

SEATTLE

# LAWYER

A MAGAZINE OF SEATTLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW / FALL 2018

## POVERTY WARRIORS

HOMELESS RIGHTS ADVOCACY PROJECT TAKES  
ON SEATTLE'S MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGE

### IN THIS ISSUE

Remembering  
Joaquín Avila

Slavery's legacy

Protecting human  
rights court

## STEPS IN THE CITY



Law students Nic Doherty, Rosemary Kim, and Shaquelle Duncan enjoy a sunny day in Seattle near Pike Place Market. By foot, downtown Seattle is just 20 minutes away from campus.

Photo by **MATT HAGEN**





Pine St 1500

Historical District  
Pike Place Market

ROCKY & SLUSH



## DEAN'S PERSPECTIVE

**T**here's a lyric in the musical "Hamilton" that defines a legacy as "planting seeds in a garden you never get to see." In my role as dean, I'm constantly reminded of the legacy we create as legal educators and as lawyers. We may never see some seeds in full bloom; others we see just as they start to sprout; and on occasion, we are fortunate enough to see them blossom.

This past spring, we celebrated the life and legacy of my friend and colleague, Joaquin Avila, who led our law school's National Voting Rights Advocacy Initiative (see page 6). Just days before he passed away, he learned that his tireless work on the Washington Voting Rights Act had finally borne fruit, as the bill was passed by the state legislature. Our graduate, Molly Matter '15, now continues her mentor's transformative legacy with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, an organization Avila once led as president.

In April, we celebrated Professor John Weaver's many legacies. The last of our founding faculty members to retire, he regaled us with memories from the law school's earliest days in Tacoma. Those few visionary souls, barely older than the students they taught, created a law school out of whole cloth, and today we stand as one of the region's preeminent educational institutions. What a remarkable legacy they left for us.

Watching seeds take root and grow is one of the many daily privileges I enjoy. The distinguished civil rights lawyer, Bryan Stevenson, was the inspiration for the Calhoun Family Fellowship. Thanks to the

generosity of the Calhoun family, our students have the opportunity to confront the toxic legacy of slavery in our country as Calhoun Family Fellows. I had the privilege of joining them for a life-changing trip to Montgomery, Alabama (see page 14).

It so happens that Stevenson also inspired a member of our faculty. Professor Sara Rankin studied with Stevenson while she was a student at New York University School of Law, and his theory of justice via proximity – getting close to a problem – drives her current work helping people experiencing homelessness (see page 16).

Professor Rankin's students have already taken their advocacy beyond law school and into their careers, showing early signs of a promising legacy in formation. I'm so proud to see them fully engaged in the political challenges of our city and country.

Every day we plant seeds. I invite you to tell us about who has inspired you and the legacies you're creating or continuing in your lives and careers. We would love to hear from you, via Seattle U Law Connect or any of our other social media channels. (P.S. I'm now on Twitter! Find me at @seattleulawdean.)

Best,

**Annette E. Clark '89**  
*Dean and Professor of Law*

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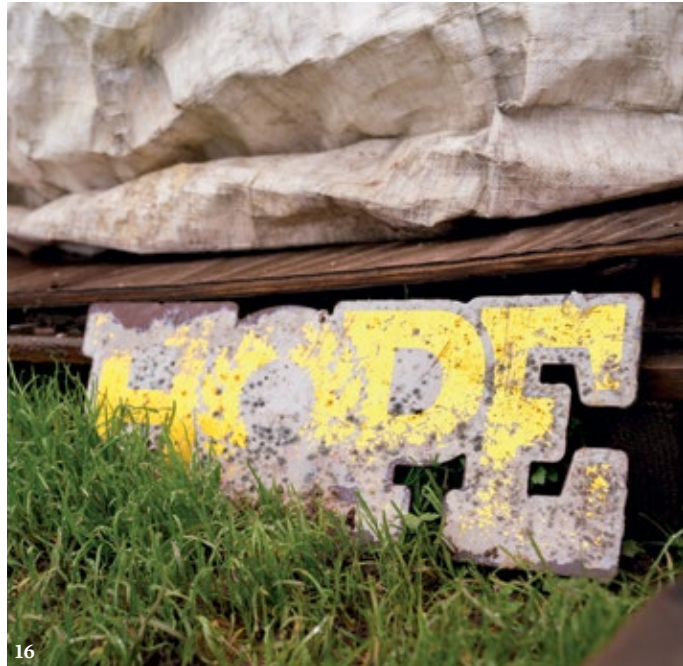
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Professor Sara Rankin and students in the Homeless Rights Advocacy Project work to solve one of the region's toughest and most divisive civic challenges.



