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Good Newsletter April 3, 2023

Seattle University School of Law Dean

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GOOD NEWS*letter*

**Celebrating recent community accomplishments
and noting important upcoming events**

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April 3, 2023

Dear Faculty and Staff Colleagues –

Happy Monday morning! The blossoming trees and flowers around campus are a sure sign of spring in Seattle. The second half of this semester certainly has been in full bloom with events and accomplishments for our law school community to celebrate.

Seattle U Law hosted the Washington State Supreme Court in late February as part of its Traveling Court Program. I was pleased to see many students, faculty, and staff attend the oral arguments and engage with the justices throughout the two-day visit from the Court.

Thanks to everyone involved in planning and hosting the 30th Annual Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) Auction and Gala. This year's fundraising efforts brought in a record-

Upcoming Notable Events

A Farewell & Gratitude Reception for Thad

Teo will be held on April 6 from 9:00 – 10:30am on the Second Floor Gallery at Seattle University School of Law.

The Seattle Journal for Social Justice End of

Year Celebration is on April 6 from 5:30-7:30 pm on the Second Floor Gallery at Seattle University School of Law.

breaking dollar amount that will support PILF's ability to provide student summer grants. Special thanks to Jana Matthews, who was a superb emcee. Our distinguished alumna Angela Rye '05 did a stupendous job as our keynoter.

We successfully hosted numerous and very well attended Dean's Brunches at my home for the various student affinity organizations, each attended by very prominent alumni and many faculty and senior staff colleagues (thank you!).

We concluded the inaugural, pilot year of the Dean's Luminaries in Law Lecture and Conversation Series with two especially notable guests, Jeff Farrah '07, Executive Director of the Autonomous Vehicle Industry Association, and Professor Dorothy E. Roberts from the University of Pennsylvania Cary Law School – whose event was standing room only. We look forward to hosting another exciting lineup of luminaries in our next academic year, and having the Luminaries series serve as a globally distributed podcast.

We received American Bar Association acquiescence and Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities approval for our exciting new SJD Program, now directed by Prof. Russell Powell. And Associate Dean Sital Kalantry led a delegation of students to India, where they benefited from a one-of-a-kind immersion program.

The Berle Center on Corporations, Law & Society hosted Berle XIV: Developing a 21st Century Corporate Governance Model in partnership with, and at, USC Gould School of Law in Los Angeles, and featured many leading scholars and figures in corporate law and governance.

We gave Father John Topel, our Jesuit Advisor to the Law School Dean (and former SU acting president and provost), a very warm and moving retirement celebration and send-off. And we, just last week, welcomed our impressive admitted students to our campus.

Lavender Graduation is on April 13 from 5:00-7:00 pm on the Second Floor Gallery at Seattle University School of Law.

The AILJ/NALSA End of Year Celebration is on April 14 from 5:00-7:00 pm on the Second Floor Gallery at Seattle University School of Law.

The API Gala is on April 15 from 5:00-7:00 pm on the Second Floor Gallery at Seattle University School of Law.

The Law Review Banquet is on April 20 from 5:30-8:00 pm at Seattle University's Student Center in the Le Roux Room.

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Board Banquet is on April 21 from 5:30-8:00 pm on the Second Floor Gallery at Seattle University School of Law.

The Moot Court Board

There are many other events, publications, media appearances, awards, and other notable news to celebrate. Please peruse them below and help me congratulate the faculty and staff colleagues, alumni, and students who continue to make Seattle U Law such a vibrant community.

Here's to a happy and successful homestretch to spring final exams and Commencement!

Anthony E. Varona
Dean and Professor

PUBLICATIONS

Prof. Michael Blasie's forthcoming article *Converting Plain Language From Advice to Law* was accepted by The Clarity Journal. Headquartered in the United Kingdom, Clarity is the largest international plain language organization, with over 650 members spread across 50 countries. Members include lawyers, judges, governmental officials, scholars, teachers, consultants, NGOs, and corporations. The Clarity Journal publishes two times per year. His first book, [*United States Plain Language Laws: The Laws Revolutionizing Transactional and Governmental Document Design*](#), was published by Wolters Kluwer. Book-length with treatise-like content, it is the only comprehensive source on United States plain language laws. In addition to detailing these laws' history, the book introduces a nomenclature for these laws' design, and outlines the competing policy designs lawmakers have made when crafting such laws.

