirements in implementing these new technologies and many security considerations,” she says. “And it is exciting because you are motivated every day to want to make people’s lives better.” To equip herself for this important work, Chirico, a civilian employee of the military for 13 years, enrolled at GW Law in 2020 to pursue a Master of Studies in Law (MSL) in government procurement and cybersecurity.

For the past three years, Chirico has led the Acquisition Innovation through Technology Team in the Future Operations Division, a new team under the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Procurement. Chirico’s team identifies and deploys technology that can help the procurement workforce adhere to ever-changing government requirements.

“The government contracting workforce is well-educated. They have expertise in accounting, statistics, and economics—and they bring all these areas of study to the table to perform their jobs,” Chirico says. “But a lot of time their time is taken up waiting for a report to download or trying to find the latest policy on something. This means they are often not getting the time to make a good business deal for the government or to perform really robust market research.

“I am part of a new team, a new approach to helping our contracting professionals in the field. How can we use new and emerging technologies to increase compliance and save time?”

Jessica Tillipman, assistant dean for government procurement law studies, describes Chirico as a high-profile player in the procurement community who is working on the cutting edge of artificial intelligence issues.

Chirico has a master’s degree in acquisition and contracting management from Florida Institute of Technology. She turned to GW Law’s MSL program to expand her knowledge in cybersecurity law, an area of growing concern in her job.

“I took a reading group course on block chain technology. This semester I’m in a cybersecurity law and policy course,” Chirico says. “This degree program has really opened my eyes. I’ve had great professors and great interactions with other students.”

For an intelligence law course, her required research paper looked at the use of facial recognition technology. Her findings were later published in an article in Army ALT Magazine.

Chirico has held several leadership positions in the U.S. Army. These have included business operations branch manager at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Germany and contract specialist at the Army Geospatial Center in Alexandria, Va.

She has been studying part-time while working and is on track to complete the MSL program in the fall. She describes the program as “exciting” and said it is stretching her knowledge in valuable ways.

“We have to understand the scope of existing laws, regulations, and policies and how they interact with new and emerging technologies, before knowing how they can shape and improve our day-to-day business processes and workflows,” she says. “This program is helping me with that.”
Combining New Legal Disciplines and Rich with Opportunity

AS SOON AS RIVEN LYSANDER COMPLETED HER JD in May, she had a job waiting for her at Alston & Bird as a litigation associate specializing in cybersecurity and privacy. She is well-prepared for this practice because she graduated from GW Law with a concentration in national security and cybersecurity.

Lysander had been a standout at the Law School, serving as president of the National Security Law Association (NSLA), on the GW Moot Court Board, and as an associate on The George Washington Law Review. She spent her final term as an intern with the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. She also interned for a magistrate judge on the D.C. District Court and in the Litigation and General Law Division at the Federal Aviation Administration’s Office of the Chief Counsel.

For two years, she was a teaching assistant for Cynthia Lee, the Edward F. Howrey Professor of Law, who specializes in criminal law and procedure.

Even her position at Alston & Bird is familiar ground. She interned with the international firm’s Privacy, Cyber, and Data Strategy Team last summer.

Lysander sees cybersecurity law and national security as frontlines of opportunity, including for minority women like her. While more work is needed to shore up diversity in the field, she says she is inspired by women already in the field. The NSLA, for example, recently organized a presentation that featured General Counsel of the Army Carrie Ricci, LLM ’05, in a discussion with GW Law Dean Dayna Bowen Matthews.

“This conversation between two strong Black women in leadership roles in different sectors—Dean Matthew, of course, as a leader in education and health law, and Ms. Ricci as one of the most powerful attorneys in the military—was amazing,” Lysander says.

Lysander said that when people consider national security work, the military often comes to mind. But cybersecurity law, both as a subset of national security and as a freestanding area, is also a specialization that straddles a spectrum of disciplines.

“It can cover aviation or public safety. It can even be part of Veterans Affairs. If someone wants to be in national security but their passions are elsewhere, they can pursue both,” she says. “The increasing integration of technology into daily life for both the public and private sectors means that cyber is really the front line for keeping us safe in every facet of society.”

Lysander traces her own career aspirations to a flashy television commercial she watched as a 4-year-old immigrant from South Korea. The recruitment ad for the U.S. Marine Corps stuck with her.

“For a long time, I thought I would be a marine. That didn’t pan out, but the desire to serve this country remained,” she says. The 9/11 terrorist attacks deepened that aspiration.

In the eight years between her undergraduate degree and law school, she taught and tutored. She worked with an independent software developer. She managed a small business. But her attention was increasingly drawn to huge scale cyberattacks in the news.

“I eventually realized that the desire to be in national security wasn’t going away, and that cyber, as the new front line, was the best place for me to be,” she says. “I figured maybe the law was the way to best position myself—and what better place to pursue the law and national security than in the heart of D.C.?”

“...I see this program as a bridge for anybody coming from the Department of Defense who wants to understand how critical cybersecurity is to national security.”

– JOSE “ROBERTO” MACOTO
The activities of the Government Contracts Student Association and Anti-Compliance and Corruption Association will also interlock with the expanded programming.

“Our students publish in the leading journal in our field, the Public Contract Law Journal. We have had MSLs publish their articles in the journal,” Tillipman says.

Swaine underscores student engagement as a hallmark of the school.

“GW Law is distinctive among leading law schools in terms of being student focused,” Swaine says. “There are specialized programs elsewhere with accomplished faculty members who have little to do on a daily basis with students. That’s antithetical to the culture here. We are deeply interested in the students, including in their job placement.”

Paul Schiff Berman, the Walter S. Cox Professor of Law and one of the country’s leading experts on online degree programs, says the Law School is building online courses that rival the excellence of its on-campus learning.

“We are aiming to create courses at the highest possible quality level, with a high degree of real-time interactivity, and we are taking advantage of pedagogical possibilities available in the online environment that go beyond what can be offered on campus,” he says.

“We are taking advantage of pedagogical possibilities available in the online environment that go beyond what can be offered on campus.”

– PAUL BERMAN
Advancing Cybersecurity to the Forefront of National Security

FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS, JOSE “ROBERTO” MACOTO, MSL ’21, has seen data security as the new face of national security. But he worried that government policies and applications enabled Department of Defense employees to cling to the old model that gave priority to physical security—and he didn’t always have the tools to explain the danger in that approach.

“Let’s put it this way, you don’t need to pull a moving truck up to the back of a facility to fill it with boxes containing reams of sensitive documents,” Macoto says. “Instead, you can compromise a truck’s worth of data by misusing peripherals. The magnitude of that is incredible.”

Being able to explain the urgency and applications of cybersecurity was essential to Macoto, who served in the Marine Corps, including as a security officer on Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, and now is a civilian security specialist at the Department of Defense. He creates cyber training and management standards for the department’s Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities. He also is an influential figure in cybersecurity policy.

To help deepen his knowledge, Macoto turned to GW Law and completed his Master of Studies in Law (MSL) in national security and cybersecurity law last year. Not only was the course content “perfect” for what he does, but he was bowled over by the expertise of the faculty.

“I see this program as a bridge for anybody coming from the Department of Defense who wants to understand how critical cybersecurity is to national security,” Macoto says. “I’m in the business of assisting customers in understanding what happens when their data gets away from them and how to protect it before it ever does.”

Since completing the MSL, Macoto has been designated as the cyber change agent in his area at the Department of Defense.

“I have become a recognized expert on policies that protect the data in physical facilities,” he says. “My job is to be a force that brings everyone together in protecting data and our national security.”