**Cover** Authorized encampments, like the one hosted by Seattle Pacific University (SPU) in the winter of 2015, can be effective interim solutions to homelessness. Law student Evanie Parr studied Tent City 3 at SPU as part of her research. Photo courtesy of Seattle Pacific University/Chris Yang

# LAW SCHOOL HONORS ‘VOTING RIGHTS GLADIATOR’ JOAQUIN AVILA

**The voting rights movement lost one of its greatest champions** this year when former Professor Joaquin Avila passed away. Seattle University School of Law remembered his contributions to the law school and to the country at the Latinx Community Awards in March, and renamed the annual Latinx Amicus Award in his honor.

“He was absolutely before his time in understanding that the way to justice, the way to freedom, is to provide everyone in this country with access to the political process,” said Dean Annette Clark ’89. “He will be deeply missed, but his vision will not be forgotten.”

Avila, 69, died in March at his home in Shoreline.

Avila was a nationally recognized civil rights advocate when he joined the law school’s faculty as an assistant professor of law in 2005. As president of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), he successfully argued two voting rights cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. He had also been instrumental in crafting amendments to the federal Voting Rights Act in 1982, which changed the plaintiffs’ burden of proof from discriminatory intent to discriminatory impact in voting rights cases.

He was the chief architect of the 2001 California Voting Rights Act, not just in drafting the language of the bill but also in building a political coalition that led to its passage. Twice, he successfully defended the California legislation against legal challenges. In 2015, the state’s legislature named him “California’s Voting Rights Gladiator.”

Law school faculty remembered Avila as an inspirational and profoundly kind colleague

who never forgot his humble roots in Compton, California. “He was a giant, but he walked with us,” Clark said.

In 1996, he was awarded a prestigious fellowship from the MacArthur Foundation, commonly referred to as the “genius” grant, one of several accolades for his work on voting rights.

Professor Steven Bender, who co-authored a book with Avila, cited his friend’s 50-page resume as evidence of his prolific career as a litigator in dozens of voting rights cases. Avila developed his passion for ensuring equal representation for minorities while working for MALDEF in the 1970s in rural Texas. He later spent many years filing legal challenges to discriminatory election processes, gerrymandered districts, violations of the one-person one-vote principle, and non-compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act.

At Seattle University School of Law, Avila taught civil procedure and Latinas/os and the law, and he mentored students interested in social justice and coached several moot court teams. In 2009, he founded and became executive director of the law school’s National Voting Rights Advocacy Initiative, which operated as part of the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality until 2013. During that time, he helped draft the Washington Voting Rights Act.

“Joaquin Avila shifted the paradigm of voting rights work by envisioning a decentralized approach that utilized the private bar in fighting pervasive voting rights discrimination,” said Molly Matter ’15, who worked closely with Avila during her time as a law student and continues to work today on voting rights issues as a lawyer in private practice. “His former students and colleagues to this day continue his legacy.”

Avila suffered a stroke in October of 2010 that left him unable to teach full-time, but he continued to speak out on voting rights issues and advise other advocates, including law students.


Matter said that his disability only strengthened his vision for social justice. He wrote opinion pieces and law review articles with his one functioning hand and traveled to conferences and awards ceremonies even while confined to a wheelchair, she said.

Lawyer David A. Perez is another advocate who continued Professor Avila’s work. Now a commercial litigator at Perkins Coie, Perez joined the Korematsu Center as a fellow in 2011. He worked with Avila on the Washington voting rights legislation, which eventually passed just days before his death.

“All he cared about was fairness. All he wanted was equality,” Perez wrote in memory of Avila. “And when our nation fell short of those ideals, he was there to hold us to the commitments we had made to one another. We’re a better country because of this man.”



Joaquin Avila’s son, also named Joaquin, (second from left) joined the law school community at a memorial service for his father.