Prof. Michael Blasie also published [496 U.S. Laws Require Plain Language Contracts](#) on the Contract Nerds blog. The blog is popular among general counsel, in-house counsel,

Banquet is on April 22 from 5:30-8:00 pm on the Second Floor Gallery at Seattle University School of Law.

The BLSA Graduation is on May 11 from 5:30-8:00 pm on the Second Floor Gallery at Seattle University School of Law.

The LLSA Graduation is on May 11 from 6:00-9:00 pm at Seattle University's Student Center in the Le Roux Room.

The Baccalaureate Mass is on May 12 from 4:30-5:30 pm at the Chapel of St. Ignatius.

The Graduation Reception is on May 12 from 5:30-7:00 pm at Seattle University School of Law.

Spring Commencement is on May 13 from 10:00 am-12:00 pm at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall at Seattle Center.

supply chain and procurement professionals, sales and legal tech professionals, contract managers, paralegals, students, and entrepreneurs. Fittingly, the blog's creator is Nada Alnajaf, a Seattle Law alum from the Class of 2009.

Prof. Bob Boruchowitz's article, [King County Can Celebrate Strong Public Defense 60 Years after Gideon v. Wainwright](#), was published by the King County Bar Bulletin.

Prof. Deirdre Bowen and her Harborview Medical Center colleagues' article, *Black Women & Gun Ownership in America* was accepted for publication in *Violence and Gender*.

Prof. Margaret Chon published her latest co-edited book, [Improving Intellectual Property: A Global Project](#).

Profs. Ronald Clark, Marilyn Berger, and John Mitchell recently launched their new book, [Trial Advocacy: Planning, Analysis, and Strategy](#).

Profs. Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic's had a passage from their 1991 article included in another article from [salon.com](#). It discussed Derrick Bell's Chronicle of the Space Traders in his best-selling book, *Faces at the Bottom of the Well*. The article highlighted similarities between the recent Chinese-balloon scare and the GOP panic over Critical Race Theory.

Prof. Gillian Dutton co-authored *Externship Pedagogy & Practice*, with Kendall Kerew, Kelly Terry, and Cynthia Wilson. The book, published by Carolina Academic Press, is an in-depth exploration of how to design, structure, evaluate, and teach law school externship courses.

Assoc. Dean Sital Kalantry was published on ConLawNow for her essay on [Dobbs and International Law](#).

Emer. Prof. David Skover's co-authored book, [The Death of Discourse](#) (3rd edition), was recently released by Carolina Academic Press. The third edition contains new material

Upcoming Notable Presentations

Prof. Michael Blasie was selected by the organizers of the Sixteenth Annual International Conference on Contracts to present *A Common Law Duty to Make Consumer Contracts Understandable* at the upcoming conference hosted by Texas A&M University School of Law.

Dir. Kelli Rodriguez Currie will present her forthcoming chapter, "Problem Based Learning in Sports Law", at the [Pacific Northwest Academy of Legal Studies in Business](#) in April.

that focuses on the free speech issues associated with post-9/11 governmental regulation and former President Trump's rhetorical antics and threats to expressive liberties.

PRESENTATIONS and TESTIMONY

Assoc. Dean Steven Bender presented his co-authored book, *LatCrit: From Critical Legal Theory to Academic Activism* (NYU Press 2021), as part of the book series, *Reimagining the Latinx Experience*. This was sponsored by UC Irvine School of Law.

The Berle Center on Corporations, Law & Society hosted its annual symposium, *Berle XIV: Developing a 21st Century Corporate Governance Model* on March 24-25, 2023

Prof. Michael Blasie co-presented a two-day course titled *English at Work* for lawyers and law school students through the Center for American Studies in Ukraine and Poland. The course covered consumer protection, employment, labor, and business law.

Prof. Michael Blasie presented his work-in-progress *The Duty to Make Contracts Understandable* at the University of Oklahoma College of Law as part of a junior faculty exchange. Special thanks to **Vice Dean Deborah Ahrens** for her help and encouragement in setting up the exchange.

