

Seattle University School of Law

Seattle University School of Law Digital Commons

Good Newsletter

Law School Publications

5-6-2024

Good Newsletter May 06, 2024

Seattle University School of Law Dean

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



GOOD NEWS*letter*

Celebrating recent community accomplishments
and noting important upcoming events

Please contribute to the next GOOD NEWSletter by emailing [Contact Email](#)

May 6, 2024

Dear Faculty and Staff Colleagues,

With another academic year coming to a close, there is a whirlwind of activity around Sullivan Hall. It reminds me how lucky I am – how lucky we all are – to be part of such a vibrant community. As is made evident by all of the good news you shared with us, this has been a highly successful (and busy!) semester.

Upcoming Notable Events

BLSA Graduation and Alumni Awards Ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 16 on the Second Floor Gallery at Seattle University School of Law from 5:00-7:00 pm.

The School of Law continued building upon its reputation as a convening institution by hosting a number of high-profile conferences and events that attracted local, national, and global audiences, including the ABA's Language Access Conference, the Berle Symposium, the Seattle Journal for Social Justice Symposium, the weekly Social Justice Mondays, several student and alumni networking opportunities, and many other events. Looking toward the summer and fall, Sullivan Hall will continue to host prominent conferences, including the ABA's New Deans Workshop and Deans Workshop.

We found many wonderful reasons to celebrate our community, including the installation of Professor Russell Powell as the Father John Topel Endowed Scholar in Catholic Social Thought and Justice, the Woman of the Year Ceremony held in honor of Bree Black Horse '13, the large number of student-led end-of-year banquets and graduation ceremonies, and several highly successful fundraisers, including the annual PILF Auction and a special event held for the Family Law Center.

Our community's intellectual life was on display through a number of events, including the inaugural Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic Distinguished Lecture featuring Professor Devon Carbado; two Luminaries in Law events featuring Julie Nordstrom '90, a retired attorney and board member for the Fred Hutch Cancer Center and the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation, among other organizations, and Fred Rivera, the Executive Vice President and General Counsel of the Seattle Mariners; and a variety of development workshops for faculty and lectures for the student body and general public.

The Hybrid Hubs initiative continued to build steam, with the South Sound Hybrid Hub officially launching its partnership with University of Washington Tacoma. We also developed a joint MBA/JD program with Alaska Pacific University, co-hosting an event in Anchorage in early April; and we made significant progress toward Hybrid Hub partnerships (and forthcoming launches) in both Alaska and Central Washington. And we celebrated the adoption by the Washington Supreme Court of innovative reforms to attorney licensure that several Seattle U Law faculty and administrative leaders played key roles in devising and presenting to the Court.

In short, there is a lot of good news. And this is on top of everything that many of you shared with us about your

LLSA Graduation and Alumni Awards

Ceremony will take place on Thursday, May 16 on the Court Level at Seattle University School of Law from 7:00-9:00 pm.

Seattle University School of Law's Baccalaureate

Mass will be on Friday, May 17 from 4:30-5:30 pm at the Chapel of St. Ignatius. A reception will follow at Seattle University School of Law at 5:30 pm.

Seattle University School of Law's Commencement

Ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 18 at 10:00 am at Marion Oliver McCaw Hall.

Upcoming Notable Presentations

Dean Tony

Varona will be the keynote speaker for the Eastside Legal Assistance Program (ELAP) Breakfast for Justice on May 23.

Also, **Dean Varona** will be the keynote speaker for QLaw's 19th Annual Banquet on May 30.

publications, presentations, testimony, media appearances, and more. Simply put, I am proud of everything our community accomplished this year, and I look forward to more good news as we prepare for next year.

Best wishes on wrapping up your semester. Please do not forget to share your good news with us at

Contact Email

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the top that loops back down into the first letter.

Anthony E. Varona

Dean and Professor

PUBLICATIONS

Vice Dean Deborah Ahrens will be publishing her law review article, “Clemency for the Common Good,” in the *Brooklyn Law Review* in the Fall of 2024.

