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Good Newsletter

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Good Newsletter June 20, 2023

Seattle University School of Law Dean

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GOOD NEWSletter

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

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June 20, 2023

Dear Colleagues –

We have a great deal to celebrate as we approach the height of our summer session and look back at the conclusion of our academic year.

In the last month of the spring semester, we hosted a series of festive receptions, dinners, and graduation-related events for many of our student organizations, including the Moot Court Board, Alternative Dispute Resolution Board, *Native American Law Journal*, Native American Law Student Association, *Seattle Journal for Social Justice*, *Seattle University Law Review*, API Law Student Coalition, Black Law Student Association, and Latinx Law Student Association. These joyous events culminated in our 50th Anniversary Commencement celebration featuring distinguished alumna **Twyla Carter '07**. Warmest thanks to the many staff and faculty colleagues who organized and attended these events to support our students.

We have continued to be very busy in the wake of Law

Upcoming Notable Events

Seattle U Law Rapid Response Webinar on *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc., v. Harvard and UNC*, featuring top national experts, will take place at 10 am PT the day after the Supreme Court issues its decisions.

LawYours: Diversifying the Legal Profession will take place on August 9th, from 8:30 am to 6 pm, and will help underrepresented Puget Sound-area high school

Commencement. We successfully hosted the SITIE Immersion Course from May 22nd through 25th, and the 6th Annual Innovation and Technology Law Conference on June 9th – both very successful events. Just last week, we kicked off the 2023 LSAC PLUS Pipeline Program, for the second year in a row, in partnership with Gonzaga and UW. LSAC PLUS is hosted at Heritage University, and brilliantly directed by our alumna, **Bree Black Horse**.

We recently welcomed our extraordinary **new Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations, Feven Teklu**, to our community. Feven joins us from Brown University, where she served as a Major Gift Officer. Feven brings a wealth of experience from prior development and fundraising roles at NYU Law, Columbia University, and the Women’s Refugee Commission. Feven also is deeply familiar with the value of a Jesuit education, having earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Boston College. ***Welcome Feven! We are very glad you are here!***

We were honored to host the judicial swearing-in ceremony for our very own Professor from Practice, **Leonard Feldman**. Governor Jay Inslee appointed Judge Feldman to the Washington Court of Appeals, Division One, earlier this spring. We are fiercely proud of Judge Feldman for his accomplishments and are grateful he will remain a member of the Seattle U Law community as a Distinguished Jurist in Residence.

We hosted the Washington Bar Licensure Task Force for a working retreat at the end of April. The Task Force is making great strides toward achieving our charge of developing recommendations for reforming attorney licensure in the state of Washington. We soon will present our initial recommendations to the Washington State Supreme Court and begin a public, statewide listening tour to collect feedback.

We also hosted the Hispanic National Bar Association leadership for a special reception to announce the launch of a national effort to increase Latinx/Hispanic representation among law school faculty and leadership.

Finally, we were thrilled by the recent news that Seattle U Law ranks #46 in the new FLAIR (Forward Looking Academic Impact Rankings for Law Schools) rankings, focused on faculty quality, making us the #1 law school in the Pacific Northwest, the top

students explore the legal profession and law school options specifically.

New Student Orientation begins on August 14th.

Upcoming Notable Presentation

Prof. Michael Blasie was selected by the Plain Language Association International to serve as the keynote speaker at its annual conference to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in September. In addition to the keynote, **Prof. Blasie** will present at the conference’s panel on legal language; teach a master class on plain language at an Argentinian law school; and meet with Argentinian lawmakers.

Jesuit Catholic law school in the West, and the #3 Jesuit Catholic law school nationally. We have an outstanding faculty at Seattle U Law, and I am delighted that the FLAIR rankings accurately reflect that quality.

Congratulations to our colleagues who have shared the good news of their recent publications, media appearances, awards, and other notable news items to celebrate. **Professor Jack Kirkwood's American Antitrust Institute Cohen Award for his *Florida Law Review* article, "Tech Giant Exclusion," merits special spotlighting.** This is a very significant and coveted award, and I am thrilled that Jack's brilliant article was honored in this way. ***Congratulations Jack!***

I wish you all a productive and enjoyable summer. Please do not forget to share additional good news with us at lawgoodnews@seattleu.edu for the first GOOD NEWS*letter* of the fall semester.

