SECOND CHANCES
DEDICATED ALUMNI HELP PEOPLE WITH CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS REBUILD THEIR LIVES
A FATHER’S GRIEF,
AN AMERICAN’S HOPE

Gold Star father Khizr Khan visited campus in December for a lecture and book signing, describing his journey from Pakistan to Harvard Law School to the 2016 Democratic National Convention. He continues to speak out on behalf of immigrants. “I have seen hopefulness in the eyes of the community whenever there are lawyers present,” he said.

(Photo by Matthew Lipsen)
Many of you joined us at our special Dean’s Club reception in December to welcome Gold Star father Khizr Khan to campus. He spoke about his book, “An American Family: A Memoir of Hope and Sacrifice,” and his words have stayed with me in the months since.

Mr. Khan grew up in Pakistan and eventually immigrated to the United States, studied at Harvard Law School, and became a naturalized citizen. Tragically, he and his wife lost their youngest son, U.S. Army Capt. Humayun Khan, in 2004. Captain Khan was stationed in Iraq and went to check on the troops under his command - on his day off - when the base was hit by an improvised bomb. Despite his very private persona and his overwhelming grief, Mr. Khan has traveled the country to honor his son’s sacrifice and to speak up for fellow immigrants and Muslim Americans.

Mr. Khan described standing in his dormitory as a law student in Pakistan, living under martial law, reading the Declaration of Independence for the first time and feeling enthralled by the document’s almost inconceivable boldness. In that moment, he took the ideals of America’s founding documents to heart and continues to speak of them with such reverence and admiration that you can’t help but feel elevated in his presence. After all, didn’t we all fall in love at some point with the ideals embedded in the U.S. Constitution? Isn’t that why so many within the legal profession have devoted their careers to the pursuit of justice?

We were also honored to welcome Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein to the law school for an exclusive visit in February. During a “fireside chat” with John McKay, Mr. Rosenstein spoke of the importance of transparency and accountability in government in maintaining the rule of law. He also encouraged our graduates to pursue government service, and consistent with his message of transparency, he answered every single question that was posed by our students – even the tough ones!

In November, our 2017 graduate Tarra Simmons celebrated a landmark victory when the Washington Supreme Court ruled unanimously that she has the requisite character and fitness to practice law, thus permitting her to take the bar exam. Her journey overcoming criminal convictions in her past and becoming a powerful advocate for justice has been made possible by so many of our alumni, who also believe in second chances and are using their education and skills to help individuals such as Tarra.

We’re fortunate to be inspired every day by the work of our incredibly talented and dedicated alumni. We love hearing your stories of inspiration and encourage you to share them through Seattle U Law Connect and our social media sites.

Best,

Annette E. Clark ’89
Dean and Professor of Law
inside this issue

‘I AM ACCOUNTABLE’
Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein visits the law school and answers students’ questions on topics such as the Russia investigation and legalized marijuana.

ALL HANDS ON DECK FOR LEGAL JOBS
The Center for Professional Development launches several innovative programs to help graduates find meaningful employment.

SECOND CHANCES
2017 graduate Tarra Simmons’s fight to take the bar exam illustrates the vital efforts of many alumni to help people rebuild their lives after criminal convictions.

COVER: Tarra Simmons ‘17 emerges from the Temple of Justice for a press conference with her lawyers, Professor John Strait (left) and Shon Hopwood (right). A few hours later, the Washington Supreme Court issued a unanimous decision that she should be allowed to take the bar exam. (Photo courtesy of Christopher Poulos) ABOVE: Bruce Strothers ’96 and his girlfriend, Joanne Charles, attended the Seattle University Gala in October. The event honored Fr. Stephen Sundborg’s 20 years of visionary and transformative leadership as Seattle University’s president.

8
The Briefcase
Law school news

22
Profile
Bill Marler ’87

24
Faculty Showcase
Professor Anna Roberts argues for a change in the rules of evidence.

26
Out & About

28
Profile
Anne Kirkpatrick ’89

30
Class Notes/Memoriam
‘I am accountable,’

deputy attorney general tells students

Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein praised the “extraordinarily principled” and “public-spirited” employees of the U.S. Department of Justice, encouraging students to consider careers in public service during a visit to Seattle University School of Law in February.

Rosenstein visited the law school for an hour-long discussion, moderated by Professor from Practice John McKay. Both men are former U.S. Attorneys.

Rosenstein’s visit came less than a week after he announced the indictment of 13 Russian nationals and three Russian companies accused of spreading misinformation in an attempt to interfere with the 2016 presidential election. Rosenstein directly supervises special counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating Russian interference in the election and possible ties between Russians and President Donald J. Trump’s campaign.

“This is a challenge your generation will have to face, how you filter out the truth from the barrage of real and fake information that you’re being constantly fed,” he told law students.

Rosenstein was in town to announce a new...
$500,000 reward for information in the unsolved 2001 Seattle slaying of federal prosecutor Thomas C. Wales. The Justice Department had already offered a $1 million reward.

Professor McKay asked Rosenstein why he announced the Russia indictments, rather than Mueller. “Bob Mueller is a very quiet man,” he joked, then explained that Mueller is a special counsel, rather than an independent counsel, and Rosenstein reviews his work. “He reports to me and I am accountable for what he does.”

Rosenstein serves under Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who recused himself from the Russia investigation due to his involvement in the Trump campaign, then as a senator from Alabama.

Rosenstein has become a political lightning rod ever since he authored a memo cited by Trump as his basis for firing FBI Director James Comey last spring. In recent months, he’s been attacked by the Tea Party and Trump loyalists for his role in the Mueller investigation.

“Deputy attorney general is typically a low-profile job,” he joked, adding that when he took the job he told his teenage daughter that she wouldn’t ever see his picture in the newspaper.

Student questions covered topics ranging from marijuana legalization to securing evidence from encrypted devices. One student asked him directly whether he would fire Mueller if Trump ordered to do so.

“My responsibility is to remove him only in the event there’s good cause. And there is a standard for what good cause is. You can’t just do it on a whim,” he said. “But that’s the technical answer. The practical answer is that nobody has ordered me to fire him.”

Another student asked if accountability was the most important trait he brings to his job.

“I would say integrity is the most important thing I expect in federal prosecutors,” he said. “Accountability is the way we ensure that.”

Before taking office at the U.S. Department of Justice, Rosenstein served as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland, where he oversaw federal criminal and civil litigation and developed and implemented federal law enforcement strategies in Maryland.

He graduated from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania with a BS in Economics, summa cum laude, in 1986. He earned his JD cum laude in 1989 from Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the Harvard Law Review. He joined the U.S. Department of Justice through the Attorney General’s Honors Program in 1990 and prosecuted public corruption cases as a trial attorney with the Public Integrity Section of the Criminal Division.

“I would say integrity is the most important thing I expect in federal prosecutors. Accountability is the way we ensure that.”

Rod J. Rosenstein
U.S. Deputy Attorney General
All grins at graduation

Our December 2017 Commencement was an intimate and family-friendly affair at The Westin in Seattle. Before entering the ballroom, graduates gathered for a group selfie (top). After the ceremony, they celebrated with loved ones, just as Alexander Jurisch (above) did with his family. Many winter grads balanced families and jobs while attending law school.

Estate gift supports law students

James Henriot, a former Seattle University Regent and Washington native, was a longtime friend of the law school and supporter of Jesuit education. Through a generous designation in his will, he created the James F. Henriot Endowed Scholarship.

This transformative scholarship will allow Seattle U Law students to take advantage of the school’s excellent program of legal education regardless of financial means, offering an opportunity to pursue their professional dreams.

An avid outdoorsman, Henriot followed his own dreams as a climber and summited six of the world’s seven highest peaks. He observed: “There’s a personal satisfaction in reaching a summit, you get so close to nature and God. You are dependent on your companions and they are dependent on you. So you work together as a team. It brings out the best in a person.”

Henriot was born in 1927 in Chehalis, Washington, to a family with deep Jesuit roots. He attended Seattle University, where he received his bachelor’s degree in commercial science in 1949. He later earned a JD and LLM from Georgetown University. During his career, Henriot served as assistant city attorney with the City of Tacoma and retired as senior partner with the Tacoma/Seattle law firm of Eisenhower Carlson PLLC.