BEGINNING THIS FALL, GW LAW will offer courses in the National Security, Cybersecurity, and Foreign Relations Law Program at the U.S. Army Advocacy Center, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Under the leadership of Associate Dean Lisa M. Schenck, the Law School is undertaking this effort to strengthen the program’s ties to the military and intelligence communities and make it easier for their exceptionally qualified attorneys to earn specialized Master of Laws (LLM) degrees. Fort Belvoir course offerings will range from Nuclear Nonproliferation Law and Policy to Crisis and Legal Controversy in the CIA; Counterterrorism; and Problems Trying Terrorists in Article III Courts, to name a few.

Only students who are authorized to access Fort Belvoir (e.g., Judge Advocates, Department of the Army Civilians, their spouses, and holders of DoD identification cards) may enroll in courses on the base. Students must apply and be admitted to the GW Law LLM or Master of Studies in Law (MSL) program, with an application deadline of August 1 for fall 2022 and December 5 for spring 2023. Once admitted to the program, students may opt to take courses at Fort Belvoir, the main Law School campus, or online.
Propelled by a strong sense of purpose, gratitude, and passion, GW Law alumni are giving back to the law school in record numbers.

The reasons for giving are as varied and personal as the individuals and families who donate. While some choose to endow scholarships, others invest directly into programming in favored practice areas, and others still donate their time to expand programs and services to aid students and graduates.

This year has been a particularly distinguished year of philanthropy for GW Law, and the alumni who have contributed to that success have been motivated by their desires to advance the fortunes of the law school, its students, its graduates, and the world at large. Their gifts reflect the foundational importance of a GW Law degree and how it helps shape careers and lives.

ILLUSTRATION BY ANNA GODEASSI
Furthering Scholarship

FOR BOBBY BURCHFIELD, JD ’79, GIVING BACK TO GW Law is about more than writing a check; it’s about transforming a lifelong passion for free speech and the First Amendment into a means to teach the next generation of lawyers about the significance of free speech to the American enterprise.

“I think free speech is under assault today,” says Burchfield. “Without free speech, we can’t have free and informed elections. We can’t have criticism or praise of our officeholders. We can’t debate the big issues of the day. We can’t even engage in day-to-day commerce. Free speech is at the center of the great experiment that is America.”

Burchfield pledged $4.5 million from the Burchfield Family Charitable Foundation to create the Burchfield Professorship of First Amendment and Free Speech Law. It is the largest gift made to date by that foundation, as well as the largest gift in GW Law history. This latest philanthropy follows Burchfield’s creation in 2008 of an endowed scholarship to support GW Law students and many years of service on the Dean’s Advisory Council.

“I do think that if you were to choose a place, frankly any place in the world, to have a prominent professorship in free speech, you would choose Washington, D.C.,” says Burchfield. “We are unique in having this ingrained commitment to free speech at the center of our government.”

The Burchfield Professorship of First Amendment and Free Speech Law “brings the imprimatur of a world-class attorney to GW Law,” says Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew, “and will be highly sought after by top free speech scholars from around the nation.”

“Our constitutional law faculty are remarkable scholars and practitioners, and this gift is a game-changer that will allow us to attract a prominent free speech expert who solidifies GW Law as a premier school for serious First Amendment scholarship,” she states. “This is a transformative gift that will have a profound and enduring influence not only on GW Law but also on the national First Amendment discourse. It serves as an example to others who wish to invest in attracting highly distinguished scholars to the GW Law faculty.”

A high school and college debater, Burchfield credits his successful career as a trial and appellate lawyer to the legal bedrock formed at GW Law, where he was editor-in-chief of the GW Law Review. Before his retirement in 2021, Burchfield’s 42-year distinguished career included service to three U.S. presidents, the leader of the U.S. Senate, and the majority leader of the U.S. House. He also argued two important free speech cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

“I’ve worked hard, but I wouldn’t have been in a position to do as well as I have done without a lot of good fortune,” says Burchfield. “Part of that good fortune was my decision almost 50 years ago to go to GW Law.”

By endowing the professorship, Burchfield is hoping to elevate GW Law’s standing as a leader in the free speech conversation that is taking center stage today, particularly on college campuses where he believes academic freedom and free speech have come under threat when they should be principal virtues.

“The cure for foolish, offensive, or false speech is more speech,” Burchfield says. “This is the issue of our age. I hope this professorship will put GW Law at the forefront of the civic discourse on the First Amendment and free speech in our country and around the world.”
Improving Access

GIVING BACK DOESN'T ALWAYS TRANSLATE INTO A financial contribution to the law school. Sometimes the gift comes in the form of volunteer hours. Such is the case with the newest of the Dean's Advisory Councils, the GW Law Public Interest Advisory Council (PIAC), which is the primary advisory body for the Public Interest/Public Service program.

For the PIAC’s first chair, Olajumoke “Jummy” Obayanju, JD ’16, the opportunity to help law students looking to launch careers in public interest or public service law was paramount, although she also felt compelled to create a council that represented the breadth and depth of the public interest law community.

“The diversity of the council in terms of gender, race and class years opens doors for alumni who traditionally have not had the opportunity to contribute in this way,” says Obayanju, who is the director of the National Racial Equity Initiative (NREI) for Social Justice with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. “There was intentionality in our solicitation efforts in every person we called and asked to participate.”

Membership on the council is drawn from private practice, corporate practice, government practice, nonprofit organizations, and the judiciary. The PIAC, which is GW Law’s most diverse advisory group, counsels the dean, the Public Interest Program director, and the faculty director while also assisting the faculty and staff in preparing students for careers in the nonprofit and government sectors. The first meeting of the new council was in December 2021.

“We hope to increase awareness of the public interest law program, increase opportunities for paid public interest internships, and create a pipeline of public interest career opportunities for law students and alumni,” says PIAC member Mike Michel, JD ’15. “We believe the council’s work will decrease the financial burden and other barriers to entering and remaining in public interest law.”

Both Michel and Obayanju felt the call to volunteer because of their own wishes to serve the law school, law students, and the greater community of public interest lawyers. Most importantly, they know that their work here could help law students who may never get a chance to explore public interest law because the pressures of school, tuition, and career expectations may prove to be too difficult to overcome.

“Although many students come into law school wanting to give back to their communities and be helpful in ways that are tangible to the real lives of real people, the structure of legal education is not set up to always encourage that continued drive to public service or public interest law when leaving law school,” says Michel, an associate with Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney. “This is a way to give a voice and opportunity to those students and alumni who would not otherwise have one because there had been no council speaking for them.”

Opening Doors

AS THE FAMILY OF THE LATE LARRY D. HARRIS, JD ’75, considered how best to honor his life and legacy, there was only one answer that made any real sense: give back to the institution that meant so much to him while he was alive, GW Law.

“Both my husband and I grew up without financial advantages, and we learned from our families what an important difference a good education can make,” says Maryanne Lavan, Harris’ wife. “Larry was proud of being a lawyer. He thought he got a great legal education at GW, and that was why we gravitated to a scholarship immediately.”

By endowing the Larry D. Harris Memorial Law Scholarship, the Lavan/Harris family will provide an annual full tuition
"Larry and I had a fundamental belief that education changes lives."

– Maryanne Lavan

GW Law scholarship in perpetuity. Scholarship recipient preferences reflect many of the things that Harris held dear: membership in the Black Law Student Association (BLSA), plans to practice government contracts/government procurement law, and/or current or prior military service.

“Larry was such a proud GW Law graduate, and this gift is the perfect blend of things that were very important to him,” says Lavan, whose husband had a distinguished career in government contracts and procurement law before his retirement.

Lavan says by prioritizing BLSA membership, the family is looking to support one of his lifelong passions. He was closely involved in the founding of the GW chapter of the BLSA, and he was particularly enthusiastic about recruiting more students of color into law school and supporting them once they were there.

