

Seattle University School of Law

Seattle University School of Law Digital Commons

Good Newsletter

Law School Publications

2-20-2024

Good Newsletter February 20, 2024

Seattle University School of Law Dean

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.seattleu.edu/goodnewsletter>

Recommended Citation

Dean, Seattle University School of Law, "Good Newsletter February 20, 2024" (2024). *Good Newsletter*. 11. <https://digitalcommons.law.seattleu.edu/goodnewsletter/11>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Law School Publications at Seattle University School of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Good Newsletter by an authorized administrator of Seattle University School of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact coteconor@seattleu.edu.



GOOD NEWS*letter*

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

Please contribute to the next **GOOD NEWS**letter by emailing

Contact Email

February 20, 2024

Dear Faculty and Staff Colleagues –

The Spring Semester is in full swing, and our community continues to shine as an example of excellence in our public engagement, leadership, and production of scholarship in law. Congratulations to our many community members featured below, who have recent publications, presentations and awards, media appearances, and other distinctions.

Congratulations to the many faculty and staff colleagues who represented Seattle University School of Law at the Annual American Association of Law Schools (AALS) Conference last month. In addition to being one of the most visible law schools among presenters at the conference, we sponsored or co-sponsored multiple events throughout the conference, including a lively and popular Seattle Tastes & Sounds Soirée that enabled us to showcase our faculty productivity, intellectual life, and outstanding new professors.

Earlier this month, we hosted Julie Nordstrom '90 for another edition of the [Dean's Luminaries in Law Lecture &](#)

Upcoming Notable Events

The 31st Annual PILF Auction is on Saturday, February 24 from 5:30-9:30 pm at the Grand Hyatt Seattle.

Luminaries in Law w/ Fred Rivera will take place on Wednesday, March 6 from 4:30-6:30 pm in Room 110 at Seattle University School of Law.

Upcoming Notable Presentations

[Conversation Series](#). We were delighted to be joined by President Eduardo Peñalver, who served as a co-interviewer, and who helped discuss with Julie her distinguished service on governance boards and advocacy for health equity.

We also celebrate and recognize our distinguished Seattle University School of Law alumnus [Craig Sims](#) '97, this year's University Service Award recipient at the 2024 SU Alumni Awards. Craig was recognized for his outstanding leadership, mentoring, and teaching. He is an extraordinary member of our community, and we are thrilled that he has received this important and richly deserved recognition.

I look forward to celebrating with many of you at the 31st Annual Public Interest Law Foundation (PILF) Auction and Gala on February 24. Thanks to our colleagues from the Special Events Team, ATJI, Development and Alumni Relations, Marketing and Communications, student leaders from the PILF Board and many more who have worked to make this year's auction come to life.

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

Please do not forget to share your good news with us at [Contact Email](#).

Warmest wishes for continued success through the remainder of the Spring Semester.

#SeattleULawSoars!

Anthony E. Varona
Dean and Professor

PUBLICATIONS

Profs. Deborah Ahrens and Nazune Menka wrote

Prof. Pilar Escontrías will be speaking at Race, Legal Education, and Community Power, hosted by the [Center on Race, Inequality, and the Law at NYU Law](#), [the Bernstein Institute for Human Rights at NYU Law](#), and the [Center for Institutional and Social Change at Columbia Law School](#) on February 22 from 5:00-8:00 pm.

Prof. Michael Blasie was invited by the University of Houston's Institute for Plain English Research and Study (IPERS) to present at the Biannual Forum on Plain English in late February. The presentation is titled, "How Laws Can Help and Hurt Plain Language Legal Documents."

Vice Dean Brooke Coleman was invited to speak on a panel of civil procedure experts at Yale Law School's Law & Political Economy Project in March.

Prof. Jessica Levin will present her article, "A Path Toward Race-Conscious Standards for Youth: Translating Adulthood Bias Theory into Doctrinal Interventions in Criminal Court," at UC San Francisco's Law

chapters for a book called, *Integrating Doctrine and Diversity: Volume 2*. The book will be published in February.