Prof. Thomas Antkowiak published an essay in *Just Security* titled, “[Can we defend the defenders? On the safety of front-line human rights workers.](#)” The piece, a tribute to **Prof. Antkowiak’s** close friend Ricardo Lagunes who was killed in Mexico last year, discussed the perils currently faced by human rights advocates in the Global South, and proposed ways the international community can better protect them.

Assoc. Dean Steven Bender’s tribute article with Ediberto Roman titled, “Sin Vergüenza: Michael Olivas and Crop Cultivation,” was published in the *Houston Law Review* on April 29.

Assistant Dean Diogo Magalhães will present his paper, “The Trouble with Trebles, and Our Imperfect Pursuit of Substantive Justice,” at the Conflict of Laws Workshop on May 10 at Willamette University College of Law.

Prof. Michael Blasie's article, "The Duty to Make Contracts Understandable," has been accepted for publication by the *Columbia Business Law Review*.

Prof. Emer. Lisa Brodoff co-authored an article, with SU Economics Professor Bridget Hiedemann and her former student Quiping Xue, entitled, "[Marriage Equality and Activity Limitations among Older Adults in Same-Sex Relationships](#)," in March. They studied 48,098 older adults with same-sex partners/spouses, and estimated the relationship between legal Same Sex Marriage (SSM) and the presence of activity limitations in older adults. They found that the likelihood of activity limitations was statistically significantly lower in states where SSM had been legal for at least five years or where SSM had become legal at the state level relative to a state without SSM. They also found that men and women who were living with a same-sex spouse were less likely than their counterparts who were living with an unmarried same-sex partner to experience activity limitations. Also, **Prof. Emer. Brodoff** co-authored an article, with Mitchell Hamline Law Professor Thaddeus Pope, entitled, "[Medical aid in dying to avoid late-stage dementia](#)," in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*. The article tells the story of her friend Cody who was diagnosed with early Alzheimer's and wanted to avoid late-stage dementia. She began voluntary stopping of eating and drinking (VSED) and three days in was found eligible for a medical aid in dying (MAID) prescription. They discuss the legality of using VSED as a bridge to MAID.

Prof. Erin Carr authored an op-ed titled, "[The People'/Personhood Paradox](#)," in the LA Daily News exploring how the courts are narrowing the definition of "the people" while expanding the definition of "a person" to include non-viable fetuses. Also, **Prof. Carr** co-authored two articles: "Anti-Wokeism' and Authoritarianism: A Renewed Call for A Constitutional Right to Education" with SU Law Student, Nabil Yousfi, forthcoming in the spring edition of the *Syracuse Law Review* and "Assessing the Potential Consequences of *Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA)* on the Small Business Development Program," with Ralph Capio forthcoming in the spring edition of the *California Western Law Review*.

Prof. Robert Chang has a forthcoming publication, "Our Constitution Has Never Been Colorblind," that will be published in the *Seton Hall Law Review*. Also, **Prof. Chang** filed an amicus brief in the Ninth Circuit, with pro

bono counsel Friedman Kaplan, urging the court to recognize an intersectional Batson claim, when two African American women were peremptorily struck. Finally, **Prof. Chang** filed an amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court, with pro bono counsel from Selendy Gay and Asian Americans Advancing Justice, in *Department State v. Muñoz*. The amicus brief sought to inform the Court of the racist origins of the doctrine of consular nonreviewability in a case involving a decision by a consular officer denying an application by a U.S. citizen woman to regularize the state of her non-U.S. citizen husband. The officer's decision has resulted in the couple having had to live apart for the last 8 years.

Prof. Margaret Chon has a forthcoming essay entitled, "Relational Innovation and the Public Benefits of Copying," in the *Berkeley Technology Law Journal*. Also, **Prof. Chon** has a forthcoming response entitled, "The Purpose of Progress? A Response to Ned Snow's Immorality and Intellectual Property," in the *Texas A&M Property Law Journal*.