Lavan said the qualifications of recipients were a critical factor for her son and daughter, Zachary and Mikayla Harris, who worked with her to envision the appropriate memorial for their father. Mikayla Harris is currently at Yale University Law School, and Zachary Harris recently graduated with a degree in journalism from Northwestern University.

“Larry and I had a fundamental belief that education changes lives,” says Lavan. “It changes the trajectory of an individual’s life and the trajectory of a family’s life, even more so when students do not have the burden of a loan when they come out.”

As an ROTC scholarship recipient, Harris prized military service. He fulfilled his ROTC obligation by joining the Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps (JAG) as a commissioned officer after he graduated from GW Law. “Service was always important to him,” says Lavan.

Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew says the generous gift will help increase diversity in the legal profession. “Nearly 50 years after Larry Harris graduated from GW Law, Black lawyers are still grossly underrepresented in the legal profession—less than 5 percent of U.S. attorneys are Black, a figure that has not changed in a decade,” she says. “We are so thankful to the Lavan/Harris family for this incredible gift, which will significantly contribute to equalizing opportunity for capable attorneys to train at GW Law.”

Expanding Opportunity

PHILIP AND SARA DAVIS KNOW FIRSTHAND HOW the generosity of others can change your life for the better, setting you on a course for a lifetime of professional fulfillment.

“I attended both undergraduate and law school on scholarship,” says Philip Davis JD ’73. “At GW Law, I was fortunate enough to receive a Trustee Scholarship. Given that Sara and I are both grateful to have been beneficiaries of others’ generosity, this scholarship seemed an appropriate vehicle to give back and hopefully make a difference in someone’s life and legal career.”

Davis and his wife are endowing the Philip and Sara Davis Scholarship in Government Procurement to provide a need-based scholarship for a law student studying government procurement law. “GW Law has played an important role in Philip’s life and mine,” says Sara, who earned an MBA from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia. “It has been a meaningful relationship, and we want that to continue.”

A former partner and now senior counsel with Wiley Rein’s government contracts practice, Davis has been instrumental in recruiting GW Law students into Wiley’s thriving practice. He hopes the “scholarship will continue and strengthen the pipeline of talent moving from GW Law to Wiley.”

Government contracts law is especially appealing because of the diverse nature of the practice—from the range of federal agencies to which practitioners are exposed to the variety of products/services they buy, Davis says.

“This variety has been and remains for me the most stimulating aspect of the practice,” he states. “It’s the prime reason a government contracts attorney gets up in the morning. This scholarship will give the opportunity to experience this stimulating legal practice to someone who might not otherwise have the chance.”

Davis believes a scholarship in procurement law is a perfect fit for GW Law because of its “unparalleled procurement curriculum, and its top-quality professors in the subject.”

“This is where the government contracts practice is centered in the United States,” he says. “If you’re working in government contracts, you want to be in D.C.”
Advancing Achievement

THANKS TO A GENEROUS BEQUEST FROM AN anonymous donor, GW Law will soon be the home of a new Intellectual Property & Technology Law Clinic (IPTLC).

“This is a real ‘pay-it-forward’ type of gift from a generous alumnus who had a prestigious career in IP law,” says John M. Whealan, associate dean for intellectual property law, “and it’s especially important when one considers the number of students and clients who will benefit from it in the future.”

The new clinic, made possible by a substantial estate gift, recognizes the donor’s distinguished career in IP law and the importance of providing students with in-depth practical experience that will enhance their doctrinal education. “There’s no doubt in my mind that this exciting new clinic will help to further enhance our law school’s highly rated intellectual property curriculum,” says Dean Dayna Bowen Matthew.

An officer in the U.S. Navy, the donor’s decades-long, Washington, D.C., IP practice included arguing successfully before the U.S. Supreme Court in a pivotal patent law case. The gift will allow between eight and 12 students to enroll in the IPTLC every semester.

“I think this clinic’s founding story is a telling one as it captures the collaborative and innovative spirit of GW’s Clinical Program and its growth,” says Laurie S. Kohn, associate dean of the Jacob Burns Community Legal Clinics. “The idea grew out of the visioning process of various programs, which was undertaken when Dean Matthew arrived. Among the top five priorities identified by both the Intellectual Property Program and the Clinics was the launch of an IP Clinic.”

The IPTLC will provide law students access to deep learning opportunities and professional development experiences in patent and trademark preparation and prosecution, copyright registration, and litigation. The IPTLC is seeking to be registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to apply for and obtain both patents and trademarks.

“I think the clinic will complement our existing transactional clinic, the Small Business and Community Economic Development Clinic,” says Kohn. “Led by Professor Susan Jones, the clinic has already been handling innovative trademark work. There will be a nice synergy between those two clinics. In addition, we hope to expose students to intellectual property litigation practice in the new Copyright Claims Board, which will dovetail with our other litigation clinics.”

Presently, the Clinical and the IP and Technology programs are in the process of determining how best to meet the professional development needs of IP students, focusing on winning approval for the IPTLC curriculum and hiring new faculty. The IPTLC’s first students will enroll in spring 2023.

“The clinic will teach the students how to be real IP lawyers,” says Whealan. “We teach them the theory in class, and this will allow them to apply it to real clients with real issues.”
Students Address the Pressing Challenges of our Time

BY SARAH KELLOGG

GW Law students are answering the call. From assisting immigrants at the U.S.-Mexico border to volunteering their legal services to legal aid foundations, clinics, government departments, and projects advocating on behalf of children, international refugees, human rights, civil rights, and more, GW Law students are turning sentiment into action.

ILLUSTRATION BY JAMES FRYER
“Even though I worked every day on the trip, it was the most impactful week I’ve had in all of my law school career.”

- Jason Zubata

The experience is both aspirational and inspirational, benefitting both law students and the people they serve. “It gets students out of the classroom and into the real world,” says Alan Morrison, Lerner Family Associate Dean for Public Interest and Public Service. “They get to meet people directly affected by the law, and that’s very important to see the law in action.”

In the process, they are forever altered by the people they serve, the real-world lessons they learn, and the knowledge that giving deeply of yourself is a risk worth taking.

Touching Lives at the Border

WHEN GW LAW STUDENTS JASON ZUBATA AND Elizabeth Baran went to Laredo, Texas in March 2022 for the annual Alternative Spring Break trip, their plan was to learn something about the immigrant community and assist those directly affected by current U.S. immigration policies.

Not only did they leave their mark in Laredo, but they also established meaningful connections with members of the immigrant and legal communities as well as with their classmates, as they began their first foray into the legal field.

“I knew I wanted to help the immigrant community, not only in D.C. but around the country, and what better place to make a meaningful impact than at the border,” says Zubata, president of the GW Immigration Law Association (ILA). “Connecting with these immigrants was life changing. It especially changed my perspective on the immigration system. You realize what attorneys are doing there makes a significant difference for those trying to find relief in the United States.”

The ILA organizes an annual service-learning trip to the U.S.-Mexico border. In past years, students traveled to Arizona and El Paso, Texas. Twelve students joined the 2022 trip, which was largely subsidized by grants provided by the GW Student Bar Association and Dean Morrison.

Zubata and Baran’s experience included legal work with immigrant clients and visits to the border and local shelters serving immigrants. Notably, participants volunteered with Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, conducting screening interviews with asylum-seekers pursuing waivers to enter the United States while they await their immigration court hearings. Unless asylum-seekers demonstrate a credible fear of persecution upon returning to Mexico or otherwise qualify as a member of a protected group, they must wait for their hearings in Mexico.