Assoc. Dean Steven Bender has a forthcoming co-written afterword for the 2023 LatCrit Symposium sponsored by Cornell Law School titled, “Preparing for the Reckoning of Law with Justice: Organizing LatCrit Hemispherically for Systemic and Material Power.” Also, **Assoc. Dean Bender** has a forthcoming foreword from the 2023 EPOCH Conference, titled, “Going Forward: The Role of Affirmative Action, Race, and Diversity in University Admissions and the Broader Construction of Society.” Finally, **Assoc. Dean Bender’s** article, “[Revised ABA Standard 303: Curricular, Pedagogical, and Substantive Questions](#),” has been published on *SUpra*.

Prof. Michael Blasie’s second-edition book, *United States Plain Language Laws*, was published by Wolters Kluwer in December. The new edition adds 230 new plain language laws from across the United States and updates the data on national trends and breakdowns on plain language in the private and public sectors. Also, **Prof. Blasie** was invited by *Clarity*, the world’s largest organization focused on promoting plain legal language and design, to author an article in a special 2024 edition of **The Clarity Journal**. The article is tentatively titled, “Plain Language Surges Among Governments Across the World.” Finally, **Prof. Blasie** published, “The Unkillable Learning Styles Myth,” in the Journal of the Legal Writing Institute.

Prof. Robert Boruchowitz filed an amicus brief, co-authored with Jason Schwarz, in the Washington State Supreme Court on whether it violated due process and the right to counsel when an accused incarcerated person’s appointed lawyers were unable to work on their case for at least 18 months because the workload was excessive.

Prof. Robert Chang co-wrote an amicus brief with a team and pro-bono counsel from Morgan Lewis that was filed last year in a case in which [Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court](#) became the first court in the country to ban all life without parole sentences for those who were under 21 when they committed their crimes.

Profs. Robert Chang and Margaret Chon co-authored a book chapter, “The Indians Who Were Not Heard and the Band That Must Not be Named: Racial Formation and Social Justice in Intellectual Property Law,” in *The Cambridge Handbook on Intellectual Property and Social*

Journal Spring Symposium.

Prof. Michael Blasie was invited by the Syracuse University department of Rhetoric and Technical Communication to present on plain language laws in April.

Drs. Lily Su and Isabel Freitas Peres were invited by the Association of Academic Support Educators to present at their annual conference in May. **Drs. Su and Freitas Peres** will present on their PLEDGE Fellowship experience, what they learned about collecting qualitative data, and their research findings.

Prof. Katy Boling will present her paper, “Quotation Marks, Civility, and Belonging: How Conventions for Quotation Can Affect Legal Culture in a System of Textualized Precedent,” and join a discussion panel, “Plagiarism in the Law and in Legal Education,” at the Legal Writing Institute’s Biennial Conference in July.

Justice.

Prof. Jeremiah Chin helped Our Children's Trust and Catherine Smith write an [Amicus Brief](#) in *Trump v. Anderson*.

Prof. Margaret Chon's review of *Abitron v. Hetronic* (U.S. 2023,) regarding extraterritoriality of the Lanham Act, was published by the *Chicago-Kent Journal of Intellectual Property* as part of its annual Supreme Court IP Review.

Assoc. Dir. Ashley Cummins published an article, "[How Seattle University School of Law Nurtures Social Justice Advocates](#)," in an ABA blog called *After The Bar*. The article shares **ATJI's** commitment to training our law students to become powerful advocates for social justice.

Prof. Danieli Evans has a forthcoming article, "The Violence of Ostracism, 29 Mich J. Race & L. (2024)".

Prof. Elizabeth Ford's article, "Alt-Legal Services: Re-Visioning Lawyer's Role in the Fight for Worker Power," has been accepted for publication in Volume 46:1 of the *Berkeley Journal on Employment and Labor Law*.

Assoc. Dean Sital Kalantry had a new op-ed, "[Outdated green card laws hurt workers from India](#)," published in the *Seattle Times* on the impact of immigration law on skilled workers from India. Also, **Assoc. Dean Kalantry** published a chapter, "[Unacceptable justifications for crimes, including crimes committed in the name of so-called 'honour'](#)," in *Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence*. Lastly, **Assoc. Dean Kalantry** published a chapter, "[Surrogacy in the United States of America: from prohibition to permission](#)," in a forthcoming book, *Research Handbook on Surrogacy and the Law*.