To consider an estate gift, please contact Heather Williams ’07, Director of Planned Giving, at williamh@seattleu.edu or (206) 296-6103.
Incubator attorneys to help moderate-income clients

The Low Bono Incubator Program celebrated its fifth anniversary by welcoming a new class of attorneys who combine their legal skills with entrepreneurial business savvy to help moderate-income clients.

Seven recent graduates of Seattle University School of Law will receive mentorship and financial assistance for one year as they build small and solo practices. As part of the program, they learn to structure their practice in ways that accommodate clients who can’t afford a full-price attorney but also don’t qualify for indigent aid.

Stan Perkins ’85, a successful personal injury attorney, provides funding for the incubator positions and mentorship for the new attorneys.

The 2018 participants offer a wide array of legal services, including family law, criminal defense, and business law. All are committed to serving low- to moderate-income clients.

“I want to remove the intimidation and doubt that accompanies any individual seeking to start and run their own business, especially lower-income communities that might not have had the business exposure that other, more affluent communities might have,” said Jeffrey Habersetzer ’17.

The other incubator attorneys are Paul Barrera ’16, Andre Dayani ’13, Fatima Dilek ’14, Samuel Olive ’16, Heather Pelton ’16, and Harkiran Sekhon ’17.

The Access to Justice Institute launched the incubator program in 2014 in order to build and support the next generation of lawyers working to expand access to legal services. The program also features regular CLEs, hosted at the law school, which are free and open to all solo and low-bono attorneys.

“I believe you are the future of the legal profession,” Dean Annette Clark ’89 told the group at a reception.

Join the law school’s Legacy Society Bequest Challenge

Linda Strout ’79 and David Strout ’79 know the value of planning for the future. As co-chairs for the School of Law Legacy Society Committee and Legacy Society members themselves, the Strouts have donated $10,000 to a challenge pool to encourage law school alumni and friends to make a legacy investment in support of the law school.

To participate in the School of Law Legacy Society Bequest Challenge, an individual must confirm for the first time that they have included Seattle U Law in their estate plans by completing and returning a Legacy Survey. All types of deferred gifts will be eligible, such as beneficiary designations, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, and real property.

With every new Legacy Survey submitted, the School of Law will receive $1,000 in cash from the Strouts’ challenge pool. The new Legacy member can determine a specific Annual Fund designation for the money (general fund, scholarships, or faculty program support). Each new Legacy Society member will also receive recognition of their gift and join the 2018 School of Law Dean’s Club, a group of the most generous donors who make annual commitments of $1,000 or more.

The Strouts decided that a legacy investment was one of the best ways to give back to the school that put them on a fulfilling path, not only to finding each other, but to meaningful careers and opportunities for service. With their bequest challenge, they hope to inspire others.

For more information, please contact Pat McCowan, Chief Advancement Officer, at mccowanp@seattleu.edu or (206) 398-4290.
Law professor named Seattle U vice president

Professor Natasha Martin was named Seattle University’s vice president for diversity and inclusion in September. Professor Martin had previously served as chief diversity officer and associate vice president. In this new role, she reports directly to President Stephen Sundborg, S.J., as a member of his cabinet.

“In a short period of time, Natasha has made significant progress in strengthening our commitment to inclusive excellence at Seattle University,” President Sundborg said.

She has established the Office of Institutional Inclusion, built collaborative relationships within the campus community, established a Bias Prevention and Climate Care Working Group, and opened new lines of communication with students and colleagues alike.

Professor Martin continues to serve as a faculty member at the law school. She also helped lead the university’s Task Force on Diversity and Inclusive Excellence.

Robert Chang honored for human rights work

Professor Robert Chang and the Korematsu Center for Law and Equality received the Society of American Law Teachers 2018 M. Shanara Gilbert Human Rights Award in January.

In accepting the award, Professor Chang spoke about the changing nature of efforts to fight discrimination over the years. “As our society becomes more diverse, we need to be more sophisticated in how we talk about discrimination,” he said, “because discriminators have also become more sophisticated.”

Under his visionary leadership, the Korematsu Center pursues social justice through litigation, education, scholarship, and other forms of advocacy.

Most recently, Professor Chang successfully represented Tucson high school students in Gonzales v. Douglas, which held that Arizona’s ban on ethnic studies courses was unconstitutional. The center has also taken on a range of other issues, including the rights of criminal defendants, racially disparaging trademarks, and the Trump Administration’s travel ban.

Professor Chang’s work on the Arizona ethnic studies case also earned him the 2018 Community Service Award from the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington in February.

The Korematsu Center, which trains the next generation of social justice lawyers, sponsors the school’s Civil Rights and Amicus Clinic, and has also funded teaching fellowships for aspiring law professors interested in civil and human rights.
New summer fellowship focuses on equal justice

Students will have more opportunities to work on social justice issues thanks to a new summer fellowship program set to launch this year.

The Calhoun Family Fellowship was founded through a gift by Jerry and Andrea Calhoun and was inspired by their association with “Just Mercy” author Bryan Stevenson and The Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama. Jerry Calhoun is a business leader who graduated from Seattle University in 1967. His support for the fellowship program flows from a deep commitment to fighting racial disparity in the justice system.

The program will provide a tremendous opportunity for Seattle U Law students to advance their skills and training to promote equal justice. Professor from Practice Bob Boruchowitz, who serves as director of The Defender Initiative at the law school, will supervise the fellowship.

Boruchowitz said he has admired Stevenson (shown together, above) ever since he spoke at a 25th anniversary celebration in 1994 for The Defender Association, a public defense agency that Boruchowitz directed for 28 years.

“He urged the audience to struggle against race bias and the effects of poverty in the justice system and to ‘believe in things we cannot see’ so that one day there would be true equal justice,” Boruchowitz said. “I am honored to be asked to supervise our student fellows to work for equal justice in Washington.”

In the first summer of the fellowship, four students will work on projects addressing youth justice issues, including racial disparity in sentencing and right to effective assistance of counsel. The fellowship seeks opportunities to battle racial disparity in the justice system by advocating for systemic change, developing recommendations based on court observations and interviews, and supporting defender attorneys’ advocacy for individual clients at the trial and appellate levels.

Students Hyun-Mi Kim, Michael McCorkle, Noe Merfeld, and Jacob Walsh are the inaugural fellows.

For more information, please contact the Advancement Office at 206-398-4290 or lawalumni@seattleu.edu.

Deborah Ahrens named Oltman Professor of Teaching Excellence

Outside Professor Deborah Ahrens’s faculty office is a welcome mat with a not very welcoming message: Come Back With a Warrant.

The mat, which never fails to elicit smiles from visitors, is an example of the humor Ahrens brings to the sometimes dark subject matter she teaches — criminal law, criminal procedure, and evidence. That humor, along with her dedication to her students and her commitment to academic achievement, has earned Ahrens the 2017-19 William C. Oltman Professor of Teaching Excellence Award.

“Professor Ahrens is one of our most talented and dedicated faculty members,” said Dean Annette E. Clark ’89, in announcing the award. “She immerses her students in the study of our criminal justice system, holding them to very high standards, and she is an innovator in integrating skills education into doctrinal courses.”

The professorship, created to honor excellence in teaching, is named for Professor Emeritus William C. Oltman, who retired in 2008 after 34 years of outstanding teaching in the areas of property and trusts and estates. Previous honorees include professors Mark Chinen, Brooke Coleman, Sidney DeLong, and John Mitchell.

Ahrens’s scholarship focuses on the cultural significance of contemporary policing practices and criminal sanctioning regimes, with particular emphasis on drug policy and on the regulation of student speech and conduct. Her current research focuses on the U.S. Supreme Court’s recent embrace of a broader understanding of the role of criminal defense attorneys in its criminal procedure decisions, on the increasing prevalence of restrictive student dress codes, and the legal regulation of alternative criminal sanctions.

Ahrens was voted Professor of the Year by the May 2014 graduating class and is a frequent speaker at academic and professional programs on a wide variety of criminal procedure, evidence, and sentencing issues.
Former competitive rower’s new goal: a law degree

Twenty years after brain cancer surgery damaged her optic nerve and left her without sight at age 10, Natalie McCarthy hasn’t stopped setting goals for herself and achieving them. First, a biology degree from Pacific Lutheran University. Then, competing internationally as a world-class rower. Her latest goal: law school.