Every evening, students would gather for debriefing sessions to discuss what happened that day, what they learned, and how to cope with what they had heard during interviews with individuals—asylum-seekers who had risked their lives to reach the United States to obtain humanitarian protection.

“I think the trip was good exposure for new and experienced law students to the practice of immigration law. The work is extremely rewarding, but it can also be quite difficult when you become so invested in the person’s entire life story and everything that drove them to flee to the United States,” says Baran, who grew up in New Jersey. “But it’s frustrating that even the most deserving people will not always qualify for relief.”

The students also visited Casa De Misericordia, a domestic violence shelter that offers holistic and consistent long-term support for survivors and their children. During their visit, the students provided general legal information in a “Know Your Rights” training, while also learning about the impact these groups have on the individuals they seek to protect.

For Zubata, whose parents are from Argentina, his trip confirmed his passion for public interest work. He will join the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Immigration Litigation this fall as an attorney general’s honors recipient.

“In law school, this is one of the few breaks you get as a third year, but this trip was worth every moment,” says Zubata, who was raised in Miami. “Even though I worked every day on the trip, it was the most impactful week I’ve had in all of my law school career.”
TOP LEFT: GW Law students Elizabeth Baran and Jason Zubata on their spring break volunteer trip at the U.S.-Mexico border.

GW Law students assisted immigrants at the U.S.-Mexico border in March as part of the law school’s Alternative Spring Break.
Making the Personal Professional

KYLE COFFINO IS ON A MISSION. HE’S GOING TO BE A lawyer, of course, but he’s also unwavering in his commitment to increasing access to justice for those who are underrepresented and underprivileged. For Coffino, it’s personal.

“The reason I decided to go to law school was because I was in North Carolina when they passed House Bill 2, the legislation that would basically deny access to facilities based on biological sex,” he says. “I saw the protests and the pushback. I saw the legal battles, and I decided I wanted to have direct impact on things through the law.”

It’s where he felt he could make a difference—one that might influence the very issues he was dealing with at the time. “I’m transgender,” the 26-year-old GW Law student explains. “I’ve been out since I was 18, and I’m very privileged in that regard. I think when you are a part of a community that is so often left behind or ignored, it’s inspiring to be in a position to help people.”

A look at his CV confirms his passion for civil justice and public interest. His 1L summer, he interned with the National Center on Protection Orders and Full Faith & Credit, a division of the Battered Women’s Justice Project. During his second year, he volunteered with the Family Law Pro Bono Project. In the summer following 2L, he volunteered with the Service Assistance Project and the Legal Aid Society of D.C. During his third year, he worked at GW Law’s Family Justice Litigation Clinic and returned to the Legal Aid Society of D.C. to intern a second time.

“Coming from and being part of a minority community, and understanding my own community’s lack of access to resources, I realize I’m in an especially privileged place being able to go to law school and take internships that are unpaid while completing my degree,” says Coffino, who graduates in May 2023. “I feel like I would be doing a disservice if I didn’t give back in some sense.”

In the summer of 2022, he looks to broaden his public interest work, expanding his horizons beyond domestic violence at the trial level to the appellate level. He is working with the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project, which tackles cases involving domestic violence and its intersection with other areas of law such as custody, free speech, and gun rights that come before appellate courts.

“I want to contribute in a way I find meaningful,” he says. “There’s no better way than committed service, service you believe in, and not doing it for the sake of doing it. Sometimes it’s a credential on a CV; I get it, but I don’t like it. I want to be fulfilled by my work and by helping others.”

In his 3L fall semester, he also started a Master’s in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies through the joint degree program offered by GW. He says the joint degree allows him to supplement his legal education with a foundation of scholarship on gender-related privilege, power, and oppression.

“I did so much finding myself and figuring out who I wanted to be as a person eight or 10 years ago,” says Coffino, who grew up in North Carolina. “By the time I hit law school, I knew who I was and I knew what I wanted. I’ve followed that path ever since.”

Protecting the Public Health

WHEN EMMANUELLA SAFORO WAS LOOKING FOR an externship, she wanted an experiential learning opportunity where she could hone her skills and dive into legal life. She sought
something with purpose, encompassing one of her great passions—ensuring the community’s public health.

“I knew that I wanted to participate in our government and the public health mission of protecting and preserving the health and safety of Americans,” says Saforo, who will be a 3L in the fall. “I was interested in an externship opportunity where I could help people and address complex public health issues.”

She got that, and more. As a student extern in the Field Placement Program, she found a job that would fit her goals and test her assumptions. The job? A highly sought-after externship with the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Reform, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis.

As part of the externship, she drafted question lines for Select Subcommittee members and recommended witnesses for hearings, wrote report summaries, and conducted research on COVID-19-related advancements.

“With the coronavirus crisis still very much a reality and lives continuing to be at risk, the importance of Emmanuella’s work as a student extern cannot be overstated,” says Keri A. McCoy, assistant dean for field placement.

“My first option was to work for the government,” says Saforo, who grew up in New York. “I was excited about working to address important issues, and COVID-19 has been one of the most complex and pressing problems of our time.”

The Select Subcommittee was charged with examining preparedness for and response to COVID-19, including the planning for and implementation of testing, containment, mitigation, and surveillance activities. The Select Subcommittee also examines the economic impact of COVID-19 on individuals, communities, small businesses, health care providers, states, and local government entities. “It was the perfect externship for me,” she says.

Saforo was happy to prepare documents for hearings, draft question lines, and hone her research and writing skills. She also was tapped to do extensive review and analysis of White House reports and to attend high-level meetings. The subject matter was compelling, she says, which made the experience even more rewarding for her.

“As a member of the public health team, I believe I played an important role in the Select Subcommittee’s mission,” Saforo says. “It didn’t feel like a job, it felt more like fulfilling a purpose.”

She was also able to work under the leadership of a famed civil rights pioneer, U.S. Rep. James E. Clyburn, D-S.C., the chairman of the Select Subcommittee. “Chairman Clyburn is very passionate about serving this country,” she says. “His faithful government service, and the values that my parents have instilled in my siblings and me, motivated me to keep public service at the center of my future endeavors.”

Coming off such a satisfying externship, she has become an enthusiast of experiential learning. “There are certain things that you do not learn in the classroom,” says Saforo. “It was great to develop the practical skills of becoming an effective attorney by working with government counsel.”

That’s precisely the goal of GW Law’s Field Placement Program—the law school’s preeminent externship program, says McCoy. “Because of our phenomenal location in the heart of D.C. and the more than 500 students who extern each year, it is one of the largest legal externship programs in the entire country. Student externs add critical bullet points to their resumés and develop invaluable professional networks—ultimately helping them secure their dream jobs.”
ALUMNI NEWSMAKERS

1970s

Justin P. Klein, JD ’72, is the new director of The University of Delaware’s Weinberg Center for Corporate Governance.

Martin H. Malin, JD ’76, was nominated by President Biden to serve as chair of the Federal Labor Relations Authority’s Federal Service Impasses Panel.

Thomas Means, JD ’78, authored a recently published book titled “Copper Canyon.” The book is available through Amazon.

1980s

Andru Volinsky, JD ’80, was named Franklin Pierce University’s first civic scholar-in-residence.

Lisa Gurwitch, JD ’82, who has served as president and chief executive officer of Delivering Good since January 2015, is stepping down to join the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee as chief advancement officer.

Barry Boss, JD ’85, the co-chair of Cozen O’Connor’s white collar defense and investigations group and co-chair of the firm’s commercial litigation department, has been named a 2021 South Trailblazer by The American Lawyer.

Scott Levin, JD ’87, is the new chief legal officer of Atlas Power Group LLC. He previously served as FTD Companies Inc.’s chief administrative officer and general counsel.