Prof. Richard Delgado has several forthcoming articles that will be published in 2024 and 2025: "Race or Class? New Directions for Critical Theory," 74 Case W. Res. L. Rev.; "Rodrigo's Extra-Credit Assignment, Can Pleading Be Both Plausible and Fair?" 12 Tex. A&M L. Rev.; "Two Kinds of Participatory Legal Scholarship," *Va. L. Rev.* online; "Doorbell Monitors, Pest Alarms, Neighborhood Chat Groups, and a Second Fundamental Contradiction," 75 Case W. Res. L. Rev.

Prof. Richard Delgado and Prof. Jean Stefancic have a forthcoming article, "What's Your Name? I Don't Like It, Please Change," Ala. C.R.-C.L. L. Rev., expected to be published in Fall of 2024.

Assoc. Dean Sital Kalantry published a solicited op-ed, "[Why the wait for a green card is endless](#)," in *The Times of India* on March 4. Also, **Assoc. Dean Kalantry** published a chapter in *Research Handbook on Surrogacy Law* called, "Surrogacy Law in the United States: From Prohibition to Permission." Assoc. Dean Kalantry described the legislative advocacy and conversations around the repeal of New York state's ban on surrogacy as a reflection of the new perspectives that have emerged in the U.S. since *Baby M*.

Prof. Jack Kirkwood has worked on several forthcoming

publications and amicus briefs this Spring: “The New Limits on Antitrust,” was accepted for publication by the *Florida State University Law Review*; “Common Ownership and the Merger Guidelines,” was accepted for publication by the *CPI Antitrust Chronicles*; and was invited to submit an article for a book honoring the scholarship of Harry First (NYU). **Prof. Kirkwood** plans to write on, “Microsoft and Apple.” **Prof. Kirkwood’s** amicus brief in support of Regeneron, signed by 46 professors, recommended that the Second Circuit reinstate Regeneron’s complaint. In a recent decision, the Second Circuit did reinstate Regeneron’s complaint. Finally, **Prof. Kirkwood** signed onto an amicus brief in the First Circuit in support of the Justice Department’s challenge to the American Airlines/Jet Blue joint venture.

Prof. Melissa Lee, supported by **Profs. Bob Chang and Jessica Levin**, along with co-counsel from Davis Wright Tremaine, filed an amicus brief in the state supreme court in *Personal Restraint of Charles Frazier* on behalf of the Korematsu Center and ACLU of Washington. Mr. Frazier requested a new sentencing hearing on the basis of new evidence of late adolescent brain science, and the amicus brief provided additional context and argument related to how the intersection of Mr. Frazier’s race (Black) and age (18) influenced the original sentencing court’s decision to impose an aggravated sentence.

Assistant Dean Diogo Magalhães has been invited to contribute an article for a special series on, “Differentiated Integration and the European Union,” based on his doctoral thesis.

Prof. Sara Rankin published a piece, “[The Unavoidable Consequences of Being Human](#),” on March 18.

PRESENTATIONS AND TESTIMONY

Vice Dean Deborah Ahrens presented at a CLE for the Washington State Attorney General’s Office on February 21. Vice Dean Ahrens offered Assistant Attorneys General an overview of types of evidence they might introduce and ways in which different forms of litigation use evidence.

Also, **Vice Dean Ahrens** presented at the Benton Franklin County Bar Association's Federal Criminal Seminar about recent and pending federal Supreme Court cases concerning criminal trials on March 22.

Prof. Thomas Antkowiak moderated a panel on the human rights crisis in Mexico and the role of transnational corporations. The virtual event (in Spanish), sponsored by the National Autonomous University of Mexico and several prominent human rights organizations, featured legal experts and leading journalists.

The U.S. Department of State awarded **Prof. Michael Blasie** a Fulbright Award. He will teach a first-of-its-kind course called *Plain Language Drafting and Building Strong Client Relations* to law students in Istanbul, Turkey this summer.