#SeattleULawSoars!

Anthony E. Varona
Dean and Professor

PUBLICATIONS

Prof. Steven Bender submitted a full-length article, with Ediberto Roman (at FIU law) to the Houston Law Review as part of an invited tribute to Michael Olivas, curated by Yale professor Gerald Torres. Titled *Sin Vergüenza: Michael Olivas and Crop Cultivation*, Bender and Roman's contribution details Olivas' efforts toward diversifying the legal academy and what can be done in his honor going forward. Additionally, **Prof. Bender** submitted his latest semi-annual supplement to his 2-volume Thompson Reuters treatise on, *The Law of Real Estate Financing*, updating 5 chapters with national developments in real estate law.

Prof. Michael Blasie's article, *Plain Language: Lawmaker's Preferred Solution*, was published by the [Attorney General](#)

[Journal](#). The article details the need for state attorney general offices to consider voluntarily adopting plain language, to comply with plain language laws and defend agencies subject to them, and to learn to enforce plain language laws. The Journal is the lead publication of the National Association of Attorneys General.

Prof. Robert Boruchowitz's article, [A Real Chance to Effect Real Change](#), was published in the April-May Washington State Bar News.

Prof. Deirdre Bowen and her colleagues at the FIPRP UW School of Medicine published *Use of Immigration Status for Coercive Control in Domestic Violence Protection Orders* in *Frontiers in Sociology*.

Prof. Margaret Chon's co-edited book, "Improving Intellectual Property: A Global Project," was published in March.

Aspen Publishing has released new editions of *Trial Advocacy: Planning, Analysis, and Strategy* (5th ed.) and *Pretrial Advocacy: Planning, Analysis, and Strategy* (6th ed.) by **Professors Emeriti Marilyn Berger, Ron Clark, and John Mitchell**.

Prof. Richard Delgado was highlighted for his role in publicizing and defending [Critical Race Theory](#) in *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

Prof. Chryssa Deliganis has a forthcoming paper, "Contingent Fee Conflicts: Attorneys Opt for Quick-Kill Settlements When Their Clients Would Be Better Off Going to Trial," with Steve P. Calandrillo and Neela Brocato that will be published in the *NYU Journal of Legislation and Public Policy* (2023-24).

Prof. Danieli Evans' article, "Carceral Socialization as Voter Suppression," will be released in Vol. 28 of *Michigan Journal of Race and Law* within the next month.

Assoc. Dean Sital Kalantry has co-authored a forthcoming book called, "The Court on Trial: A Data-driven Account of the Indian Supreme Court," by the Penguin Press.

Prof. Jack Kirkwood's book chapter, "Predation and Discrimination," was published in the *Handbook on Abuse of Dominance and Monopolization*, a multi-chapter treatise published by Edward Elgar. Additionally, **Prof. Jack Kirkwood's**

essay, “Reforming the Robinson-Patman Act,” was published in *CPI Antitrust Chronicles*. Finally, **Prof. Jack Kirkwood’s** article, “Tech Giant Exclusion,” published in the *Florida Law Review*, won a Cohen Award for the “Best Antitrust Article of 2022 on Platforms.” The Cohen Awards are administered by the American Antitrust Institute and are given each year to the finest antitrust articles published in the United States. The awards are named in honor of Jerry S. Cohen, who founded Cohen Milstein, one of America’s leading antitrust and securities class action firms.

PRESENTATIONS and TESTIMONY

Prof. Michael Blasie spent three days co-presenting the flagship Judicial Writing course at the National Judicial College’s headquarters. He presented on judicial opinion writing techniques alongside a Tenth Circuit judge, a state trial court judge, and two professors. The students were judges from across the country, including trial, appellate, and supreme court judges and judges from general jurisdiction, administrative law, and specialty courts. **Prof. Blasie** also presented a guest lecture titled *International Commercial Contract Design* to law students at KIMEP University in Kazakhstan.

Prof. Robert Boruchowitz spoke on a panel called “Remedial Measures to Ensure Independence” at the ABA Public Defense Summit webinar on April 14. **Prof. Boruchowitz** also spoke on “Empowering Public Defense Standards, Caseloads, and Independence,” at the Washington Defender Association Annual Conference at Sun Mountain on April 29.

Prof. Margaret Chon moderated a panel at DreyFEST, a festschrift in honor of Rochelle Dreyfuss at NYU School of Law.