McCarthy, a 1L, said her interest in law evolved from her studies in Costa Rica as an undergraduate student. She thought she might practice environmental law and policy someday, possibly working to protect endangered species. Following her interest in using the law as an advocacy tool, McCarthy started working as a legal assistant at the Northwest Justice Project (NJP) in 2009. She enjoyed helping low-income clients gain access to legal services, but her role felt limited. A law degree seemed like the next step.

But before she followed her dream to law school, she focused on another passion: rowing.

Since losing her sight, McCarthy has used sports to relate to sighted peers. Participating in sports was her way to cope with being blind and “show that having a disability doesn’t have to prevent one from doing the things they want to do and the things they love.”

McCarthy ran track in high school and wanted to continue fostering her love of sports in college, so she joined the rowing club. And it turned out she was good at it. Really good. In 2012, McCarthy left her job at NJP and moved to Oklahoma (where the Paralympic training center is located) to focus all of her energy on becoming an elite rower. She competed internationally in 2013 and 2015, and earned fifth place at the 2017 World Championship.

After that, she was ready to turn her attention back to her career. McCarthy trained as a mediator to help people solve disputes without taking legal action. She then took a job at the Dispute Resolution Center of King County (DRC), a nonprofit that provides mediation and conflict resolution services for individuals, businesses, and families in King County.

But the draw to attend law school didn’t subside. She finally applied out of a desire to grow her career and seek upward movement professionally. More importantly, she felt that a law degree would help her maximize her impact as a mediator.

While she was researching law schools, Seattle U quickly rose to the top of her list. McCarthy was attracted to the school’s reputation as a social justice institution and felt that the mission-centered approach to education paired well with her interests. “I could really connect with its focus. Social justice and serving populations that are in need of legal assistance is a mission I could get behind,” McCarthy said.

And, she says, the school took extra steps to accommodate her needs and ensure her success. “The dean of students [provided] all my textbooks in an electronic format and made sure that I had a note taker to take notes for me in class if I needed. I found that process to be very smooth. They’ve been very helpful,” said McCarthy.

After graduation, she’s considering working in restorative justice. “I am very interested in restorative practices where it is a more holistic approach to punishment or an alternative dispute resolution system.”

* Story by Elaine Genest, contributing writer
**In Memoriam**

**Timothy Lowenberg**

Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Timothy Lowenberg passed away in August 2017 at the age of 70. A steadfast friend of the law school, he was a long-time adjunct faculty member, teaching labor law courses for many years. Throughout his career, Lowenberg was an outstanding lawyer and mentor to many, and an exemplary public servant. His 44-year military career included service as state adjutant general for the Washington National Guard and adviser to the Department of Homeland Security. He will always be remembered by his students for the quality of his teaching and for the motivational speech he gave on the last day of class, in which he spoke powerfully about the responsibilities of lawyers to give back to their communities and society.

**Bruce Meyers**

An accomplished attorney, writer, and war veteran, Col. Bruce F. Meyers passed away in August 2017 at the age of 91. Meyers was both a faculty member and associate dean in the early days of University of Puget Sound (now Seattle University) School of Law. He served for 28 years in the U.S. Marine Corps, including time in Vietnam as a colonel. After his military service, Bruce pursued a career in law as a personal injury attorney, specializing in insurance litigation, and retired after 38 years in private practice. Meyers will be remembered as a wise, strong man, a proud Marine, and a true patriot.

**Harry Purpur**

Harry Purpur, a longtime friend and ardent supporter of Seattle U Law, passed away in October 2017 at age 73. After attending Catholic schools in Seattle, Purpur devoted his life to Catholic education. He worked as a teacher, principal, and superintendent of schools in Washington, including St. Mark Parish School in Shoreline, Bishop Blanchet High School, Archbishop Murphy High School (formerly Holy Cross), Visitation Parish, and Immaculate Conception/Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Harry earned a bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in education from Seattle University.

**Gwynne Skinner**

Professor Gwynne Skinner passed away in December 2017 after a lengthy battle with cancer. She practiced law in Seattle and founded the Public Interest Law Group before beginning her academic career. Skinner spent five years teaching international human rights at Seattle U Law and nearly 10 years teaching at Willamette University School of Law, where she founded and directed the Human Rights and Refugee Law Clinic. She dedicated her life to social justice and was an outstanding teacher, scholar, colleague, and friend.

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**PILF celebrates 25 years**

Our Public Interest Law Foundation celebrated 25 years of supporting students as they pursue careers in the government, at non-profit groups, and with advocacy organizations. The “Then & Now” gala on March 3 netted over $100,000 to support summer grants for law students. Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson (shown here with Dean Annette Clark ’89), the keynote speaker, described how law works for the common good.

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**Over the mountains and across the sea**

In recent months, Dean Annette Clark ’89, accompanied by law school faculty and administrators, traveled near and far to visit with alumni. In November, she had the opportunity to travel to Hong Kong to meet with alumni, including those working in business and government, and on behalf of important social causes.

Dean Clark also met with alumni and legal community leaders in Eastern Washington in November at receptions in Yakima, Spokane, and the Tri-Cities. And in January, she checked in with San Diego-area alumni while attending the American Association of Law Schools annual meeting.

The law school is proud to see its graduates making a difference in communities throughout the United States and around the world.

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The law school is proud to see its graduates making a difference in communities throughout the United States and around the world.
Seattle University School of Law is doing more than ever to help students and graduates find meaningful work after law school. That includes creating and coordinating new on-campus interview programs, increasing programming on non-traditional and emerging legal careers, and recruiting additional faculty and alumni to mentor students.

“Today’s students are more outcome-focused than students in the past, and we appreciate that,” said Dean Annette Clark ’89. “We’ve worked with every department in the law school, as well as the larger legal community, to assist our students in building the legal careers that inspired them to come to law school in the first place.”

Nelson Dong (pictured), a partner in the corporate group at Dorsey & Whitney LLP, was instrumental in developing two of the law school’s new initiatives, particularly a popular discussion panel on careers in compliance.

“It is an extremely challenging time to enter the legal profession because there are fewer traditional job openings now in law firms and corporate law departments,” Dong said. “This means it is crucial for students to uncover job opportunities in a variety of fields where a law degree can be advantageous.

“That includes the entire range of corporate regulatory compliance functions – such as bank customer or patient privacy, health care benefits, environmental protection, trade regulation, product or worker safety,” he said. “These are often very challenging and rewarding lines of work with great associated responsibility and solid compensation and benefits.”

Georgia Woodruff, director of the law school’s Center for Pro-
Above: The Northwest Public Service Career Fair attracts students like Amanda Filteau, right, who are interested in working for government agencies and advocacy groups.

“Seattle U has made it easy for me to find well-trained, smart, hard-working lawyers. Small firms are a growing segment of the legal industry.”

Maury Kroontje
Partner, Kroontje Law Office PLLC

The Northwest Public Service Career Fair attracts students like Amanda Filteau, right, who are interested in working for government agencies and advocacy groups.

Maury Kroontje, Partner, Kroontje Law Office PLLC, has spearheaded several new programs to counteract the diminished legal job market, including organizing small-group workshops for all first-year students, expanding outreach to employers for summer and post-graduate positions, and adding a new on-campus program for small to midsized firms.

Law schools traditionally hold on-campus interviews (called OCIs) in the fall for large firms that know their hiring needs many months or even years in advance. But small and midsize firms work on a different hiring timeline.

“We launched Spring OCI four years ago to draw smaller firms and companies that were not participating in our Fall OCI Program. These employers were in a much better position to identify their hiring needs in the spring,” Woodruff said. Between 20 and 30 employers now participate in this program.

Since founding his Seattle firm 10 years ago, civil trial lawyer Maury Kroontje has hired several graduates. Spring OCI helps him identify promising candidates.

“Successful lawyers at small firms are too busy to go through 200 resumes,” he said. “And Seattle U has made it easy for me to find well-trained, smart, hard-working lawyers. Small firms are a growing segment of the legal industry.”