Prof. Robert Boruchowitz moderated and spoke on a panel, "Using the National Defense Workload Study to Advocate for Reform," at the online ABA Public Defense Summit on April 4. Also, **Prof. Boruchowitz** spoke and led a small group discussion, "The Washington State Experience – Working with State Bar to Set Workload Standards," at the National Association for Public Defense Learning Labs on Public Defense Workload Strategies on April 19.

Prof. Emer. Lisa Brodoff and her wife Lynn Grotsky did a presentation for the City of Lacey History Museum on the [second parent adoption fight](#) they won in 1989. Their colleague and friend, the late Professor Raven Lidman, represented them in this historic litigation. This lawsuit helped propel parental rights for LGBTQ parents and their children in a positive direction.

Prof. Robert Chang presented at the 2024 Spring Appellate Conference, "Judicial Power and the Choice that Race Presents," at the Administrative Office of the Courts in Walla Walla, Washington. Also, **Prof. Chang** will be teaching in the Maryland Judicial College program on Structural Inequality for two sessions: "Defining the Problem: A (Partial) History of Race"; and "Machine Bias in the Courts."

Vice Dean Brooke Coleman spoke on two panels: "Law & Political Economy Project & Civil Procedure," at Yale Law School and "Navigating Free Speech on Campus," at

Harvard Law School.

Prof. Richard Delgado and Prof. Jean Stefancic were guest lecturers at a graduate seminar, “Critical Storytelling and Narrative,” at the University of North Texas taught by Aja Martinez and Robert Smith on March 28.

Assoc. Dean Erin Fullner moderated and helped plan a panel, “[Northwest Minority Job Fair’s Opportunities Outside of OCI](#),” with one of our alumni, **Christine Sohn ’23**, a Washington State Court of Appeals clerk.

Assoc. Dean Sital Kalantry presented on the methodology of her recent book, [Court on Trial](#), to the Law as Science Association created by SJD students. Also, **Assoc. Dean Kalantry** presented on India’s relationship with the U.S. in the University of Washington’s International Law Journal Symposium entitled, “A Critical Examination of Decoupling,” on March 22. Speakers included professors, law firm partners, a former ambassador, and a sitting deputy consul general. The symposium investigated the ongoing shifts in the U.S.-China dynamic from a variety of perspectives. Finally, **Assoc. Dean Kalantry** had a fireside chat on April 5 with a Nobel Laureate, Kailash Satyarthi, who received the peace prize jointly with Malala. Kailash Satyarthi and his organization have rescued hundreds of thousands of children from labor trafficking in India.

Prof. Jack Kirkwood presented on the role of state antitrust enforcement to an audience of over a hundred at the Democratic Attorneys General Seattle Policy Conference. Also, **Prof. Kirkwood** presented, “Is the FTC Really Going to Dust Off the Robinson-Patman Act?” to a CLE sponsored by the KCBA Business Law Section.

Profs. Melissa Lee and Jessica Levin presented at the UC Law San Francisco’s symposium on adultification bias on April 5, organized by the Journal of Gender and Justice. **Profs. Lee and Levin** gave a panel presentation about their litigation efforts leveraging adultification bias theory into doctrinal changes for young people accused of crimes in both the juvenile and adult criminal legal systems. Also, **Prof. Levin** contributed two pieces to the journal’s symposium issue which will be released in late April.

Profs. Mimi Samuel and Katy Boling presented a webinar sponsored by Westlaw, “Leveraging Student

Research for Social Justice,” in which they described the Real Clients in the First Year Project (aka Collaborative Memo) on February 23.

Dir. Lily Su presented, “Fostering Democracy: Promoting Access to Justice through Pro Bono Service,” at the “Law Day” event sponsored by Clallam-Jefferson County Pro Bono Lawyers on May 3.

Assistant Dean Feven Teklu presented “Lessons Learned: Building Capacity, Networks, and Anti-Racist Programming at Brown Advancement,” at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) District VII and VIII Conference on March 4.