Prof. Michael Blasie presented "A Duty to Make Contracts Understandable" at the International Contracts Conference hosted by Texas A & M Law School. He joined contracts scholars from across the U.S. and world, including SU Law's Sidney Delong.

Prof. Michael Blasie presented *Plain Language & The Judiciary* as an invited speaker with the National Center of State Courts. He joined a panel of experts speaking with judicial branch employees about redesigning court documents to improve access to justice.

Prof. Robert Boruchowitz led and planned the 11th Defender Initiative Conference hosted at Seattle University School of Law on March 17-18, 2023.

Prof. Richard Delgado presented on a panel titled *Top Tips from Top Authors* at a virtual, national conference for law review editors hosted by The American Society for Legal Writers on March 26, 2023.

Prof. Margaret Fisher presented *The Clash of Social Media and Students' Free Speech Rights* at the Washington State Social Studies Council in Chelan on March 4th.

Assoc. Dean Erin Fullner served on a panel on April 1st at the Washington Leadership Institute, hosted by Perkins Coie, on *Surviving the Pandemic – A Post-COVID Practice*, which was organized and moderated by **Dean Tony Varona**.

Dir. Kelli Rodriguez Currie moderated a panel, *Best Practices for Student Support in Online Graduate Law Programs*, at the [2023 Legal Master's Conference](#) hosted at UPenn Carey Law School.

Prof. Dean Spade presented *No Prisons. No Borders. No Cops. No State?* for the [29th Annual Rose Sheinberg Lecture](#) at New York University on March 30.

ALUMNI NEWS

Jared Boswell '04 was appointed by Governor Jay Inslee to the [Yakima County Superior Court](#).

Twyla Carter '07, the Attorney-in-Chief and CEO of the Legal Aid Society of New York, will serve as Seattle University School of Law's 50th Anniversary Commencement Speaker.

Amanda DuBois '86 has published her [2nd Novel](#) and follow up to "The Complication."

Angélica María González '19 was Sen. Patty Murray's guest at the recent State of the Union address.

Christian Kennedy '22 participated on a panel, Alumni Perspectives: Legal Master's Degrees Contributing to Career Evolution and Expansion, at the [2023 Legal Master's Conference](#) hosted by UPenn Carey Law.

Emily Kim '11 was named one of the [25 Most Influential People in Seattle](#) in the January/February issue of Seattle Magazine. Emily co-founded The Pasty Project which provides free baking and pastry training for people with barriers to education and employment.

The following Seattle U Law alums were honored by Washington Women Lawyers with Chapter Member of the Year Awards: **Judge Marilyn Paja '79** Kitsap County, **Lindsay Noel '10** Pierce County, **Bree Black Horse '13** Yakima County.

Jamal Whitehead '07 was recently confirmed as United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

Heather Williams '07 was featured in the *Seattle Times* for her small business, [Mimi's Zero Waste Market](#).

Kendee Yamaguchi '06 has been appointed to join the [Biden Administration](#) as a deputy assistant secretary in the Department of Commerce. Kendee will work for the U.S. field in the [International Trade Administration](#).

MEDIA APPEARANCES, APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS, AND OTHER DISTINCTIONS

The Access Admission Program Team received the 2023 Latina/o Bar Association of Washington Community Service Award.

Prof. Deirdre Bowen was quoted in a *Law 360* article about the *Barlow* case argued before the Washington State Supreme Court on Feb 23, 2023 at the Seattle University School of Law. She was interviewed by *InvestigateWest* regarding inconsistency in the granting of Domestic Violence Protection Orders in Washington State, and was quoted in the [Spokesman-Review](#) on March 5. The article was called, “Washington lawmakers are trying to protect out-of-state abortion patients. Here’s what you need to know:”.

Prof. Deirdre Bowen is a co-PI along with her colleagues at Harborview Medical Center on a Centers for Disease Control grant application that will examine the effectiveness of Order to Surrender Weapons in Domestic Violence Protection Orders in Washington State.

Profs. Mark Chinen and Jennifer Dumas have been asked to appear on a panel called GPT-3 for an ABA Business Law Section meeting.