Prof. Chon spoke about trademark extraterritoriality at a conference on “Creativity and Innovation is Local,” hosted by Texas A&M School of Law. **Prof. Chon** also co-organized and spoke about abuse copyright at the Race + IP ’23 Conference, hosted by University of Pittsburgh School of Law and Center for Race and Social Problems. Finally, **Prof. Chon** spoke at the WSBA Annual Intellectual Property Institute on *Andy Warhol Foundation for the Arts v. Goldsmith*, pending before the US Supreme Court.

Academic Vice Dean-designate Brooke Coleman was a panelist at the Managerial Judges @ 40 (one) at the University of Texas

Austin. Her article, *Managerial Rulemaking*, is forthcoming in *The Review of Litigation*. Additionally, **Academic Vice Dean-designate Coleman** co-led a “Freedom School” session at the Racial Equity Summit at Seattle University on April 13 on *Effective Allyship*.

Prof. Danieli Evans presented “Against Ostracism” at the Poverty Law Scholars Conference in Berkeley, CA on March 10-11. Also, **Prof. Evans** led a “Freedom School” session at the Racial Equity Summit at Seattle University School of Law on April 13. The session was called “From Equality to Belonging.” The discussion focused on (1) the need to belong and the harms of ostracism; and (2) how ostracism and exclusion persist within DEI-oriented spaces and institutions.

Assoc. Dean Sital Kalantry spoke at the Symbiosis Law School and Bennett Law School on, “What the U.S. Supreme Court can learn from the Indian Supreme Court,” in India in March. Additionally, **Assoc. Dean Kalantry** was a commentator for a JSD dissertation at NYU Law School on April 21. Finally, **Assoc. Dean Kalantry** gave a lecture on, “Courts & Surrogacy Contracts,” to over 200 lawyers, who are members of the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Lawyers, in Huntington Beach, California on May 1. **Assoc. Dean Sital Kalantry** spoke online at St. Joe’s Law School in Bangalore on, “Is the Indian Supreme Court Still People’s Court?” in late May.

Prof. Madeline Kass presented on “Biodiversity Law in the EU and US” at University College Cork in Cork, Ireland for the Environmental Law Conference on April 20.

Prof. Jack Kirkwood presented his forthcoming article, “Antitrust and Output,” at the symposium in honor of Robert Lande held at the University of Baltimore Law Center. **Prof. Kirkwood** also presented comments on “Fixing ‘Litigating The Fix,’” a forthcoming article by Steven Salop and Jennifer Sturiale, at the 23rd Annual Antitrust Colloquium at Loyola University Chicago.

Assistant Dirs. Melissa Lee and Jessica Levin presented at two CLEs regarding strategies for litigating issues of race and racism. On March 10, they presented *Tools for Litigating Race and Racism in the Lifecycle of a Criminal Case* at the Office of Public Defense Spring Training CLE; on March 17, they presented *Tools for Developing a Record on Race* at The Defender Initiative’s Gideon at 60

conference. Both presentations focused on how to leverage existing law, social science, and race disproportionality data to ensure courts continue to address the role of race in the criminal legal system. Additionally, **Assistant Dirs. Melissa Lee and Jessica Levin**, along with Paul Lawrence of Pacifica Law Group, gave a panel presentation on state constitutional litigation for the SU Law chapter of the American Constitution Society on April 20.

Prof. Ron Slye was recently the keynote speaker at the Gonzaga Journal of International Law's annual symposium, "Scope of the Ukraine War: An Ontological Question of International Law." His keynote speech, "Indicting Putin: Implications for Justice and Peace," discussed the recent indictments issued by the International Criminal Court against Russian President Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova, the Russian Presidential Commissioner for Children's Rights and the implications these indictments have on the prospects for peace and accountability with respect to the Ukraine conflict.

Dean Tony Varona and **Assistant Dean Gerald Heppler** served as panelists, together with one other dean-admissions dean duo, at the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) Annual Meeting session entitled *Succeeding Together: How to Support – and Be Supported By – Your Dean*, on June 2nd in San Diego.

Dean Tony Varona and **Prof. Danieli Evans** conducted a mock 1L class on *Loving v. Virginia* at the 2023 LSAC Pre-Law Undergraduate Scholars (PLUS) Pipeline Program at Heritage University in Toppenish, WA on June 17th.