Dean Tony Varona spoke at several events this spring, including: giving remarks alongside President Peñalver and the leadership of University of Washington Tacoma at the launch of the South Sound Hybrid Hub in Tacoma on March 11; plenary remarks at the HNBA Corporate Counsel Conference on March 21; giving remarks at the Alaska Pacific University and Seattle University School of Law MBA-JD Program launch event in Anchorage on April 4; and presenting a summary of the JD-MBA program with Alaska Pacific University’s Director of the MBA program, Lincoln Garrick, on May 1 to the Alaska Courts.

ALUMNI NEWS

Mary Bent ’23 got an Equal Justice Works Fellowship with the Northwest Justice Project.

Bree R. Black Horse ’13 has been hired by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Washington as [Assistant U.S. Attorney](#). Also, **Bree R. Black Horse ’13** was awarded Seattle University School of Law’s Woman of the Year award in March.

Bree R. Black Horse ’13 and **Erika J. Evans ’15** were featured in the 2024 class for the Puget Sound Business Journal’s (PSBJ), “[40 Under 40 business leaders](#).”

Dan Hsieh ’15 was elected President of the Association of Washington Assistant Attorneys General (AWAAG).

Ai-Li Chiong-Martinson '17 and Noe Merfeld '20 have joined Pacifica Law Group as associates in their Litigation practice group.

Jeff Farrah '07 was named by Washingtonian Magazine as one of the “500 Most Influential People Shaping Policy.”

Jessica De Perio Wittman '06 has been promoted to tenured professor at [UConn School of Law](#).

Megan Fore '22 won the [2024 Edward C. Mendrzycki Award](#) from the ABA.

Derek Red Arrow Frank '18 was recognized as one of the National Center for American Indian Economic Development's “[40 Under 40](#)” for 2024.

Angélica María González '19 was featured in HNBA's Top Lawyers Under 40 list for 2024. Also, **Angélica María González '19** received LBAW's 2024 “Abogadas Excepcionales” Award.

Dean “Stan” Perkins '85 won the 2024 Outstanding Mentor Award from the KCBA New Lawyers Division.

Jessica Peyton Roberts '20 has been elected President of the Northwest Indian Bar. Jessica has served on the Governing Council since 2020. The NIBA is a non-profit organization that aspires to improve the legal and political landscape for Pacific Northwest Indian communities.

MEDIA APPEARANCES, APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS, AND OTHER DISTINCTIONS

Prof. Emer. Lisa Brodoff is a member of the National VSED Advance Directive Committee that has developed an [online autofill advance directive](#) for people with dementia who want to refuse oral food and drink at a time

in the future when they may not be able to give consent. **Prof. Emer. Brodoff** worked with the Northwest Justice Project to put the advance directive online and available to people throughout the United States. Also, **Prof. Emer. Brodoff** helped draft and testified in support of SB 5883 – shifting the burden of proof in Special Education administrative hearings from parents/disabled children to school districts. This legislation passed both houses of the Washington State legislature and was signed by Governor Inslee in March. This advocacy started in the Administrative Law Clinic in 2020 as a petition for rulemaking with OSPI to change the burden by rule. OSPI decided not to do it (although they agreed, after first denying, that the agency had the power to do this by rule), claiming that it was too big a policy decision for them to make and needed legislation. SU law graduate and Estate and Disability Planning Clinic student, **Senator Yasmin Trudeau '14**, was their prime sponsor and led the way through a minefield to get this important social justice bill passed resoundingly. They had a terrific coalition of SPED advocates and disability organizations and parents fight for this change. Washington is now the 8th state to do this.

Prof. Erin Carr was interviewed about the City of Everett's decision to charge people to attend the mayor's State of the City address in person on [Fox13 Seattle](#).

Vice Dean Brooke Coleman signed on as a Subject Matter Expert by the National Conference of Bar Examiners.

Assoc. Dean Kristin DiBiase and her colleagues on the Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment advocated for the Nothing About Us Without Us Act ([HB 1541](#)) and it has now passed the Washington State Senate.