CPD also implemented Post-Grad OCI, a new session of interviews specifically for recent graduates. Matt Etter, associate director of CPD, launched this program in October 2017.

In addition to potential employers, the law school has also reached out extensively to alumni. A successful mentoring program has been in place for upper-level students for several years, but now that program is more robust and begins earlier, in the first year.

Faculty, too, have been recruited to help. A larger group of professors now advise a smaller number of 1L students, providing more time to discuss summer job opportunities, address issues related to school/work balance, and strategize on ways for the students to improve their marketability through activities like moot court and student journals.

“We’re letting them know there’s always somebody they can come to, and it’s working out well,” said Professor Janet Ainsworth. “We’re able to get to know them better and find out more about what’s going on in their lives.”

These new initiatives complement ongoing career services, such as the Northwest Public Interest Job Fair, clerkship connections, résumé review, cover letter edits, mock interviews, networking events, and multiple information sessions throughout the year.

Third-year student Dallas Whiteley credits Woodruff and the CPD team with helping him make substantial improvements in his résumé, cover letters, and interviewing skills.

“I was lucky enough to receive interviews at several firms through Spring OCI,” he said. “I saw significant progress from my first Spring OCI, Fall OCI, and then the most recent Spring OCI. Georgia, as well as the entire CPD staff, made it a priority to help students, and if I receive offers from the firms, it is because of the CPD effort.”
Tarra Simmons believes in angels. Many of them just happen to be lawyers.

Simmons graduated from Seattle University School of Law last spring. She excelled in class, received an elite legal fellowship, and served as one of the state’s most powerful voices on criminal justice reform. But without the help and guidance of her angels, as she calls them, her life could have been very different.

Her past was marked by poverty, physical abuse, homelessness, teenage motherhood, substance abuse, and prison time for drug possession and distribution. Her present is a remarkably different story.

Simmons is now a leader in the legal community, advocating on behalf of people who were formerly incarcerated, sharing her story far and wide in hopes of a better life for herself and others in her position.

She gained national attention in recent months when the Washington State Bar Association’s Character and Fitness Board denied her application to sit for the Washington State Bar Exam on the basis of her criminal past.

Undaunted, Simmons appealed that decision to the Washington Supreme Court, winning in a unanimous decision that was handed down on the very same day as oral argument.

She was helped by, and now joins, many other law school alumni who are working hard on the cause known as reentry – or, removing barriers people face when they rejoin society after a criminal conviction or time in prison.
“I always had a fight in me for justice, even as a kid,” Simmons said. “When I tell my story, it’s for the people who can’t.”

A 2015 report from the American Bar Association tallied 45,000 distinct consequences that result from a criminal conviction. More than 60 percent relate to jobs – employers often won’t hire those with criminal records – with the rest pertaining to barriers in securing housing, accessing public benefits, maintaining or rebuilding family relationships, voting, and pursuing an education.

The cumulative effect of these barriers is that people with criminal records find it nearly impossible to meet their basic needs of food and shelter without returning to criminal acts. Nearly one-third end up back in prison within three years.

“We are an unforgiving society,” said Judge Sterling Johnson, Jr. of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York, at a national summit on the topic. “If you borrow money from a bank and you pay it off, your debt is forgiven. If you get convicted of a crime in the criminal justice system, be it federal or state, you pay for the rest of your life.”

Civil legal aid lawyers and policy advocates play an important role in working to make the system better, as Simmons found out with her network of angels.

Her first angel was Elizabeth Hendren ’12, then a third-year law student at Seattle U who had co-founded the law school’s Incarcerated Mothers Advocacy Project. She regularly visited the Mission Creek Correctional Center for Women to give legal presentations.

At the time, Simmons was serving a 20-month sentence on drug charges at the prison, and she felt helpless. Her then-husband had filed for divorce and she faced losing her home and custody of her two sons. Because she lacked the ability and resources to respond to this legal challenge, the court could have ruled against her by default. “There was no law library there, and I couldn’t afford a lawyer,” she said. “I would have lost everything.”

As a law student, Hendren couldn’t represent Simmons, but she helped her track down and fill out the appropriate paperwork, including a continuance that delayed her divorce settlement conference until after her release from prison. Simmons was able to retain custody of her children and even received alimony payments. Later, another law school alumna, Chelsea Hicks ’08 of the Northwest Justice Project, helped her escape immediate eviction on her foreclosed home.

“There’s an assumption that people in prison are throwaways,” Hendren said. “But many of them are just like Tarra – so smart, so bright, so positive. If we could just give them a chance, a tiny little seed, they can run with it and accomplish great things.”

Above: Tarra Simmons ’17 said that maintaining a loving connection to her two sons, including Dominic, her youngest, motivated her to make important changes in her life. Sixty percent of women in state prisons have a child under the age of 18.
Like Simmons, more than 60 percent of women in state prisons have a child under the age of 18. According to Hendren, helping incarcerated parents – which can include anything from maintaining legal custody to securing important social services such as housing or benefits – leads to successful reentry after prison because they’ve kept that bond with their child (or children) and are motivated to provide a better life for them.

Hendren continues her work with incarcerated mothers as a staff attorney at the Northwest Justice Project. She visits prisons and delivers legal presentations, as well as offering guidance to formerly incarcerated women at drop-in clinics.

“In my job interview, I was asked why I was the best person for the job, and I said, ‘I’m not the best person. A directly impacted person should do this work,’” Hendren said. “Now, with Tarra, I feel like there is someone.”

To this day, Simmons remembers the promises she made to her sons when they visited her in prison. Because of her sons, she resisted the temptation to sell drugs again, even though she couldn’t find work anywhere other than Burger King. “The underground economy was simply not an option,” she said.

Simmons’s story is a perfect example of how the challenges to reentering society begin long before a person is actually released. Children are taken away, jobs disappear, debts pile up, and mortgages or rents go unpaid. Behind bars, a person is helpless to stop most of it from happening.

Angeline Thomas ’11, executive director of the social policy organization Washington Appleseed, said that the ideal time to start planning for reentry is the moment a person sets foot inside prison. Her organization will soon publish the Washington Reentry Guide, which will be available in prisons throughout the state and will help people prepare for reentry by providing answers to common questions and advice for overcoming obstacles.

The guide, developed in consultation with advocacy groups throughout the state, is presented in a Q&A format and features stories from formerly incarcerated people about the challenges they faced. The guide helps individuals know their rights, walks them through common forms they’ll need to fill out, and points them in the direction of free legal resources.

“One in three people will go back to prison within three years because of all the barriers they’re going to encounter when they come out,” Thomas said. “These are human beings, they’re parents, they have dreams. All of that is thrown away when we set them up for failure instead of success.”

Thomas said the two biggest challenges that individuals face during reentry are obtaining housing and employment. If they owned a home but couldn’t make mortgage payments while in prison, they could face foreclosure, just like Simmons did. If they seek out a new place, their criminal record often makes them ineligible for public housing. While they’re eligible for private housing, they often face discrimination by private landlords.

And even though “ban the box” laws bar employers from asking about criminal history on job applications, the stigma of a conviction shuts out many people from job opportunities they need to support themselves.

In Simmons’s case, even though she had a nursing degree and was able to get her nursing license back, she was turned down for jobs because of her record – even jobs where she would have no access to patients or pharmaceuticals.
Legislation backed by many of Simmons’s lawyer-angels now makes it possible for others to get professional licenses back after incarceration. It’s called the Certificate of Restoration of Opportunities Act, or CROP, and Simmons was the first recipient of CROP after its passage in 2016.

Carla Lee ’05, deputy chief of staff for King County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Satterberg, worked closely on CROP legislation with advocates at Columbia Legal Services. The goal is to reduce recidivism by helping people return to the work they know best. As Satterberg once said, CROP is like the receipt someone gets for paying their debt to society.

As the point person for reentry issues in Satterberg’s office, Lee also advocates for more educational and vocational opportunities in prison, supports legislation to help people vacate their criminal records, and encourages more companies to become “second chance employers.”

“It’s incumbent on prosecutors to engage in new conversations about what it means to create healthy and safe communities,” Lee said. “We see it as part of our role as ministers of justice. We see it as the forefront of criminal justice reform.”