**“All he cared about was fairness. All he wanted was equality. And when our nation fell short of those ideals, he was there to hold us to the commitments we had made to one another.”** DAVID A. PEREZ



# THE BRIEFCASE



## CELEBRATING OUR NEW ALUMNI!

Congratulations to the Class of 2018! Family, friends, and loved ones gathered in KeyArena on May 12 to celebrate more than 150 accomplished graduates.

- A.** Christina J. Scott '18 hugs her children after the ceremony.
- B.** Archie Roundtree '18 and Ivona Ogramic '18
- C.** Connor Smith '18 was recognized as a Faculty Trust Scholar.
- D.** Delivering the JD student address, Nicolas McKee Castellanos '18 remembered his late grandfather's advice to him: "If you're going to be a lawyer, do it with all the strength and power you have."
- E.** Professor Sidney DeLong gave the faculty address.
- F.** Dylan Cardoza '18, Becca Newsom '18, and Priscilla Carey-Cordoba '18





# DURING CAMPUS VISIT, JAMES COMEY SAYS 'TRUTH MATTERS'

In an event co-sponsored by the School of Law, former FBI Director James Comey spoke to a large group of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and guests at Seattle University in April as part of a national tour to promote his new book, "A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies and Leadership."

During his nearly two-hour appearance, Comey discussed numerous topics, ranging from his career as a U.S. Attorney for the Department of Justice to his service as FBI director under presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump. He also addressed the controversy surrounding the investigation into alleged Trump campaign ties to Russia, as well as the timing of Comey's communications – during a critical period of the 2016 presidential campaign – regarding the probe into former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's email use.

Although Comey is primarily in the news because of his dismissal by President Trump

last year, he spent most of his time sharing his thoughts on leadership, gleaned from his long career in public service. In particular, he spoke about the critical importance of truth, especially for those in the legal profession. "We must send a message that the truth matters in the criminal justice system," Comey said.

A theme throughout his speech was the importance of public service, and he encouraged young people, especially the students in attendance, to get involved in a variety of ways.

"The visit by James Comey was a remarkable way to end our academic year, providing the law school and broader university community with an up-close look at our national political scene and one of its most important players," said Dean Annette Clark '89.

The law school partnered with the School of Theology and Ministry and Elliott Bay Book Company to host Comey's visit.



## LAW SCHOOL NAMES CHIEF JUSTICE MARY FAIRHURST 'WOMAN OF THE YEAR'

### In recognition of her outstanding

accomplishments and her efforts to help women build successful careers in the legal profession, Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst of the Washington Supreme Court was named the 2018 Woman of the Year. Seattle University School of Law and the Women's Law Caucus presented her with the award at a ceremony in early April.

"Receiving this award makes me feel honored and supported by groups and individuals who have been there for me throughout my career. Their encouragement and support contributed to my courage and confidence to make a difference, which I try to do every day in big and small ways," Fairhurst said.

Dean Annette Clark '89 praised Justice Fairhurst for showing extraordinary commitment to mentoring new attorneys, especially women, and for assisting law students who are forging their own career paths.

"Justice Fairhurst challenges us, as women, to claim our power proudly and to be inspiring role models for those who will follow us as leaders in the legal profession," Clark said.

Fairhurst, a graduate of Gonzaga University School of Law, became a Washington Supreme Court justice in 2003, and ascended to the role of chief justice last year. In this role, she is the court's chief spokesperson, presides over the court's hearings and conferences, and chairs the state Board for Judicial Administration. Before her election to the court, she was an assistant attorney general for more than 16 years and spent two years as a law clerk for the Washington Supreme Court.

The Woman of the Year award, given annually for the past 15 years, recognizes an accomplished leader who is committed to women's issues and is a role model for future members of the legal profession in Washington state.





# FOUNDING PROFESSOR JOHN WEAVER RETIRES

**In the early 1970s**, John Weaver was a lawyer at a midsized firm in Indianapolis. He had never worked as a teacher. He had never been west of the Rocky Mountains. But a hankering for adventure led him across the country to a brand new law school in Tacoma, Washington.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Actually, the rest was property. Weaver taught property law at Seattle University School of Law since its first day of operation in 1972, when it was affiliated with

the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma. Weaver, the last of the law school's founding faculty members, retired just four years shy of its 50th anniversary.

"It was very exciting, very daunting, and very busy," Weaver said, remembering the early days of the law school. "But we all found that teaching was what we really liked to do. And our students were about the same age as we were, so there was a sense that we were all in this together."