Caroline D. Pham, JD ’87, was sworn in as a commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission on April 14 after being nominated by President Biden and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Pamela R. Schwartz, JD ’87, was appointed by President Biden to serve on the Federal Labor Relations Authority’s Federal Service Impasses Panel.

Steven Weber, JD ’87, joined Peckar & Abramson PC as a partner.

John M. White, JD ’87, has joined Harness IP as a patent attorney. White has taught more than 70% of active patent attorneys in the U.S., working as chairman, author, and editor of the Practising Law Institute.

Ambassador Catherine Russell, JD ’88, was appointed executive director of UNICEF by President Biden. She previously served as assistant to the President and director of the White House Office of Presidential Personnel.

Steven J. Forbes, JD ’89, recently joined Freeman Mathis as a partner in the firm’s Cleveland office.

1990s

Ronald A. Krasnow, JD ’90, was appointed general counsel of T-knife Therapeutics Inc., a biopharmaceutical company dedicated to developing novel therapeutics to fight cancer.

John Lewis, Jr., JD ’90, is now leading Shook, Hardy & Bacon’s Houston office. He joined Shook as a business litigation partner in 2019.

Robert Baron, JD ’92, a partner at Ballard, Spahr, Andrews & Ingersoll LLP, has been shortlisted for Managing IP’s 2022 Litigator of the Year award for Pennsylvania.

Craig Seebald, JD ’92, a partner at Vinson & Elkins LLP, was appointed co-head of the firm’s litigation department.

Paul S. Weidlich, JD ’92, has joined Miller & Martin as a member of the firm’s intellectual property practice group.

Julie Rottenberg, JD ’93, was named Visa’s executive vice president and general counsel. She oversees the company’s global legal and
Randi Kochman, JD ’95, was recently promoted to co-shareholder at Cole Schotz PC.

Janet E. Lord, JD ’95, has co-authored the book “Untapped Power: Leveraging Diversity and Inclusion for Conflict and Development.” She is a senior research fellow at the Harvard Law School Project on Disability and served as legal counsel during the drafting of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Kirk Ogrtosky, JD ’95, a former U.S. Department of Justice deputy chief, has joined Goodwin Procter LLP as a partner.

Jason Roberts, JD ’95, has joined Fisher Phillips as of-counsel in the firm’s Philadelphia office.

Christina Sarchio, JD ’95, has been named one of the 2022 LawDragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America. A former prosecutor, she is a partner at Dechert LLP and also serves as the Hispanic National Bar Association’s vice president for external affairs.

Aruna Chandra, JD ’96, has been appointed executive vice president and general counsel at FlexGen Power Systems Inc.

Tracy Rezvani, JD ’96, has been named administrator of the Howard County Office of Consumer Protection in Maryland.

M. Chris Fabricant, JD ’97, is the director of strategic litigation and Joseph Flom Special Counsel for the Innocence Project.

Travis Wells, JD ’97, was named protection officer of North America by The Global Organic Textile Standard.

Brooke Poole Clark, JD ’98, was appointed the new secretary to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Cheolkyu Hwang, LLM ’98, has been appointed to the International Association of Prosecutors.

Monica E. Monroe, JD ’98, has been named Harvard Law School’s new assistant dean for community engagement, equity, and belonging.

Frank J. Vitolo, JD ’98, was elected to partnership at Sills Cummis & Gross.

Carol Williams, JD ’98, founder of Williams Immigration, was named treasurer of the Broward County Women Lawyers Association for the 2021-2022 term.

Darse Crandall, LLM ’99, was appointed Judge Advocate General of the Navy in August 2021.

Natasha Luddington, JD ’99, was named chief legal officer and corporate secretary of Fulton Financial Corp.

Joshua M. Auxier, JD ’00, a partner at FLB Law, has been named to the 2021 Connecticut Super Lawyers for Professional Liability.

Adam L. Braverman, JD ’00, joined Morrison & Foerster as a partner in the firm’s investigations and white collar defense group.

Carlos W. Ellerbe, JD ’00, was elected to partnership at Wilson Sonsini in San Francisco.

Zachary A. Cunha, JD ’01, was recently approved by the Senate to serve as the U.S. Attorney for Rhode Island.

Alice M. Shanahan, JD ’01, was elected to partnership at DLA Piper as a partner in the firm’s environment, energy, and resources practice.

Rubin M. Sinins, JD ’94, has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the premier legal associations in North America.

Katayun Jaffari, JD ’95, chair of Cozen O’Connor’s corporate governance and securities group, was invited to join the advisory board of Drexel’s Governance Center. She was also selected to receive the Business Law Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Dennis H. Replansky Memorial Award.

compliance functions from the San Francisco office.

Laura Morton, JD ’94, has joined Perkins Coie as a partner in the firm’s environment, energy, and resources practice.

Randi Kochman, JD ’95, was recently promoted to co-shareholder at Cole Schotz PC.

Janet E. Lord, JD ’95, has co-authored the book “Untapped Power: Leveraging Diversity and Inclusion for Conflict and Development.” She is a senior research fellow at the Harvard Law School Project on Disability and served as legal counsel during the drafting of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Kirk Ogrtosky, JD ’95, a former U.S. Department of Justice deputy chief, has joined Goodwin Procter LLP as a partner.

Jason Roberts, JD ’95, has joined Fisher Phillips as of-counsel in the firm’s Philadelphia office.

Christina Sarchio, JD ’95, has been named one of the 2022 LawDragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America. A former prosecutor, she is a partner at Dechert LLP and also serves as the Hispanic National Bar Association’s vice president for external affairs.

Aruna Chandra, JD ’96, has been appointed executive vice president and general counsel at FlexGen Power Systems Inc.

Tracy Rezvani, JD ’96, has been named administrator of the Howard County Office of Consumer Protection in Maryland.

M. Chris Fabricant, JD ’97, is the director of strategic litigation and Joseph Flom Special Counsel for the Innocence Project.

Travis Wells, JD ’97, was named protection officer of North America by The Global Organic Textile Standard.

Brooke Poole Clark, JD ’98, was appointed the new secretary to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Cheolkyu Hwang, LLM ’98, has been appointed to the International Association of Prosecutors.

Monica E. Monroe, JD ’98, has been named Harvard Law School’s new assistant dean for community engagement, equity, and belonging.

Frank J. Vitolo, JD ’98, was elected to partnership at Sills Cummis & Gross.

Carol Williams, JD ’98, founder of Williams Immigration, was named treasurer of the Broward County Women Lawyers Association for the 2021-2022 term.

Darse Crandall, LLM ’99, was appointed Judge Advocate General of the Navy in August 2021.

Natasha Luddington, JD ’99, was named chief legal officer and corporate secretary of Fulton Financial Corp.

Joshua M. Auxier, JD ’00, a partner at FLB Law, has been named to the 2021 Connecticut Super Lawyers for Professional Liability.

Adam L. Braverman, JD ’00, joined Morrison & Foerster as a partner in the firm’s investigations and white collar defense group.

Carlos W. Ellerbe, JD ’00, was elected to partnership at Wilson Sonsini in San Francisco.

Zachary A. Cunha, JD ’01, was recently approved by the Senate to serve as the U.S. Attorney for Rhode Island.

Alice M. Shanahan, JD ’01, was elected to partnership at DLA Piper as a partner in the firm’s environment, energy, and resources practice.

Rubin M. Sinins, JD ’94, has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the premier legal associations in North America.
ALUMNI PROFILE

A Seat at the Table

FOR STANNIS SMITH, JD ’14, BECOMING A PRESIDENTIAL management fellow was an exciting opportunity that he almost passed up. During the hectic final weeks of law school, Smith received a call inviting him to interview for the highly selective, two-year fellowship. Despite having endured the arduous process of being selected as a fellow, he wrote the voicemail from the “White House” off as just another spam call.