Though the deck is often stacked against them, justice-involved people can prepare for employment after prison with résumé writing and job preparation workshops, offered both in and out of prison by organizations such as Seattle Goodwill. Training helps with reentry, in part because people learn how to explain their situation and use their past experience as an asset. A Goodwill instructor worked with Simmons while she was still incarcerated.

Goodwill CEO Daryl Campbell ’11 said he’s proud to share a law school with Simmons and echoes her belief in second chances. Seventeen percent of students in Goodwill job training programs have criminal convictions. Goodwill wants to help its students find self-sufficiency “no matter where people are starting from or how many detours they take,” he said.

“It’s incumbent on prosecutors to engage in new conversations about what it means to create healthy and safe communities.”

Carla Lee ’05
Deputy Chief of Staff,
King County Prosecutor’s Office
For many formerly incarcerated people, the path to self-sufficiency is blocked by debt, including debts related to their conviction. Legal financial obligations, or LFOs, are a tremendous burden on people trying to provide a life for themselves after prison. It’s a problem that Nick Allen ’10 has devoted his legal career to solving. He’s another of Simmons’s angels.

Courts impose fines and fees on criminal defendants, some of which are intended as restitution for the crime. Other fines are strictly punitive, and others are meant to cover court costs. The interest on these legal debts has been a staggering 12 percent (new legislation is expected to change that), and it starts accruing even while the person is in prison and can’t earn money to pay off the debts. If a person manages to find work after leaving prison, their wages can be garnished to pay LFOs. Simmons, for example, left prison owing more than $7,600 in legal debts. With Allen’s help as a staff attorney at Columbia Legal Services, she successfully requested that the court waive the interest on her debt. But even without interest and even after paying off some of the debt, Simmons’s remaining LFO debt topped $5,000 and felt insurmountable.

By her second year of law school, she had started to share her personal story with legal audiences. One of her speeches was at a judicial conference, where she pleaded with judges in the room to consider whether defendants can realistically pay such steep fines and fees.

Her speech had a palpable effect, moving some in

“Up to 90 percent of people charged with felonies qualify for indigent defense, so we know they can’t afford these fines. Courts are starting to recognize that it’s futile [to impose them].”

Nick Allen ’10
Staff Attorney, Columbia Legal Services
the audience to tears. Two days later, Simmons received a message that a judge who had heard her speak that day wanted to pay off $5,000 of her debt anonymously. Her remaining bill was just $49.

That kind of Cinderella moment is rare, which is why Allen continues his advocacy. When he graduated law school in 2010, few people understood the significance of LFOs. Working with Columbia Legal Services and the ACLU of Washington, he published a 2014 report titled, “Modern-Day Debtors’ Prisons,” which explained in disturbing detail how lingering debts keep people tied to the criminal justice system – and, in some cases, land them back in prison for non-payment.

Allen’s years of advocacy helped pave the way for a Washington Supreme Court ruling in 2015, in a case called State v. Blazina, which held that courts must consider a person’s ability to pay when they impose discretionary costs. (Other LFOs are mandatory, which means most defendants still end up with some debt.)

“It’s just a common sense approach,” Allen said. “Up to 90 percent of people charged with felonies qualify for indigent defense, so we know they can’t afford these fines. Courts are starting to recognize that it’s futile [to impose them].”

In addition to his policy work, Allen helps run a reentry clinic with other staff in the CLS Institutions Project, where they educate former defendants about their legal rights and occasionally take on individual cases to advocate for a person who can’t pay.

“It’s always nice to work with people who thought they didn’t have any options, and guide them through the process,” he said. “It feels good when you see the court wipe out $4,000 in debt that they didn’t think was ever going to go away.”

Simmons and Allen – once client and counsel – now advocate as a team for further LFO reform. Their latest effort is testifying on behalf of state legislation to reduce the interest rate on court-imposed debt and to allow more leniency for poor defendants.

For Tarra Simmons, facing and overcoming these many barriers is what inspired her to attend law school and become an angel for someone else. She currently holds a prestigious Skadden Fellowship, which funds her work on behalf of formerly incarcerated people. Gov. Jay Inslee also appointed her as co-chair of the Washington Statewide Reentry Council, where she continues to share her story and promote legislation that helps remove barriers for people like her. She also co-founded Civil Survival with Amanda DuBois ’86. This organization teaches formerly incarcerated people about their voting rights and how to become effective self-advocates for policy change.

A powerful village of Seattle University School of Law alumni helped Simmons get to where she is now, poised to begin a meaningful law career. She’s ready to give back.

At every step of the way, Simmons reminds people that there are so many others who deserve the same help and opportunities she had. “I will be reentering for the rest of my life,” she said. “I want nothing more than to carry my life experiences along with my newly found legal skills to liberate others who are hurting and simply in need of a helping hand.”

(Editor’s note: February bar exam results were not available at the time this magazine went to press.)
Bill Marler reflects on the case that launched his career in food safety

This year marks the 25th anniversary of a massive *E. coli* outbreak, which hit 73 Jack in the Box restaurants in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and California; sickened 700 people; sent 171 to the hospital; and killed four. The anniversary is a somber but noteworthy milestone for accomplished food safety attorney Bill Marler ’87.

“It’s the 25th anniversary of the outbreak, but it’s also the 20th anniversary of our law firm,” he said. Seattle-based Marler Clark, which he co-founded with fellow Seattle University School of Law alumnus Bruce Clark ’84, was the nation’s first law firm to focus solely on helping victims of foodborne illnesses and grew directly from both attorneys’ experience with the 1993 outbreak.

As milestones like this come and go, Marler, who recently turned 60, wonders whether it’s time to retire. A few of his colleagues from the law firm’s early days have already done so.

“But I really love my job,” he said. “I get to make a huge difference in people’s lives, people who have lost their kidneys, lost their large intestines, are brain-injured, families that are facing millions and millions and millions of dollars in medical expenses, or a husband who’s never going to work again. And I get to help them. That’s a reason to get up and go to work every day.”

In the last two decades, Marler Clark has been involved in the aftermath of every outbreak of foodborne illness in the United States, working not only with victims but also with scientists and public health officials to make the food supply safer. Author Jeff Benedict, who chronicled the Jack in the Box story in his 2011 book, “Poisoned,” wrote that “no individual has had more influence on the shape and direction of food safety policy in the U.S.” than Marler.

Back in 1993, just a few years out of law school, Marler became the lead lawyer for the plaintiffs through an effective combination of hustle, hard work, personal connections, and media savvy.

His first *E. coli* client was a Tacoma family referred to him by a woman he had helped with a worker’s com-
pensation claim. He rushed from his office in downtown Seattle to his old law school hangout in Tacoma (the law school was formerly affiliated with University of Puget Sound), the Poodle Dog Restaurant, met with the family, and convinced them to hire him.

“I went from obscurity to being sort of the legal face of the outbreak. I went from having one client to five clients to 10 clients to hundreds,” he said. Two years into the class-action lawsuit, when the end was finally in sight, Marler settled $25 million worth of cases in two days of mediation.

Most notably, he secured a $15.6 million settlement – the largest of its kind at the time – on behalf of Brianne Kiner, the Seattle girl who was the most severely injured victim of the outbreak, which was traced to undercooked hamburgers at 73 Jack in the Box restaurant locations. Just 9 years old, she spent several weeks in a coma, followed by a long and painful recovery. She still struggles with lifelong health effects such as infertility, asthma, and diabetes.

When the case concluded, Marler figured he would return to a general personal injury practice, possibly specializing in medical malpractice. But then another E. coli outbreak hit, again centered in Washington state. In 1996, a tainted batch of apple juice, from a juice company called Odwalla, killed one toddler and sickened 66 people. The families called Marler for help, thanks to his high profile in the Jack in the Box litigation.

“It really was at that point that I thought, ‘Hmm, clearly people think I know what I’m doing,’” Marler joked. “But candidly, I had worked really hard. I knew the law and I knew the medicine really well. I started wondering if you could create an entire practice around this.”