Professor John Weaver received emeritus honors at the 2018 Spring Commencement ceremony from Executive Vice President Dr. Timothy Leary.

Annette Clark '89 came to the law school as a student 14 years after its founding and now serves as its dean. "It's an honor for me to lead the law school John helped build, and I'm grateful for his many contributions," she said. (Seattle University acquired the law school in 1994.)

Weaver graduated from Dartmouth College in 1966 and received a JD from the University of Michigan Law School in 1969. He has twice served as associate dean for academic affairs for Seattle University School of Law. He writes in the area of future interests and easements and has prepared materials for the Washington Bar Association Deskbooks in Property and Commercial Transactions.

As a practicing lawyer in Indianapolis, Weaver had been toying with the idea of teaching history when he came across the job opportunity in Tacoma at a legal conference. He was hired, along with five other faculty members, and prepared by reading as much as he could and sitting in on classes at Ohio State University to remember what law school was like.

"We had 425 students in three sections, and we all taught all of the students," he said. "So by the time you got to the third class of the day, you'd gotten better at it."

Seeing that first class of students graduate, pass the bar, and become practicing lawyers is one of Weaver's favorite memories from his long career with the law school.

His other favorite memories are closer to home. His wife, Ginger, graduated from the law school in 1977. Their daughter, Hannah, graduated in 2015.

The two women in his family reflect a larger trend in the legal profession that Weaver said he's been pleased to observe over the years.

"There were only five women in my graduating law school class," he said. "When I started teaching, women were about 10 to 15 percent of the class. Now, it's more than 50 percent. It's been wonderful to see the expanded horizons for women."

In retirement, Weaver plans to travel, write mystery novels, and continue an important role he's taken on in recent years as the law school's liaison to the South Sound legal community. He regularly contributes to the Tacoma Pierce County Bar Association magazine and maintains relationships with legal leaders and employers in Pierce County.

"As the dean always says, Tacoma is in our DNA," he said. "We have so many alumni there, and it's a good place for our graduates to find fulfilling careers."



## JESUITS DENOUNCE UNJUST TREATMENT OF MIGRANTS

**Seattle University** School of Law joined 10 other Jesuit law schools, the Jesuit Conference's Office of Justice and Ecology, and several other Jesuit organizations to denounce the Trump Administration's zero tolerance policy that reinforces the criminalization of migration and has already separated thousands of migrant families.

"We denounce President Trump's recent Executive Order, which fails to provide a solution to the family separation crisis, and instead mandates that migrant families be held in detention," the group's combined statement reads. "And we decry the failure of the U.S. Government to comply with international and U.S. law in processing and referring fear-based asylum claims at U.S. Ports of Entry in a timely manner. These policies and practices are morally repugnant, violate the rights of asylum seekers as well as children and families, and create permanent harm to the spirit, health and well-being of vulnerable individuals and families."

In addition to the Jesuit's Office of Justice and Ecology, the statement came from Loyola University Chicago's Center for the Human Rights of Children, the Kino Border Initiative, the

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, and the law schools.

While the criminalization of illegal border crossing is not new, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced in April that every migrant crossing without inspection would be prosecuted without regard for family unity or fear of return to their country of origin. This has meant that asylum seekers are criminally sentenced for seeking safety and parents have been forcibly separated from their children.

The Jesuit statement said that President Trump's follow-up order, which mandates the detention of families to keep children with their parents, "falls far short of our calls to uphold the dignity of children and families. We reject this policy because we have seen that detention is detrimental to the physical, spiritual, and mental well-being of the individual, especially of children."

The Jesuit organizations called on Congressional leaders to work together to ensure that the rights of the most vulnerable among us are protected. "Founded on the core Jesuit values of welcome and accompaniment, we will continue to stand up for the dignity and inherent rights of any displaced person."

# KOREMATSU CENTER JOINS CHALLENGE TO CENSUS CITIZENSHIP QUESTION

Professor  
Lorraine K.  
Bannai



**Assisted by** the Seattle University School of Law's Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality, four Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II have asked a New York federal district court to prevent the government from including a citizenship question on the 2020 U.S. Census.

The group includes Norman Y. Mineta, former U.S. secretary of transportation, and three sisters, Sharon Sakamoto '84, Eileen Yoshiko Sakamoto Okada, and Joy Sakamoto Barker. They argue that asking about someone's citizenship status will cause distrust,

undermining the census's sole and essential purpose of counting every person, regardless of status.