“I got a second call, and it was really the White House,” Smith says. After interviewing with staff from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), he received an offer to become a fellow in August 2014. Even then, he wasn’t quite sure this was the right path for his new legal career. He sought the counsel of Renee Y. DeVigne, associate dean for academic development and online education.

“She said, ‘You’re taking this job,’” recalls Smith. “This is an amazing opportunity, and you’re taking this job.”

He accepted the offer, launching his career in an unexpected direction. “I’m seeing the inner workings of the government at a level that most people don’t get to see, and being able to have a seat at the table contributing to really important policy decisions is amazing.”

As a presidential management fellow, he served as a co-policy analyst on the federal government’s real property portfolio. He also performed a detail in the General Counsel’s office, where he served as co-lead on the implementation of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act, designed to provide greater transparency regarding federal expenditures.

Currently, in OMB’s Office of Federal Financial Management, Smith serves as a senior policy analyst, where he focuses on policies that include the government charge card program, government debt collection, travel and conference, as well as co-leading the resolution of Anti-deficiency Act violations.

“I APPRECIATE THE HIGH LEVEL OF EXPECTATIONS IN THE PROGRAM. I LEFT GW LAW FEELING EQUIPPED AND READY.”
— Stannis Smith

“I enjoy that we get to see our policy work go into effect rather quickly,” says Smith. “You have a sense of, I worked on that, I had a significant impact on fixing that thing or contributing to implementing the President’s management agenda during his term—because that’s what we are there to do.”

In 2016, Smith, who is also a licensed realtor, founded the law firm SmithAdams Law Group, where his practice focuses on the areas of employment, entertainment, and real estate law.

Originally from Albany, Ga., Smith is also a proud graduate of Morehouse College. Prior to attending law school, he enjoyed a 14-year career as a higher education professional. In fact, he served as the director of financial aid at GW’s School of Medicine while attending law school part-time, at night.

“The GW Law program was rigorous. It’s not easy and it’s going to challenge you. It’s going to test you, and it’s going to push you. I appreciate the high level of expectations in the program,” Smith says. “I left GW feeling equipped and ready.”
— Willona Sloan

partner in the firm’s intellectual property and technology practice.

Matthias Kamber, JD ’02, is now a partner with Paul Hastings in the firm’s intellectual property department. He has tried more than a dozen patent, trade secret, and copyright cases across the country and has worked with major technology clients from Netflix to Google and Comcast.

Caroline D. Bar, JD ’03, has joined Post & Schell as a principal in the firm’s professional liability department and medical malpractice defense practice group in Philadelphia.

Sunni Dawn LeBeouf, JD ’03, a former New Orleans city attorney, has joined Ochsner Health as public affairs assistant vice president.

Adrien Pickard, JD ’03, has joined Shapiro Lifschitz & Schram, counseling clients involved in complex commercial disputes before state and federal courts and on appeal across the country.

Jon Zucker, JD ’03, was appointed president of CASPR Group, an environmental health technology company.

Monise Alexis Brown, JD ’04, was appointed to the Charles County Circuit Court of Maryland.

Joshua T. Guyan, JD ’04, has joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP as a partner.

Elizabeth L. Young, JD ’04, was appointed assistant chief immigration judge at the U.S. Department of Justice in August 2021.

Jennifer Freel, JD ’05, has joined Jackson Walker as a partner. A former federal prosecutor, she is
A Long, Distinguished Career of Service

RUTH C. BURG, JD ’50. HAS A LIST of accolades deserving of a pioneer in the legal profession. She went where few women had been as an attorney in the 1950s and 1960s, and it resulted in a remarkable career of public service and achievement.

Burg’s career at GW was a model in any era. She served as editor of the Law Review, received the John Bell Larner Award, was elected to the Order of the Coif, and graduated from GW Law cum laude and first in her class. Quickly realizing her talents, her law professors recommended her for annual scholarships in her second and third years. Today, her impact is reflected in the Ruth Burg Government Procurement Law Scholarship Fund, which honors her career, mentorship of young lawyers, and exemplary leadership in the field.

Even Burg’s sterling law school career couldn’t reverse the weight of the sexism she faced. “The dean called me into his office and told me normally a clerkship or a good associate position would go to the school’s No. 1 graduate, but he said I had to realize in my situation that was not possible. In retrospect, I don’t know what was more shocking, him admitting it or me accepting it.”

Early in her career, she specialized in federal tax law, serving as a clerk to Judge Stephen E. Rice of the Tax Court of the United States. She was the first woman to serve in a Tax Court clerkship. After leaving the Tax Court, Burg practiced tax law in the District of Columbia and Maryland.

“The only people who needed tax advice were builders,” remembers Burg. “I’d sit down in a room with a group of men, and I was often confused for a secretary. I could always sense the point in the meeting when they stopped thinking of me as a little girl. I became somebody who was giving them good tax advice.”

In 1965, after the death of her first husband, and with two young children, she became a part-time legal assistant to the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission Board of Contract Appeals and continued in that capacity until her appointment as an Administrative Judge to the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals in 1972. She was the first woman to serve in those roles.

For 22 years, she served as an Administrative Judge, providing thoughtful, unbiased, and knowledgeable service. In retirement, Burg worked as a mediator, neutral advisor, and arbitrator in public contract matters. Her George Washington University awards include the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award and the GW Law Alumni Association Fulbright Award for public service. In 2021, she was recognized as one of GW’s Monumental Alumni as part of the university’s bicentennial celebrations.

“I was helped by many women and men throughout my career,” says Burg. “I found fulfillment in my work with the Board of Contract Appeals even though I would find myself as the only woman in the courtroom many times. Over the course of my career, I feel like we’ve made progress, but there is more to do.”

— Sarah Kellogg

Katherine Halliday, JD ’08, has been appointed special counsel at Cooley LLP.

Craig Schuenemann, JD ’08, was sworn in as the 22nd judge to serve Colorado’s Saguache County since the county was formed in 1866.

Joshua Kotin, JD ’09, is now a partner at Cooley LLP.

Brianna Silverstein, JD ’09, was promoted to counsel at Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP.

Andrew R. Turnbull, JD ’09, was elected to partnership at Morrison & Foerster.

2010s

Philipp W. Havenstein, JD ’10, was recently appointed operations counsel on U.S. SEC Chair Gary Gensler’s executive staff.

Alan Heymann, JD ’10, is the author of “Don’t Just Have the Soup: 52 Analogies for Leadership, Coaching, and Life,” a collection of analogies from his executive coaching practice.

Derrick Lam, JD ’10, a shareholder at Littler, has been named co-chair of the firm’s Career Advocacy Program (CAP).

Lindsey E. Martinez, JD ’10, was appointed by California Gov. Gavin Newsom to serve as a judge in the Orange County Superior Court.

Douglas D. Noreen, JD ’10, was named managing partner of Howard, Stallings, From, Atkins, Angell, & Davis in Raleigh, N.C.

Trevor R. Salter, JD ’10, was promoted to partner at Morrison & Foerster.

Julie Verratti, JD ’10, was appointed associate...
ALUMNI PROFILE

An Unlikely Path

LARA WORM, JD ’07, BEGAN HER JOURNEY TO THE LAW earlier than most. In elementary school, she wrote in her journal that she wanted to be a “criminal prosecutor” when she grew up, and for the next 20 years she didn’t let much get in her way.