You could. Or rather, he could. Marler and Clark partnered with lawyers Denis Stearns and Andy Weisbecker to create the firm in 1998. (Both Clark and Stearns essentially switched sides, having represented Jack in the Box during the earlier litigation.) Two of the firm’s most recent hires – Anthony Marangon ’15 and Josh Fensterbush ’17 – are also Seattle U Law graduates. Drew Falkenstein ’02 is of counsel at the firm.

Over the years, Marler has secured more than $600 million for victims of E. coli, salmonella, and other foodborne illnesses. While lawsuits often spur companies to make important changes – Jack in the Box developed the industry’s toughest safety standards after its outbreak – Marler knows there’s more to it than litigation. So he also devotes his energy and expertise to advocate for stronger food safety laws and regulations.

He petitioned the U.S. Department of Agriculture to better regulate pathogenic E. coli and successfully advocated for the passage of the 2010-2011 FDA Food Safety Modernization Act. He has spoken to countless industry groups and journalists, established science scholarships, and written extensively on all manner of foodborne pathogens.

What motivated Bill Marler back in 1993 is what continues to motivate him today. The people who suffer the most from foodborne illness are children, and the money he earns for them is intended to take care of them for the rest of their lives.

Marler has three daughters of his own – one is a graduate of Seattle University and two are current students. The oldest was just an infant when he took on Jack in the Box.

“When you’re representing little children and you see how injured they are,” he said, “it doesn’t take much to look at your own kids and realize just how important your job is.”
To most, the Federal Rules of Evidence may seem esoteric. But how the rules draw evidentiary boundaries between admissible and inadmissible information matters quite a bit, both for litigants and for our justice system.

Federal Rule of Evidence 609 – a rule that has been the focus of three of my scholarly articles – is a case in point. In my view, changing this rule is an essential part of tackling the bias that impedes justice in our courtrooms.

Rule 609 allows attorneys to attempt to discredit criminal defendants (and other witnesses) with their convictions: to inform the jury, in other words, about these convictions for the asserted purpose of challenging the witness’s truthfulness. This form of impeachment has been called a “charade,” a “hoax,” and “discriminatory and unfair,” and critics have urged its reform or abolition since its enactment in 1975. And yet, this rule has persisted, without significant alteration.

Change may be afoot. Timothy Rice, a magistrate judge from Philadelphia, published a law review article this year, proposing that because of a change in societal understanding of crime, the amount of prior conviction impeachment that the federal system tolerates should
be significantly reduced. He submitted the same idea to the advisory committee that evaluates potential changes to the Federal Rules of Evidence, and the committee is now considering the proposal.

The societal change that Judge Rice invokes is the restorative justice movement, which he describes as having a goal of “healing within the broader community impacted by crime.” He proposes that one of the two types of conviction currently allowed for impeachment become inadmissible.

The first category that is currently admissible consists of “crimina falsi” (roughly speaking, convictions relating to dishonesty or false statement); indeed, currently these must be admitted into evidence, no matter how much this evidence damages the witness in the eyes of the jury. Judge Rice would leave this category of impeachment material untouched.

The second category consists of felony convictions (other than “crimina falsi”), which are currently admissible subject to a judicial balancing of usefulness versus harm. Judge Rice would abolish this category. How can one heal within the broader community, he asks, if one is dehumanized, stigmatized, punished a second time, and stereotyped as having a propensity to lie?

Judge Rice has done valuable work in prompting the advisory committee to address this issue. And with his focus on restorative justice he has accomplished the admirable feat of finding a new objection to prior conviction impeachment. It seemed there was little left to say once scholars had explored a whole range of other problems: the tension between this form of impeachment and the social science relating to truth telling; the racial and economic disparity in impact; the chilling of defendants from exercising their right to testify; the shaky embedded assumptions about the reliability and meaning of criminal convictions; the fact (explored in various empirical studies) that jurors reject the use of this evidence for its only permitted purpose and embrace it for inflammatory and forbidden ones; and so on.

In making the point that this practice involves the embedding of stereotypes into legal decision-making, his work hints at a gap between this area of the law and those in which efforts are being made to challenge stereotypes in legal decision-making. (See, for example, recent efforts to inform juries about implicit bias.)

However, it remains unclear how much Judge Rice’s unique angle on this issue can achieve. First, some have questioned whether restorative justice is indeed as much of a movement as Judge Rice (who created a reentry program) might wish. If we really cared about restorative justice, for example, would we still permit felony-based disenfranchisement in 48 states?

Second, restorative justice objections apply not only to the impeachment that Judge Rice would bar, but also to the “crimina falsi” impeachment that he would leave untouched. (And indeed I would argue that the latter is more problematic, in that these convictions are mandatorily admissible.)

For those who have considered change to this rule but think that prohibiting the use of felony convictions is not enough, three states provide evidence that abolition is feasible. Montana prohibits all forms of prior conviction impeachment to all witnesses, and has done so for 40 years. Hawaii and Kansas protect criminal defendants from prior conviction impeachment of all types (as long as they do not open the door to it), and have done so for decades.

If the federal committee does decide to move forward, it will undoubtedly spur research into the handful of states that reject impeachment with convictions that are not “dishonesty-based” to see how these rules are being applied and how practice is affected. Since such states include those that have barred prior conviction impeachment altogether, for some or all witnesses, this is a valuable opportunity to consider not only restriction of this practice, but also abolition.

Professor Anna Roberts is an associate professor of law and a faculty fellow at the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law & Equality. Her scholarly work focuses on evidence and criminal procedure. This piece was adapted from her essay that originally appeared in “In Justice Today.”
There’s nothing we love more than coming together as a community. Whether it’s a solar eclipse or an elegant happy hour, we always welcome a chance to build connections outside the classroom.

A total solar eclipse crossed the United States on Aug. 21, our first day of the fall semester, and Seattle was in its path. Students (including 1L Catherine Bentley), staff, and faculty gathered on the patio for a magnificent view of a 92 percent eclipsed sun.

In February, the Black Law Student Association honored Professors Jeff Minneti and Connie Krontz ’89 for their support of the Access Admission Program and alumni Stephan Thomas ’11 and Karen Murray ’91 (shown here with student Noe Merfeld) for supporting diversity in their work as lawyers.

Bobbe J. Bridge, retired Washington State Supreme Court justice and founding president and CEO of the Center for Children and Youth Justice, was our featured speaker at the Red Mass reception in October.

Professor David Skover and King County Superior Court Judge Judith Ramseyer ’87 hosted a lively discussion of Professor Skover’s new book, “The Judge: 26 Machiavellian Lessons,” in October.

Professor Theodore Shaw, director of the Center for Civil Rights at University of North Carolina, visited for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and urged law students to “take the baton and prepare to run their leg of this race.”

Seattle-area alumni gathered for a fun and festive happy hour at Blueacre Seafood in November.

Third-year student Tracy Cook-Lee of the Native American Law Student Association presents Senator John McCoy, member of the Tulalip Tribes and Washington state congressman, with a gift at our 2017 Indigenous Peoples’ Day celebration.

Dean Annette Clark ’89 visited with members of the Benton Franklin County Bar at Roach & Bishop Law Offices, LLP in Pasco, Washington, in November.

King County Bar Foundation President Eric Gillett presented a giant check to Dean Annette Clark ’89 and our 2017 King County Bar Scholars at a reception in November.
Anne Kirkpatrick ’89 was a cop before, during, and after law school. She went from patrolling the streets of Memphis, Tennessee, to working the graveyard shift in Redmond, Washington, later leading police departments in Ellensburg, Federal Way, and Spokane as chief of police. And in news that made national headlines, she became the first female police chief in Oakland, California, in January 2017.

Though she has never worked as a lawyer, Kirkpatrick said her legal education at Seattle University School of Law (then University of Puget Sound) made a lasting impact on her style as a leader and her approach to law enforcement.

Born and raised in Memphis, Kirkpatrick moved across the country for law school because she wanted to keep working as a police officer, and the school offered one of the few part-time programs available at the time. She studied in her patrol car during lunch breaks – as long as she wasn’t interrupted by a DUI or domestic disturbance call. In admiration of her dedication to both work and education, her Redmond colleagues named her Officer of the Year the same year she graduated.