Assoc. Dean Kristin DiBiase, Assistant Dean Gerald Heppler, Prof. Jeremiah Chin, Assoc. Dir. Tony Vo, Assistant Dir. Will Bassett, and Logistics Coordinator Arliss Doss planned and supported LawYours: College Edition on Saturday, February 24. This is an expansion of Seattle University School of Law's LawYours program for high school students. Attendees, 30 college students from underrepresented backgrounds, experienced law-related workshops, a student panel, an admission presentation, and a lunch with affinity organization leaders.

Prof. Elizabeth Ford was interviewed by KING 5 for a news story titled, “[Washington lawmakers, constituents debate new supports for striking workers.](#)” Also, **Prof. Ford** and the Worker’s Rights Clinic’s bill, [HB 2097](#), passed the Washington House on a bipartisan basis and the Senate unanimously. Finally, **Prof. Ford** helped a *Seattle Times* reporter with an article, “[Wage theft victims are owed \\$5.4 million that WA hasn’t collected](#),” by explaining the technical aspects of the L&I process and helped the reporter understand what a Wage Recovery Fund is. **Prof. Ford** is also quoted in the article.

Assoc. Dean Paul Holland and Prof. Melissa Lee represented a client in a *Miller v. Alabama* resentencing in Yakima County Superior Court in early February. The client, who was sentenced to serve life without the possibility of parole at age 14, was resentenced to a 25-year minimum term. This outstanding result, along with the fact that he has already served 30 years, means he is now eligible to be considered for parole. Civil Rights Clinic students attended the hearing, and many past clinic students contributed to the sentencing briefing over the course of the three years of preparation.

Assoc. Dean Sital Kalantry spoke to KUOW’s SoundSide show on the [Alabama IVF decision](#). Also, **Assoc. Dean Kalantry** created a new website, <https://www.court-on-trial.com/>, for her co-authored book, *Court on Trial*, which contains many of the news articles that appeared in Indian papers on the book and the various presentations she has given.

Prof. Madeline Kass was awarded a Property and Environment Research Center (PERC) Lone Mountain 2024 Summer Fellowship. As part of the fellowship, Prof. Kass will spend two weeks in residence at PERC’s office in Bozeman, Montana.

Prof. Jack Kirkwood had several media appearances and other news this Spring: Quoted in a front-page story in the *Seattle Times* on the FTC’s lawsuit challenging Kroger’s proposed acquisition of Albertson’s; Interviewed by Reuters about Capital One’s proposed acquisition of Discover Financial Services; Asked by a group of Federal Trade Commission attorneys to consult on their investigations of whether certain large firms have violated

the Robinson-Patman Act; Finally, **Prof. Kirkwood** was asked by a leading Seattle antitrust attorney to consult on whether Amazon Web Services violated the Sherman Act.

Prof. Andrew Siegel was quoted in a *Seattle Times* article, “[Cracking the Code](#),” discussing SCOTUS’ Code of Ethics on April 14.

Prof. Dean Spade was interviewed by *Yes! Magazine*, “[No Pride in Genocide: Calling Out Israel’s Pinkwashing](#),” on February 5. Also, **Prof. Spade** spoke on the, “Sunday Show,” on [94.1 KPFA](#) and discussed mutual aid on April 28.

Dir. Lily Su and Dir. Isabel Freitas Peres were included in AccessLex’s recent edition of [Raising the Bar](#) for their PLEDGE Fellowship experience.

Dean Tony Varona was inducted into Alpha Sigma Nu – the Jesuit honor society – on April 30.

Dean Tony Varona, Assoc. Dean Jeff Minneti, Assistant Dean Colin Watrin, Brent Williams-Ruth ’01, Efrain Hudnell ’20, Kameron Powell ’23, and Prof. Robert Chang played key roles in developing and advocating for reforms to the state’s licensure process for new attorneys that culminated in sweeping changes ordered by the [Washington State Supreme Court](#).

Anthony E. Varona | Dean and Professor of Law

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Address

Contact Details

he, him, his

// AT THE HEART OF LAW



Contact Details