Dean Tony Varona moderated a panel featuring WA Supreme Court Justices for the 2023 LSAC PLUS Pipeline Program at Heritage University on June 17th.

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni **Alicia Ashcroft '99, Jeffrey Barr '99, and Alicia Johnson '04** were all named Top Rank Attorneys by Nevada Business Magazine earlier this month.

David Beyersdorf '01 was appointed by California Governor Newsom to serve as Judge on the Toulumne County Superior Court.

Alumni **Maya Bradshaw, Jordan Butler, Kameron Powell**, and

Dontay Proctor-Mills, all Class of 2023, received bar scholarships from the Loren Miller Bar Association at the Annual Burton Memorial Scholarship Dinner.

Nidal Dirini '16 and **Sebastian Toth '16** have both joined [Helsell Fetterman](#).

Derek Red Arrow Frank '18 delivered the [keynote address](#) at the Western Environmental Law Center's Special Reception for the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference.

Karen Goon, '87 was appointed the new Deputy Executive Director of the Port of Seattle, one of the largest and busiest seaport and airport complexes in North America.

Bree Black Horse '13 honored with [Next Gen in Law](#) feature by the Puget Sound Business Journal.

Michelle Igra '99 was appointed by California Governor Newsom to serve as a Judge on the Sacramento County Superior Court.

W. Larry Jefferson '94 was presented the Excellence in Law Award at the Loren Miller Bar Association at the Annual Burton Memorial Scholarship Dinner.

Bridgette Maryman '06 has been named head of the King County Prosecuting Attorney Office's newly formed [gender-based violence and prevention division](#).

Joan Miller '12 was appointed [Chief Executive Officer of the Washington Council for Behavioral Health](#).

Tarra Simmons '17 was featured on [Arnold Ventures](#) on April 25. The profile addressed Tarra's journey from incarceration to law school to the state house. **Dean Emerita Clark '89** was quoted several times in the profile.

Katie Trent '12, CEO of Gene Suarez Salons, was [profiled](#) by Puget Sound Business Journal.

Jackee Walker '12 was presented the Community Service Award at the Loren Miller Bar Association at the Annual Burton Memorial Scholarship Dinner.

Alex West '12 is currently teaching the Housing and Eviction Defense Clinic at the University of Connecticut as a [Visiting Assistant Clinical Professor](#).

MEDIA APPEARANCES, APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS, AND OTHER DISTINCTIONS

Prof. Steven Bender successfully proposed the creation of a new AALS Section on Critical Theories. **Prof. Bender** will serve as the Initial Chair of the newly approved section which will host its first program in Washington DC this January.

Prof. Michael Blasie was selected by The School of New York Times to serve as a Lead Instructor in a course on journalism and the law. The students will be international and American high school students.

Prof. Deirdre Bowen was featured, quoted, and interviewed multiple times over the last several months: KIRO Radio Interview on the [Limitations of Protection Orders re: Podcast Murder](#); [KING5 interview on motion hearings for the Kohberger case](#); KING5 Seattle TV News Interview on [Stalking Murder of Podcaster & Spouse](#); KING5 Seattle TV News Interview on Murder of Gun Safety Advocate; She was quoted in a *Washington Post* article called [Who is Thomas Rice, judge that ruled abortion pill mifepristone is safe? - The Washington Post](#); She was also quoted in the *Spokesman Review* for the [Mifepristone Dueling Rulings](#); Quoted in the *Associated Press* for [Fact Check on Facebook Assertions about what WA SB5599 does regarding Homeless Youth](#); Quoted in *The Lead* for [Dispelling False Assertions about WA SB5599 on protected health care for Run-away Youth](#); King 5 News for the [Family Law Center's campaign](#) on raising awareness for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault; Quoted in *USA Today* for What WA SB5599 says about [Parental Rights & Gender Affirming Care](#); KIRO Radio Interview on Mifepristone Ruling Effect on WA State; Quoted in *Crosscut* about [Washington state's new bill](#) that critics allege gives the state the power to take children from parents; Quoted in *Agence France-Presse* for What does WA SB5599 say about removing children when parents deny gender affirming care. **Prof. Bowen** was also interviewed by Tom Kertscher of Politfact for the new [Protected Health status and youth shelter reporting law](#) and by Eric Togethoff from Washington New Service for a

radio story on the case before the WA State. S. Ct. on public disclosure laws and an exemption for public employees who are survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Harassment or Stalking.