Prof. Jack Kirkwood wrote an amicus brief, at Amazon's request, and submitted it to the Washington State Supreme Court in a case accusing Amazon of "price gouging" during the pandemic. Also, **Prof. Kirkwood** was invited to write an article on the federal government's new, "Merger Guidelines," for the May Issue of the *CPI Antitrust Chronicles*.

Prof. Jessica Levin's article, "A Path Toward Race-Conscious Standards for Youth: Translating Adulthood Bias Theory into Doctrinal Interventions in Criminal Court," was accepted by UC San Francisco's *Law Journal on Gender and Justice*. The article demonstrates how

advocates can leverage empirical literature regarding adultification bias to craft doctrinal interventions that recognize and remedy the disproportionately harsh treatment of Black youth in the juvenile and adult criminal legal system.

Assistant Dirs. Jessica Levin and Melissa Lee, along with **Civil Rights Clinic students from Fall 2023**, filed an amicus brief before the Washington Supreme Court in *State v. Kelly*, highlighting race disparities in those who receive longer sentences due to weapons enhancements. The brief adds additional data and analysis that bolsters the Washington Department of Corrections' own report that found that people of color are more likely to receive weapon enhancements than white individuals convicted for the same types of crimes. The brief, filed on behalf of Freedom Project, Civil Survival, Korematsu Center, King County Department of Public Defense, and Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, urges the Court to overturn a precedent that prevents judges from exercising discretion regarding the application of these sentencing enhancements, where there is otherwise a basis for a mitigated sentence. The brief also includes narratives of people of color who are currently incarcerated and serving disproportionate sentences due to the weapons enhancements, even though they were otherwise entitled to a downward departure.

Assistant Dean Diogo Magalhaes will contribute an article to a book, *Civil Procedure Law and Advocacy – Practical and Controversial Themes*, being edited by the São Paulo State Bar Association.

PRESENTATIONS and TESTIMONY

Profs. Thomas Antkowiak, Erin Carr, and Ron Slye presented at a Washington State Bar Association webinar commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on January 26. **Prof. Antkowiak** discussed the perils faced by human rights defenders, **Prof. Erin Carr** presented the right to education, and **Prof. Slye** offered a critique on international criminal justice.

Prof. Steven Bender presented multiple times in January: **Prof Bender** was a panelist for the Society of American Law Teachers/ American Constitution Society Cover Workshop, “Stepping Out of the Ivory Tower: How

Academic Activists Can Make a Difference in the Real World,” on January 5; **Prof. Bender** moderated, “Teaching Critical Theory: Resources, Resilience, and Reflection,” and “Does ABA Standard 303 Compliance Require Criticality?” at the AALS Critical Theories Section at the Annual AALS Conference on January 6; **Prof. Bender** moderated and organized, “Organizing for Critical Inclusion in the Legal Academy,” at Georgetown University Law Center on January 6; **Prof. Bender** presented, “Future Listing Right Purchase Contracts and Land Title,” at a Washington State Bar True to Life Title CLE on January 23; Finally, **Prof. Bender** presented, “Revised ABA Standard 303: Curricular, Pedagogical, and Substantive Questions,” as part of the Faculty Development Series at UNLV School of Law on January 25.

Prof. Robert Chang spoke on a virtual panel called, “History Repeating: Legislative Impact of Alien Land Laws,” co-sponsored by Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton and the Racial Justice Task Force of the South Asian Bar Association of North America. Also, **Prof. Chang** spoke on, “Exposing the Impact of Curriculum and Book Bans: Education for the Public and Not the Few,” through a virtual webinar called PEN America and American Bar Association Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice.

Prof. Robert Chang, Assistant Dirs. Jessica Levin, and Melissa Lee presented at Social Justice Monday at Seattle University School of Law and spoke on, “The Lasting Legacy of Fred T. Korematsu.”