Worm started visualizing her dream, and she found her way there swiftly. After graduating from GW Law in 2007, she clerked for a judge in D.C. Superior Court, and then secured that dream job as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia.

As a federal prosecutor in the Washington, D.C., office, attorneys work on both federal and local crimes. “When you enter the office, you’re given a choice of the career path you want to pursue, and I always knew I wanted to go to the homicide section,” says Worm. She quickly moved through the office from misdemeanors to violent crimes and earned a coveted spot in the Homicide Trial Section, where she investigated and tried D.C.’s most violent offenders.

After six years in the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Worm was lured by her family and southern California’s warm weather to return to her hometown of San Diego. She joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of California and transitioned to wiretap and major narcotics investigations. A few years into her four-year stint in that office, a friend approached her about helping with a startup craft cider brewery, a thriving industry in San Diego.

After some initial hesitation, Worm agreed to a part-time role. Bivouac Ciderworks opened in San Diego in 2018 with cider production, a taproom, and full restaurant. A year later, Worm made the difficult decision to leave the federal government and focus on the cider business full-time. “In my mind, I’m an attorney,” says Worm. “It’s all I ever wanted to be. My entire identity was tied up with being a lawyer.” But Worm says that in her current role, she calls upon her legal training and experience almost daily.

Four years and a global pandemic later, Worm has taken over as CEO of Bivouac, expanded distribution into four territories in two states, and is working on the company’s next phase of expansion. Does she still use her GW Law degree? “As an entrepreneur and business owner you have to know everything about everything, or be ready to figure it out,” says Worm. “Being a lawyer gives you a solid foundation and the tools you need to analyze risk and exercise good business judgment in the myriad issues you face every day.”

— Sarah Kellogg

“IN MY MIND, I’M AN ATTORNEY. IT’S ALL I EVER WANTED TO BE. MY ENTIRE IDENTITY WAS TIED UP WITH BEING A LAWYER.”

— Lara Worm

IN MY MIND, I'M AN ATTORNEY. IT'S ALL I EVER WANTED TO BE. MY ENTIRE IDENTITY WAS TIED UP WITH BEING A LAWYER.

Matthew Engler, JD ’12, was recently named a partner at Berman, Sobin, & Gross LLP.

Alexander R. Green, JD ’12, has joined McGlinchey Stafford’s financial services litigation group as of counsel in the firm’s Washington, D.C., office.

Callyson Grove, JD ’12, was elected to partnership at Wilson Elser.

Thomas Kinney, JD ’12, was elected to partnership at the national litigation firm Troutman Pepper.

Alex Kwan-Ho Chung, JD ’12, joined Perkins Coie in February as a partner in the firm’s intellectual property practice.

Ross McAloon, JD ’12, was elected to partnership at Latham & Watkins.

IN MY MIND, I'M AN ATTORNEY. IT'S ALL I EVER WANTED TO BE. MY ENTIRE IDENTITY WAS TIED UP WITH BEING A LAWYER.

— Lara Worm

IN MY MIND, I'M AN ATTORNEY. IT'S ALL I EVER WANTED TO BE. MY ENTIRE IDENTITY WAS TIED UP WITH BEING A LAWYER.

— Lara Worm
ALUMNI PROFILE

Bringing it Home

A GW LAW DEGREE TAKES PEOPLE DOWN MANY PATHS. For JOEL FRYDMAN, JD ’79, the path took him back home to Dayton, Ohio, and not to the law, but to his family’s industrial scrap metal business, the Midwest Iron & Metal Co.

Frydman had planned a life in the law as he graduated. He and his wife, fellow classmate Angela Fasano, left school with the intention of taking the bar and then finding dual legal careers. Looking back now, Frydman says, “Of all the things I was able to accomplish in law school, meeting my soulmate was No. 1.”

While his wife found a successful career as a Montgomery County, Ohio assistant county prosecutor, Frydman secured work at a 150-year-old Dayton, Ohio law firm. Within a year or two, he realized things had to change. Too many of his cases ended up settling on the courthouse steps, trampling his litigator’s spirit to do battle in the courtroom.

“MY LEGAL BACKGROUND AND MY TRAINING AT THE LAW FIRM GAVE ME AN EDGE, AND IT REINFORCED THE IMPORTANCE OF INTEGRITY IN CREATING A STRONG AND RESPECTED BUSINESS.”

— Joel Frydman

“I did a wide variety of corporate and defense insurance work at the firm. I loved the people in the firm. However, as time went on, I felt it wasn’t what I wanted to do for the next 30 to 40 years of my life,” says Frydman. “I realized if I didn’t love working there, I wasn’t going to love working in a law firm anywhere.”

Once he decided to leave, he never looked back. His brother had joined the family business, and Frydman followed a year later. The brothers took on different responsibilities inside the company, joining his maternal grandfather, Bert Appel, and father, Charles Frydman, in the business.

“My primary strength, and that has remained until this day, is marketing and sales,” says Frydman, who was an undergraduate economics major. “Because of my legal background, I naturally took over all our contractual work and anything to do with HR. I also took on supervision of much of the administrative side of the business.”

There was a virtue in being a part of the family enterprise. Formed in the mid-1950s by immigrant Appel and Holocaust-survivor Charles Frydman, Midwest Iron & Metal Company (now MW Metals Group) focused on recycling industrial scrap in the Midwest. It later leveraged its skills and became a strategic partner with large manufacturing companies both domestically and internationally, managing the recycling and selling of their industrial scrap units.

In 2017, Frydman and his brother sold a majority share in the business to a private equity firm. Today, he serves as a consultant while his brother remains involved in the company’s day-to-day activities. When not consulting, he is writing two books, including one that looks at business in the trenches.

“We’re not the biggest company in the world, but we do have a great reputation,” says Frydman. “My legal background and my training at the law firm gave me an edge, and it reinforced the importance of integrity in creating a strong and respected business.”

— Sarah Kellogg

Lindsay M. Paulin, JD ’12, was elected to partnership at Gibson Dunn.

Ann E. Querns, JD ’12, was elected to partnership at Blank & Rome.

Jonathan Ripa, JD ’12, is now a partner at Stinson LLP focusing on business litigation.

Kiri Lee Sharon, JD ’12, was elected to partnership at Foley & Lardner LLP.

Aaron Bowling, JD ’13, has joined Arnold & Porter’s Chicago office as counsel in the firm’s intellectual property practice.

Jessica Bayles, JD ’13, was elected to partnership at Stoel Rives. She is an energy regulatory attorney based in the firm’s Washington, D.C., office.

Blake Dietrich, JD ’13, was elected to partnership at Jackson Walker LLP.

Camden Navarro Massingill, JD ’13, was named a shareholder at Wyche, P.A.

Brittany M. Pemberton, JD ’13, was elected to partnership at Bracewell LLP.

Daniel Saavedra, JD ’14, has joined the U.S. Attorneys’ Office for the Eastern District of New York as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Financial Litigation Unit.

Kristen Hazlet, JD ’16, has joined Goldberg Segalla as an associate in the firm’s workers’ compensation group in Syracuse.
Jonathan McCracken, JD ’16, was appointed by President Biden to serve as the U.S. Department of Agriculture State Director of Rural Development in Ohio. He previously served as a senior advisor to U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH).

Nicole Y. Drew, LLM ’17, has joined Trister, Ross, Schadler & Gold PLLC as an associate.

Heather Smith-Carra, JD ’17, was elected a shareholder at Banner Witcoff.

Kyle Zhu, JD ’17, received the Cornerstone Award from the Lawyers Alliance for New York. The award is given to business and transactional lawyers who have provided superior pro bono legal services to nonprofits improving the quality of life for low-income New Yorkers.