Academic Vice Dean-designate Brooke Coleman [reviewed](#) *Racial Capitalism in the Civil Courts* for JOTWELL. Academic Vice Dean-designate Coleman was also invited to and attended the Holloran Center for Ethical Leadership conference on *Transitioning from Student to Lawyer: Infusing Professional Identity Formation into the Required Curriculum*.

Dir. Kelli Rodriguez Currie was featured in the Seattle University Magazine for an article called "[Double Duties](#)".

Prof. Gillian Dutton and Assoc. Dean Sital Kalantry traveled to India during Spring Break with nine Seattle U Law students as part of an immersion class. The class discussed comparative constitutional law with Jindal Global Law students. Prof. Dutton, Assoc. Dean Kalantry, and the students met the Attorney General, the former Supreme Court Chief Justice, prominent lawyers, and members of the Parliament. They attended a live Parliament session too.

Assistant Dean Matt Etter was recently elected to the NALP (National Association for Law Placement) Regional Leadership Council to serve a 2-year term as a Regional Representative for the West/Rocky Mountain region.

Prof. Danieli Evans was interviewed on KING5 to share her expertise on a [conspiracy case against the former leader of the Proud Boys](#).

Prof. Elizabeth Ford was appointed to the Public Relations Commission by the Washington Legislature.

Assoc. Dean Sital Kalantry organized a roundtable discussion on, "Caste Discrimination and U.S. Law" for the AALS Section on Law and South Asian Studies on April 21. **Assoc. Dean Kalantry** also peer reviewed a paper for the National Law University that examined the use of law review articles written by the Indian Supreme Court in Bangalore's law review.

Prof. Jack Kirkwood was honored at the Lande symposium for his work in setting up and managing the Federal Trade

Commission's first antitrust policy planning office. Bill Kovacic (GW and former Chair of the FTC) devoted his entire presentation to Jack's work, referring to the "Kirkwood Model" of policy planning and saying it was so effective that it was copied in other countries. Additionally, **Prof. Jack Kirkwood** was asked by the FTC to take the leadership role in preparing a law and economics professors' brief in support of its decision to block the merger of Illumina and Grail. The case is before the Fifth Circuit and involves a potential revolution in cancer detection.

Prof. Jack Kirkwood spoke to KIRO 7 News about Microsoft's nearly \$70 billion merger with Activision Blizzard on June 13th.

Assistant Dir. Melissa Lee, along with **Civil Rights Clinic students** from fall semester, drafted and submitted an amicus brief on behalf of the Korematsu Center and Columbia Legal Services, in *Human Rights Defense Center v. Uttecht* in the Ninth Circuit. The amicus brief supported HRDC's First Amendment challenge to the Washington Department of Corrections Policy that prevents people who are incarcerated from possessing case law involving Washington prisoners. The brief discussed how the DOC policy is singular among states in the Ninth Circuit in how restrictive it is, as well as the impact of the DOC policy on prisoners attempting to file both personal restraint petitions and other civil rights claims.

Dir. Isabel Freitas Peres taught a two-day class titled Comparative Corporate law for master's students at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Cali in Colombia. The course covered business associations topics with a focus in the differences and similarities between the laws of the U.S, Brazil, and Colombia.

Seattle University School of Law received a B+ in Intellectual Property and was spotlighted as one of the "25 leaders in online offerings" for the Flex JD Program in the [PreLaw Magazine Spring Issue](#). **3L Student Dontay Proctor-Mills** was nominated as one of 8 Law Students of the Year in the same edition of PreLaw Magazine.

The Workers' Rights Clinic presented a bill to the Legislature on April 12 that authorizes the Department of Labor and Industries to demand interest on behalf of workers in all cases wage theft and prohibits the department from waiving interest absent a request from the affected worker. **Prof. Elizabeth Ford** and her

students wrote the bill, testified on its behalf, and advocated for it behind the scenes through to the end. The Washington State Senate voted in favor of the bill. Also, the **Workers' Rights Clinic students, David Fernandez Antelo and James Stafford**, advocated for a bill signed by Governor Inslee. This bill will require the Department of Labor and Industries to collect interest on all unpaid wages.

Anthony E. Varona | Dean and Professor of Law

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