Prof. Gillian Dutton, in her role as Co-Chair of the AALS Section on International Clinical Legal Education and Co-Chair of the AALS Subcommittee on International and Semester Away Externships, helped organize a Lightning Round on, “Teaching Wellness Around the Globe,” and another Lightning round on, “Teaching Restorative Justice Around the Globe.” Also, **Prof. Dutton** presented in December to the Jindal Global University Clinical Professors on the topic of, “Trauma Informed Lawyering.” Finally, **Profs. Dutton, Ron Slye, Teri Rogers Kemp** have received another two-year grant from the Department of State and the Aspen Institute to teach the Transitional Justice Legal Exchange, a virtual collaboration with colleagues in Morocco in which students learn about the successful restorative justice process in Morocco and apply it to work on racial Justice in the United States. **Prof. Dutton** presented on this innovative international collaboration last November at the International Virtual Education Conference (IVEC) in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Prof. Danieli Evans presented, “The Violence of Ostracism,” in the ACS Public Law Junior Scholars Workshop on January 5 and “Beyond Equality to Belonging,” on the Law and Social Science on January 6 at the AALS Conference in Washington D.C.

Prof. Jack Kirkwood was asked by the Democratic Attorneys General Association to speak at their Seattle Policy Conference on antitrust enforcement. Jack’s panel, on price fixing, will be chaired by Phil Weiser, the Colorado AG.

Prof. Tayyab Mahmud presented a paper titled, “Hybrid Regimes and Constitutionalism: The Case of Pakistan,” at the AALS Section on Law and South Asia.

Dean Tony Varona spoke on a virtual panel for law school deans hosted by the AALS Section on Law School Deans entitled “Expanding Sources of Law School Revenue” on February 13th. At the AALS Annual Meeting, Dean Varona spoke on a Hot Topic panel entitled, *Legal Education in a World Without the Bar Exam*, on January 5th, with experts from across the nation on attorney licensure reform.

ALUMNI NEWS

Martha “Marti” Collins was appointed Executive Director of Healthy Gulf, the environmental advocacy nonprofit focused on the Gulf of Mexico and adjoining coastal communities.

Jocelyn Cooney ’15, Noe Merfeld ’20, Andres Muñoz ’15, Paolo Sy ’13, and Julie A. Turley ’14 have joined the newest class for the [Washington Leadership Institute fellows](#).

Ashley Gammell ’15 was made [partner](#) at K&L Gates on January 1.

Angela J. Kaake ’00 was appointed by Governor Jay Inslee to [the King County Superior Court](#) on January 15.

Matthew Kelly ’14 was made [principal](#) at Foster Garvey PC in early January.

King County Prosecutor, Leesa Manion ’96, in partnership with Martin Luther King County Labor Council,

convened a summit of 100 advocates, unions, prosecutors, defenders, and others to talk about the King County Prosecutor's role in ending wage theft on February 9. **3L Student Joe Phillippi**, on behalf of the Worker's Rights Clinic, described the reality of wage theft and the grinding effects on our clients through a description of the case he has been working on.

Julie Pendleton '17 was made principal at Lasher Holzapfel Sperry & Ebberson, PLLC on January 1.

Craig Sims '97, received the University Service Award at the 2024 SU Alumni Awards.

Jonathan Sprouffs '07 was presented with the Local Hero Award by the [Washington State Bar Association](#) on December 8 in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Thurston County community.

Seattle University School of Law 1L Legal Writing Faculty brought former alumni, **Chelan Crutcher '07**, **Kristen Gestaut '07**, **Dan Hsieh '15**, and **Jamie McFarlane '08**, to the law school to speak about client counseling to legal writing students.

MEDIA APPEARANCES, APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS, AND OTHER DISTINCTIONS

Prof. Steven Bender won the 2024 Society of American Law Teachers' (SALT) [Great Teacher Award](#).