Law school, Kirkpatrick said, appealed to her “academic self,” and she welcomed the opportunity to develop her critical thinking skills. Although she already had a master’s degree in counseling, earning a law degree propelled her career forward – she quickly jumped the ranks to chief. Perhaps most importantly, it also gave her a more holistic approach to law enforcement.
“My executive staff hears me say this all the time, but we have to look at policing differently,” she said. “That absolutely goes back to the foundation law school gave me. It taught me how to think. It taught me how to ask questions, and that is so critical in leadership especially.”

For example, she said, data from all major cities shows that 20 percent of known offenders commit 80 percent of crimes. That means law enforcement should use a more precise, data-driven strategy to reduce crime, rather than casting the widest net possible. “Years ago, police officers would try to Terry stop everybody out there with the hope of preventing crime,” she said. “Why would we do that, now that we know better?”

A field trip to a psychiatric hospital is her most lasting memory from law school. In the late 1980s, she and her classmates went to Western State Hospital in Lakewood to learn about involuntary commitment laws. They left with a deeper appreciation for the struggles of people with mental illness, many of whom are at risk of homelessness.

“Homelessness is really a public health issue, not a law enforcement issue,” she said. “Our role will always be as first responders, but we have really shifted our paradigm to training for crisis intervention.”

The Washington Post called Kirkpatrick “a tough and seasoned reformer” when she took the job in Oakland, thanks to her insistence on police accountability, support for citizen involvement, and work to improve community relations in the places where she’s served for the last 30 years. And it’s true that she’s been drawn to work at police departments in need of reform.

Oakland Police Department (OPD) has operated under federal oversight for 14 years after officers were accused of racially motivated violence and planting evidence. Kirkpatrick had been tapped to lead police reform efforts in Chicago, but left when the Oakland opportunity came up. She hopes she can help OPD regain its autonomy before her contract ends in 2019. In the last five years, Oakland officers have reduced their use of force by 70 percent, and the city’s homicide rate has dropped 50 percent.

“I try to move away from the word reform. That’s what consent decrees do – they force reform, they force a change of policy, they force new tactics,” she said. “[I am] way more interested in transformation. When you transform, you really have a genuine new set of eyes and a new understanding. I’m a person interested in shifting hearts and minds.”

Jennifer Shaw ’87 was an attorney working on police accountability with the ACLU of Washington when Kirkpatrick became Spokane’s chief of police in 2006. At the time, the city was still reeling from a case in which police officers were accused of killing a developmentally disabled man and concealing video evidence of the act.

“Right from the get-go, I admired her willingness to come in and say, ‘Let’s look at everything. Let’s look at what went wrong,’” Shaw said. “Her goal was to provide constitutional policing to the people of Spokane.”

Likewise, Kirkpatrick’s arrival in Oakland followed a devastating sex scandal involving dozens of police officers. Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf expressed confidence in Kirkpatrick’s ability to change a “toxic, macho culture” within the department. For Kirkpatrick, that means not only holding police accountable but also being a steadfast and vocal supporter of the vast majority of honest, trustworthy police officers.

“A lot of venom is directed at police officers. I’m here to support them and champion them, but we will be accountable in that,” she said. “We have caused harm. We have caused hurt. We need to own that and then we need to heal it.”

“Right from the get-go, I admired her willingness to come in and say, ‘Let’s look at everything. Let’s look at what went wrong.’”

Jennifer Shaw ’87
Andrew Hughes ’09 found the summit of three of the highest points on each continent (Aconcagua at 22,841 feet in Argentina, Mt. Elbrus at 18,510 feet in Russia, and Mt. Kilimanjaro at 19,341 feet in Tanzania) in 2017, as well as the highest volcano in the world, Ojos del Salado, atop the Atacama Plateau in Chile at just under 23,000 feet.

Alexis R. Singletary ’00 will celebrate 11 years in her own law practice in Auburn, focusing on estate planning, probate and guardianship matters. She enjoys a great quality of life with her husband of 25 years and their nearly 12-year-old son. The family celebrated their wedding anniversary with a Caribbean cruise in October 2017.

Fatima Dilek ’14 recently opened her own practice handling criminal defense, traffic infractions, and personal injury cases. She previously worked as a prosecutor, public defender, and civil litigator. She aims to be a role model for minority women who want to start their own practice. She was recently selected for the law school’s Low Bono Incubator Program.
1976

Joseph Quinn and Eric Quinn ’13 announce the newly named Quinn and Quinn, P.S., which specializes in representing fire departments. Joe continues to compete nationally and internationally in Olympic Weightlifting for older adults (35 or older). In November, he won the American Masters for the second time.

1978

Martin D. Wells retired after 38 years as a Lutheran pastor, spending the last 18 as Bishop of the Eastern Washington and Idaho Synod. Wells served as the first chair of the Moot Court Board.

1978

J. Martin Smith has retired after 26 years of service with the state’s Public Employment Relations Commission, serving as an arbitrator-mediator and administrative law judge. He spent seven years at PERC’s Spokane office. After retirement, Smith handled a number of cases as a labor arbitrator.

1981

Steven Brown, after 25 years practicing commercial law and another 10 running a multinational aquaculture company, now does business mediation and some transaction work. He has been married for 34 years to Shawn Flood ’82. They have three great kids working in the medical field (“Don’t let your babies grow up to be lawyers...”) and a grandson expected in March.

1983

Joseph A. Haas retired as clerk of the United States District Court for the District of South Dakota in January. Having held several other positions before joining this court, Mr. Haas will conclude more than 42 years of federal service upon retirement.

1983

Maureen Nelson Schuette was promoted to supervising judge of the family division in Madison County, Illinois in September of 2017. She presides with another judge over the Child Support Accountability Court, one of the first in the United States, and the Domestic Violence Accountability Court, the second in the state. She resides in Edwardsville with her husband and their three children, Thomas, Marissa, and Nicholas.

1985

Starck Follis has been appointed director of the Whatcom County Public Defender’s Office.

1987

Steve Crandall, CEO of ProMotion Holdings, is pleased to announce the acquisition of Byers and Anderson (court reporting and legal video). Byers and Anderson is the latest addition to the ProMotion Holdings family of companies, which includes Prolumina (litigation communication), SRS Premier Realtime (deposition technology), and ProMotion Arts (visual media and webcasting).

1988

Susan Foster was named Seattle’s Antitrust Law Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyers. This is Susan’s second time winning this award in the last four years.

1988

Karen Kalzer is now partner at Helsell Fetterman LLP. She has been with the firm since 2012, practicing employment, education, and religion law. Karen also chairs the firm’s practice groups for education, employment and labor law, and religious and social services.

1989

Ed Stemler accepted a new position as in-house counsel for AFSCME Council 2 after 27 years at the Snohomish County Prosecutor’s Office. His office is located in Everett.

1991

Karena K. Kirkendoll was elected to the Pierce County Superior Court. Judge Kirkendoll served as a Pierce County Superior Court Commissioner prior to her election. She is a former president of the Tacoma-Pierce County Bar Association and a recipient of the TPCBA’s Outstanding Service Award.

1995

Ken Masters ’92 celebrated 25 years handling appeals in 2017. He is honored to have been voted by his peers a Top 10 Super Lawyer® for 2017. He also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from America’s Top 100 Attorneys in 2017. Ken is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers.

1996

Ric Hulshoff is celebrating his 20th year with the Office of Chief Counsel, IRS. He has spent the last seven years as the associate Area Counsel (SBSE) in Las Vegas, Nevada, where he lives with his wife of 27 years, Malinda, and their four daughters.
1997

Justin C. Osemene successfully earned an MBA (technology) degree from University of Washington Graduate Business School-Bothell in June 2017. He was awarded a Certificate in International Negotiations and Crisis Management by UW Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies in collaboration with the US Army College in June 2016 and has returned to full-time law practice, specializing in corporate, business, technology, IP and international laws.

Anne-Marie Sargent’s firm is in its 14th year of serving employees and businesses in the Northwest, including sexual harassment, discrimination, class actions, severance negotiation, non-compete review and training. Three years ago she started mediating, which is a rewarding process to help parties end litigation. About five years ago she took up watercolor painting, and is now taking online drawing classes.

1998

Chris Marks joined Tanenbaum Keale’s Seattle office as partner. Chris will lead the litigation team.