Salma A. Attia, JD ’18, has joined Capehart Scatchard as an associate.

Devron Brown, JD ’18, has been named senior director for global policy at Circle, a payment services company that operates stablecoin USDC, subsidiary crypto exchange Poloniex, and equity crowdfunding platform SeedInvest.

Omid Rahnama, JD ’18, an associate in the restructuring practice of Paul Weiss in New York, has received the 20/20 Partners Rising Young Leader Award from the Business Bankruptcy Committee of the American Bar Association Business Law Section.

Nicolas Sabet, JD ’18, has joined Cooley LLP as an associate in the firm’s business department.

Frank Xu, JD ’18, has joined Sanford Heisler Sharp as an associate.

Eric Cheng, JD ’19, has joined Fenwick as an associate specializing in corporate law.

Sean Coffin, JD ’19, has joined PwC as an associate in the firm’s M & A tax practice based in Los Angeles.

Antonio Dinizo, JD ’19, has joined Paul Weiss, where he is expanding his finance practice.

Bradley Edgington, JD ’19, has joined Fox Rothschild LLP in Pittsburgh as an associate in the firm’s intellectual property department.

James Hannaway, JD ’19, has joined Sanford Heisler Sharp as an associate.

Christine Kirchner, JD ’19, has joined the Law Office of Samuel C. Moore PLLC in Alexandria, Va., as an associate attorney in the civil litigation and business representation practice groups.

Kate Mayer, JD ’19, has joined Merchant & Gould PC as an associate. She is an IP attorney specializing in Section 337 litigation.

Millicent Usoro, JD ’19, joined the Los Angeles office of Liebert Cassidy Whitmore in May 2021.

2020s

Will Adams, JD ’20, has joined the structured transactions group at Morgan Lewis in Washington, D.C.

S. Christopher Cundra IV, JD ’20, has joined Morris, Nichols, Arshl & Tunell LLP as an associate in the firm’s bankruptcy and restructuring group.

Tara Hosseini, JD ’20, has joined Fox Rothschild LLP in Washington, D.C., as an associate in the firm’s construction department.

Jackson Mann, JD ’20, has joined Skadden in New York City as an associate specializing in mergers and acquisitions, private equity, and financial institutions.

Robert X. Moorman, JD ’20, accepted a position in the general counsel’s office of Roper Technologies, a Fortune 500 company in Sarasota, Fla.

Aaron Parnas, JD ’20, has joined Bell Rosqueete Reyes Esteban PLLC as an associate.

Delia Borbone, JD ’21, has joined Sanford Heisler Sharp as an associate.

Sailing Through Life

THERE HAVE BEEN TWO CONSTANTS IN JAMES NATHANSON’S remarkable professional life - sharing the fundamentals of sailing and dispensing the lessons of the law.

Nathanson, JD ’59, began sailing as a child and bought a fifteen-and-a-half-foot sloop by the time he was 12. A native of Quincy, Mass., he was drawn to sailing, and he was good at it. During the three years he sailed on and was captain of Harvard University’s sailing team, the team won the North American Collegiate Championship twice and came in second the third year.

Teaching young people how to sail has been so fundamental for Nathanson that he has gone back every summer to New England for more than 60 years to direct and instruct sailing programs for Massachusetts youth. He still does it today at 89, though as a volunteer now and not a paid instructor.

His passion for the lessons of the law has been equally enduring, if a bit less athletic. After his U.S. Army service during the Korean War, he landed a job as an office boy and clerk at a K Street law firm while he attended GW Law, with the help of the G.I. Bill.

A chance encounter with the renowned Cardozo High School...
Principal Bennetta Washington introduced Nathanson to the notion of teaching high school. Captivated by the idea, Nathanson left Corcoran, Youngman and Rowe, trading K Street for Cardozo and the law for social studies and civics classes.

Nathanson taught at Cardozo and later at Western High School, which eventually became the Duke Ellington School of the Arts. It was there that he taught a class based on a Georgetown University-created street law textbook. “Street law was what any idiot walking the street ought to know,” says Nathanson. “My legal background helped me a lot with the street law course. The kids would find out I was a lawyer and I was able to actually teach them something that would help them.”

It was very helpful having gone to law school and being on the Council.
—James Nathanson

High school teaching introduced Nathanson to the city he had lived in for years. “When I was working at a K Street firm, I was dealing with an element of the community that’s of a particular socio-economic level,” says Nathanson. “Whereas when I was teaching, I really got to know the character of the city.”

After 24 years teaching, Nathanson took his knowledge and employed it in electoral politics. Elected to the D.C. Council, he represented Ward 3, the shank of D.C.’s residential neighborhoods, from 1987 to 1994. “It was very helpful having gone to law school and being on the Council. It gives you the background that helps in doing the Council’s work,” he says. “It gave me a certain comfort level.”

His time on the Council was a reflection of his legal background and his practical nature. He wrote the first law to modernize probate in the District, and he was responsible for the legislation that created D.C.’s first power of attorney for health care decisions. He also authored the amendment to D.C.’s human rights law to prevent private clubs from discriminating on the basis of gender in their membership selection, and the popular law requiring trucks to cover their loads while driving through the District.

In all, he had more than 100 pieces of legislation become law during his eight years in office. After losing his 1994 re-election bid, Nathanson became a lobbyist, with his primary client being the D.C. trial lawyers, until his retirement in 1994 after losing re-election. After losing his 1994 re-election bid, Nathanson took his knowledge and employed it in electoral politics. Elected to the D.C. Council, he represented Ward 3, the shank of D.C.’s residential neighborhoods, from 1987 to 1994. “It was very helpful having gone to law school and being on the Council.”

In all, he had more than 100 pieces of legislation become law during his eight years in office. After losing his 1994 re-election bid, Nathanson became a lobbyist, with his primary client being the D.C. trial lawyers, until his retirement in 2020. “I took some different turns in my career, but I was always happy to have my law degree,” Nathanson says.

—Sarah Kellogg

Jesse C. Flowers, JD ’21, has joined Morris, Nichols, Arsh & Tunnell LLP as an associate in the firm’s corporate counseling group.

John T. McBride, JD ’21, is a real estate associate at Stoel Rives in Boise, Idaho.

Dina Truncali, JD ’21, has joined Hollingsworth LLP as an associate.

Jonathan M. Weyand, JD ’21, has been admitted to the Delaware bar. He practices at Morris, Nichols, Arsh & Tunnell LLP in the firm’s bankruptcy and restructuring group.
COMMENCEMENT 2022

On May 15th, more than 700 members of GW Law’s Class of 2022 received their JD, LLM, and MSL degrees at the law school’s 155th Commencement. Celebratory events took place throughout the weekend, culminating in the law school’s first in-person Diploma Ceremony since 2019. Congresswoman Susan Ellis Wild (D-PA), JD ’82, delivered the keynote address.
REUNITED, AND IT FEELS SO GOOD

GW Law alumni from across the decades returned to campus June 3-4 for Reunion Weekend 2022. The festive weekend featured an all-class dinner at the Ritz Carlton, class cocktail receptions, a family friendly BBQ, the Stockton Guard installation and brunch, and the Clinics 50th anniversary celebration. Please mark your calendars for next year’s Reunion on June 2-3, 2023.
Opening Doors to the Future

With a gift in your long-term plans to support scholarships at GW Law, you can make a world of difference for future attorneys. Your gift in a will, trust, or retirement account can close the financial gap, reduce student loan debt, and open doors to a remarkable legal education in the nation’s capital. Help us equip skilled lawyers to lead the next generation.

To learn more about how you can support law scholarships in your estate plans, please contact GW’s Office of Planned Giving at 877.498.7590 or pgiving1@gwu.edu.