Prof. Robert Boruchowitz argued a case in the Court of Appeals Division III on January 24 to seek reversal of a decision by the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board. This case involves the application of the statute that provides a release opportunity for people who were convicted of murder when they were under 18 and have now served at least 25 years in prison. Also, **Prof. Boruchowitz** won a case in the Court of Appeals, Division III, Re: Donald Lambert. This was a personal restraint petition that began in Fall of 2022, challenging the Indeterminate Sentence Review Board (ISRB) denial of the client's petition for release. The Court ruled, "Because the ISRB's decision fails to meaningfully apply RCW 10.95.030(2)(f)'s presumption of release, we grant Lambert's petition and direct the ISRB to grant Lambert a new hearing." **Seattle U Law Students, Michael Yelle**

and Alex van Belle, assisted on the original case. **Assoc. Dean Paul Holland**, and **Assistant Dirs. Jessica Levin and Melissa Lee** helped with a moot court preparation.

Prof. Robert Chang has been selected to receive the 2024 Mentor of the Year Award at the Korean American Bar Association of Washington's 33rd Annual Banquet on February 15.

Prof. Elizabeth Ford and the Worker's Rights Clinic's bill, [HB 2097](#), passed the Washington House on a bipartisan basis.

Assoc. Dean Erin Fullner was featured in a profile, "[Beyond the Bar Number](#)," by the Washington State Bar News on December 15.

Assoc. Dean Sital Kalantry's co-authored book, *Court on trial*, was launched in New Delhi at JGU International Academy on January 28.

Prof. Jack Kirkwood has made several media appearances recently: **Prof. Kirkwood** was quoted several times in an article, "[WA suit to block Kroger-Albertsons merger gets cheers, raised eyebrows](#)," in the *Seattle Times*; **Prof. Kirkwood** was quoted in *New York Magazine* in an article on [Lina Kahn's tenure as Chair of the FTC](#); **Prof. Kirkwood** was quoted by the *Capitol Forum* in its article on Bob Ferguson's challenge to the Kroger/Albertson's merger; Finally, **Prof. Kirkwood** was quoted by *OSV*, a Catholic publication, in its article on the [Supreme Court's reconsideration of Chevron](#).

Assistant Dir. Jessica Levin provided a testimony in support of [S.B. 6063](#) on January 15, 2024, before the Senate Human Services Committee. The proposed legislation would prevent an offense committed by those under the age of 18 from counting as a strike under Washington's Persistent Offender Accountability Act, which imposes mandatory life without parole upon the third strike. It would also apply retroactively, giving relief to those already serving LWOP based on juvenile strikes.

Assistant Dean Diogo Magalhaes represented the law school in the International Visitor Leadership Program at Seattle University and met with participants from Australia, Japan, and India to discuss how our programs promote STEM-related research excellence on December 18. Also, **Assistant Dean Magalhaes** was the faculty speaker at the commencement ceremony for the MBL-FU

program at the Freie Universtat Berlin on January 29. He has been the inaugural lecturer in the program for the last three years.

Prof. Tayyab Mahmud appeared twice via zoom on *Voice of America International Service* to discuss South Africa's case against Israel before the ICJ and cross-border air strikes between Iran and Pakistan.

Prof. Sara Rankin was quoted in an article, "[King County cities' approach to homelessness in Supreme Court's hands](#)," in the *Seattle Times*.

Prof. Zaida Rivera has been elected President-Elect for the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington.

Dean Tony Varona was asked and will join the Executive Committee of the AALS Section for the Law School Dean. Also, **Dean Varona** has been elected as a fellow to the American Bar Foundation, and named to the National Jurist's list of the 20 most influential legal educators in the nation.

Seattle University School of Law's Center for Indian Law and Policy (CILP) will be hosting the WSBA's 36th Annual Indian Law CLE from May 16-17.

Seattle University School of Law received an "A" and "top law school" rating in International Law in *preLaw Magazine*. Also, **Seattle University School of Law** received "top law school" in Employment Law and "A-" in great company with schools that have longstanding Employment Law programs.

Seattle University School of Law's Academic Resource Center and Bar Success Program received "Honorable Mention" in Bloomberg Law's Law School Innovation Program for their submission of, "Seattle University School of Law's Preparing Students for Success on the NextGen Bar Exam."

Anthony E. Varona | Dean and Professor of Law

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Address

Contact Number

Profile Links

he, him, his

// AT THE HEART OF LAW

AT THE HEART OF LAW

Address