Judge Janet Chung received the annual Woman of the Year award presented by Seattle University School of Law and the Womxn’s Caucus. Katelyn Kelel (2L) received Kellye Y. Testy Scholarship Award winner, and Meralina Morales (2L) received the Justice G Hellen Whitener Scholarship Award.

Prof. Richard Delgado ranks tenth among all law professors on a new ["H" rating system](#) according to blogger Brian Leiter. The H system began in Chemistry and measures a scholars’ impact in a novel way.

Prof. Leonard Feldman was appointed by Governor Jay Inslee to the Washington Court of Appeals, Division One on March 15.

Prof. Elizabeth Ford was quoted in a [Law360 article](#) on February 9. The article, “The Washington Labor Developments that Experts Are Watching”, reviewed Washington’s organizing environment.

Assoc. Dean Sital Kalantry was interviewed by KUOW on the [caste discrimination ordinance](#) passed by the Seattle City Council.

Assistant Director for Student Financial Aid Natasha Murphy was announced as the 2023 honoree of the Latinx Law Students Association's (LLSA's) *Amicus Award*, which is given to "a friend whose character, professional achievements, and outstanding service to the school, especially in the area of mentoring, advocacy and support, has contributed to the growth of the organization."

Prof. Dean Spade's book, *Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity in this Crisis and the Next*, was selected by the Santa Barbara Public Library as part of their [2023 Book to Action event series](#).

Dir. Lily Su was invited to become a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

Prof. Emer. John Weaver received the Legal Profession Award at the Annual Lincoln Day Banquet of the Tacoma Pierce County Bar Association.

3L Student Dontay Proctor-Mills was selected as one of the [National Jurist's Law Students of the Year](#).

The Family Law Center has developed several important new partnerships: A partnership with Whatcom Co. Law Advocates Organization and Whatcom Co. Library System to provide virtual assistance for rurally located Domestic Violence survivors as they seek protection orders; A partnership with the Tulalip Indian reservation is providing services in domestic violence protection orders at the Tulalip Court via our Domestic Violence Practicum; A partnership with the King County Family Law Ct. to create a clearinghouse for attorneys to represent survivors of domestic violence in their DVPO return hearings; a partnership with Tacoma ProBono Legal Services to provide

family law and domestic violence advocacy through our practicums; and a partnership with the Family Violence Appellate Project in which it has signed on to numerous amici briefs addressing domestic violence issues.

The Legal Writing Program hosted special guests to launch their “collaborative memo” project for the 1Ls in the day sections of the Legal Writing, Skills & Values. Three members of the Executive Committee for the Alaska Oregon Washington State Area Conference of the NAACP spoke: Tom Ahearne, **Sheley Anderson '04**, and Darrell Powell.

Prof. Emerita Laurel Oates signed an endowment agreement with Seattle U Law to establish the Laurel Oates '78 Endowed Legal Writing Scholarship.

Seattle University School of Law received an A in Diversity, A in International Law, and A- in Employment & Labor Law in the Winter [National Jurist PreLaw magazine](#). Special thanks to **Assoc. Dean Sital Kalantry, Profs. Elizabeth Ford, Thomas Antkowiak, Gillian Dutton, Won Kidane, Tayyab Mahmud, Russell Powell, Ron Slye, Mark Chinen, Margaret Chon, Mimi Samuel, Profs. Emer. Carmen Gonzalez, and Laurel Oates** for their many efforts that helped secure these distinctions.

Students Azor Cole and David Fure took first place in the regional client counseling competition held at Brooklyn Law School. Azor and David were coached by Melissa Fuller, Attorney Director and Co-owner of Washington Arbitration and Mediation Services and helped by **Dee Knapp, a Distinguished Practitioner in Residence** at Seattle University School of Law. Azor and David will go on to compete at the national competition held at the end of March.

Fr. John Topel celebrated his retirement among family and friends at the Seattle University School of Law on March 8, 2023. Fr. Topel served as the Jesuit adviser to the law school dean at Seattle University since 2016 and has been a

senior member of Seattle U's theology faculty since 1973.

The Worker's Rights Clinic's wage theft interest bill has moved to the Senate and Seattle University School of Law students testified last week before the [Senate Labor and Commerce Committee](#).

Anthony E. Varona | Dean and Professor of Law

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