Ann Nagele was promoted to partner at Perkins Coie. Ann focuses her practice on international trade matters and she also has experience with a wide variety of licensing and technology transactions. Her international trade practice includes regularly advising clients on commercial (dual-use) and defense-related export licensing, compliance and enforcement matters, U.S. trade sanctions, customs compliance and national security (Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States) reviews.

1999

Misha Igra started a U.S. Supreme Court fellowship in Washington, D.C., in January.

2000

Rick E. Hansen has been appointed corporate secretary and lead counsel for securities and corporate governance at General Motors Company in Detroit, Michigan.

2001

Eric Newman started a new position as chief litigation counsel for the Antitrust Division of the Washington State Attorney General’s Office.

Aaron Rocke returned to the law school as an adjunct professor to teach his third subject, Solo and Small Firm Management. His other courses have been Trial Techniques and Non-compete Agreements.

2002

Mark O’Halloran was elected and is currently serving as chair of both the American Bar Association Judicial Division Lawyers Conference and Judicial Outreach Network. The Lawyers Conference is comprised of more than 2,000 lawyers, judges, law students, law and court faculty, and ABA associate members interested in working with judges to improve the administration of justice and preserve the Rule of Law. The Judicial Outreach Network encourages judges to engage the public through outreach projects.

2003

Marie (Grieve) Lindahl and David Lindahl, along with their son, Toren, welcomed their second child, Asher Rhys Austin, on December 13, 2017.

2004

Jennifer Cave was elected to the board of directors of both the KMAC Museum and the Louisville Energy Alliance in Kentucky. The KMAC Museum is a contemporary art museum and the Louisville Energy Alliance is a non-profit focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Regina Paulose created and co-founded the Sexual Trafficking Exploitation Program (STEP) at Holy Cross Hospital, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. STEP is a health-care program that provides continued medical care to victims and survivors of sex trafficking. The program also raises awareness among medical professionals. She presented on Human Trafficking at the American Bar Association: Emerging Issues in Health Care Law Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona in February.

2005

Laura M. Trujillo has been certified as an estate and trust law specialist by the Arizona State Bar. In addition, Trujillo was appointed to serve on the Estate and Trust Advisory Committee of the Board of Legal Specialization by the president of the Arizona State Bar.

2006

Cynthia Jones was appointed to serve a three-year term as lawyer representative to the Ninth Circuit by the Western District of Washington. She was also elected to serve as president of the Federal Bar Association for the Western District of Washington for 2018.

2007

Dylan Adams’s recently published book, “Patents Demystified,” has been a #1 best seller on Amazon and is an official patent guide of the American Bar Association. It is used by over 160 libraries and universities worldwide. The book has also been recognized as an essential resource for new attorneys, law students, and others who are seeking an introduction to the practice of patent law.

Brian Considine, along with Ryan Glant, Alison Bettles, Aric Jarrett, and Craig Cristian, organized a small 10-year reunion at Naked City Brewery in Seattle. Approximately 60 classmates attended, providing an opportunity to visit and hear about personal and professional accomplishments.
Sarah Konz has been promoted to counsel at Perkins Coie. Her practice is focused on the trans- actional issues related to intellectual property.

Scott Wallace has been promoted to partner at Perkins Coie. Scott focuses his practice on personal, tax and estate planning for individuals, families and family offices.

2008

Kim Dean obtained a master’s degree in clinical psychology from Saybrook University in December 2017. She transitioned from family law practice to marriage and family therapy in March 2018, providing discernment counseling, couples therapy, and co-parent coaching at Mettarel, Seattle’s Relationship Enhancement and Training Center in Fremont.

John S. Laney was named among Puget Sound Business Journal’s 2017 “40 Under 40” honorees, recognizing him as one of the region’s dynamic young business leaders.

Shane Robinson has written a guide book, “Swimming Holes of Washington,” which is scheduled to be available June 2018. Pre-orders are available through the Mountaineers Books, Amazon, and other retailers. Also, see Instagram @swimmingholesofwashington.

2009

Justin Farmer’s Private Practice Transitions, formed in 2012, is the only business brokerage in Washington state that specializes in assisting owners of professional services companies, particularly lawyers, with the sale of their businesses. Since launching the company, he has facilitated deals for professional services firms in excess of $5 million.

David Goldfarb was inducted into the National Academy of Social Insurance, a non-profit, non-partisan organization made up of the nation’s leading experts in the field, in January. Prospective members are nominated by current members in recognition of their significant and ongoing professional contributions to the field of social insurance.

Andrew Grant was promoted to partner at Perkins Coie. He represents emerging growth and established companies in the outdoor, software (including technology services and software as a service), entertainment, interactive entertainment, and retail industries.

2010

Meagen Burrows was promoted to shareholder status at Gable Gotwals, a firm of just under 100 attorneys based in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Douglas Cameron became a shareholder with Hanson Baker.

2011

Reyna Ramohte Hayashi was awarded the New Leaders in Advocacy Award from the National Legal Aid and Defender Association for pioneering fair housing and wage theft programs at the Legal Aid Society of Hawai‘i. Reyna also recently founded Emergent Island Economies, a consulting cooperative to support communities in growing transformative organizations and infrastructure.

2012

Shelby Knutson Bruce, formerly an associate at Norton Rose Fulbright, is now in-house trademark counsel at 3M. She was also recently named as one of Minnesota Lawyer Magazine’s 2017 Up and Coming Attorneys.

David J. Faber has been elected the deputy mayor for the City of Port Townsend.

2013

Stephanie Chow is an attorney and mediator at Mediated Negotiations, where she negotiates complex commercial settlements for major tech companies, including Apple, Facebook, Snapchat, and Google, along with high-growth startups. As a result of her passion for women’s equality in the workplace, Stephanie helps companies champion diversity initiatives.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35 >

In Memoriam

1996

Peter Kirk Schalestock passed away at age 49 in August 2017. He had a successful career in law and politics and was highly respected for his expertise in the areas of campaign finance, election law, voter fraud, and intellectual property. During his career, he held positions with Americans for Prosperity and its foundation, the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Small Business Administration, Election Day Operations, and the Republican National Committee.

2002

Sheryl Paul Colvin, 60, passed away surrounded by family and friends in September 2017. A Seattle native, she spent many years laboring for African American rights and was very active in the community. Sheryl attended University of Washington and Griffin College before earning her JD at Seattle University School of Law. She is survived by her large family of children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as well as many friends.
Sergio A. Garciduenas-Sease was selected as an ex officio board member to the WSAJ Justice for All PAC, the political action arm of the Washington Association for Justice (WSAJ), which is dedicated to supporting pro-civil justice candidates for election to state and local offices.

2014
Gustavo Cueva joined Hanis Irvine Prothero, PLLC as associate attorney in the immigration department. His practice includes family-based immigration petitions, waiver applications, consular processing, citizenship matters, and removal defense litigation.

Tyler Jones joined Helsell Fetterman’s tax, business transactions, and estate planning practice groups. Additionally, he is an adjunct professor with Golden Gate University’s Graduate Tax Program, where he teaches Federal Gift and Estate Tax and Estate Planning.

Lizamarie Mohammed and Keith Masill ’14 got engaged and bought their first home (on the same day) in May 2017 in Washington, D.C. Liza is a health policy analyst at the Guttmacher Institute and Keith is completing a judicial clerkship.

2016
Alinson Sierra is the incoming president of the board of the Dispute Resolution Center of King County, where he has volunteered for over two years. He continues to work at Ernst & Young and enjoys free time with his wife, Jeannett.

Joshua Treybig joined the King County Department of Public Defense as a collateral consequences civil attorney, helping people charged with crimes navigate the civil legal issues stemming from a criminal charge, including housing, immigration, and public benefits issues.

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All events are at Sullivan Hall unless otherwise noted.

May 8
Alumni Reception in Anchorage

May 8
GiveBIG Online

May 12
Spring Commencement at KeyArena

June 20-22
CLE: Mastering Legal Writing Certificate

June 20-22
CLE: Mass Atrocities and Human Rights

July 25-26
Export Control Conference

August 1-3
CLE: Health Law Certificate Program

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