The Korematsu Center joined with the Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR)-New York in signing an amicus brief filed as part of the lawsuit brought by a coalition of immigrants' rights groups against the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Census Bureau. The law firm Akin Gump served as co-counsel.

"When I was 10 years old in 1942, my family and I were forcibly taken from our home in San Jose and incarcerated at the Heart Mountain camp in Wyoming, solely because we were Japanese American," Mineta said. "Years later, we learned the government improperly used census information to quickly round up and incarcerate 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry."

Mineta cited "unprecedented concern" from minority communities when the U.S. Census Bureau announced that it would

include a citizenship question on the 2020 questionnaire.

"Citizenship data is not necessary to ensuring a full census count," he said. "Collecting this information 'lies like a loaded weapon, ready for the hand of any authority that can bring forward a plausible claim of an urgent need.' We must not repeat history."

The brief argues that the citizenship question will deter immigrant communities from responding to the census.

"President Franklin Roosevelt broke the promise in his presidential census proclamation that no person can be harmed in any way by furnishing the information required," said Professor Lorraine K. Bannai, director of the Korematsu Center. "Trust, once breached, can take decades to rebuild. It is crucial that the census be conducted free of any improper conduct by government officials charged with ensuring trust in the census as an institution."



## RED MASS MOVES TO ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

This year, the Archdiocese of Seattle will host Red Mass, a Catholic celebration to invoke God's blessing and guidance for lawyers, judges, public servants, and other members of the legal and legislative communities. The tradition dates to 13th century England, when judges wore red robes and priests wore red vestments to signify the Holy Spirit.

The Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain is excited to welcome the Mass and reception back to St. James Cathedral. Red Mass is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 6, 2018, with a reception immediately following.

The St. Thomas More Society of Seattle University School of Law is also co-sponsoring a Continuing Legal Education program that day. "Beyond the RPCs - Ethical and Moral Decision-making in Challenging Times" will begin at 12:30 p.m. in Sullivan Hall. To register, visit [law.seattleu.edu](http://law.seattleu.edu).



## TRUMP NOMINATES ALUMNUS FOR U.S. ATTORNEY

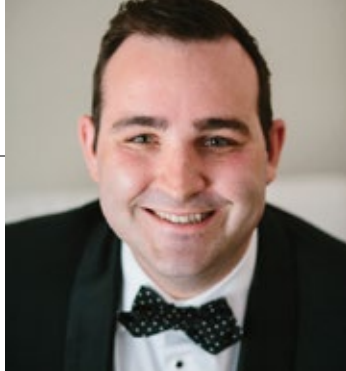
**Brian Moran**, a 1987 graduate of the law school and a former chief deputy in the Washington State Attorney General's office, has been nominated by President Donald Trump to serve as the next U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Washington.

The nomination must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate. As

a member of Orrick law firm's public policy group, Moran advises Fortune 100 companies, financial institutions, technology innovators, and a wide range of other businesses that are under investigation by state Attorneys General and other regulatory bodies. He joined the law firm in 2013.

In a statement, Moran said he was honored by the nomination.

"I look forward to returning to public service and working alongside the men and women of the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Department of Justice who have dedicated their professional lives to serving the citizens of Washington," he said.



## NEW SCHOLARSHIP HONORS MEMORY OF RECENT ALUMNUS

**Friends and loved ones** of Anthony “Tony” Yerry ’14, who passed away suddenly last year, have endowed the Tony Yerry Memorial Scholarship for a rising 3L member of the Seattle University Law Review as a way to honor his legacy.

Yerry was a well-loved son, brother, boyfriend, and friend. He was a successful lawyer at K&L Gates, a great mentor, and a

respected member of the community, volunteering his time as the Aloha Inn Pro Bono Legal Clinic coordinator and serving as a board member of the King County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division. He always believed in supporting others to be the best version of themselves.

Yerry passed away on July 1, 2017, while hiking near Marmot Pass in the Olympic Mountains.

Ana Reyes, his girlfriend of many years, joined with Yerry’s family, his co-workers at K&L Gates, and his friends to create a \$50,000 endowment for the scholarship to honor his lifelong commitment to growth and learning.

For more information about the scholarship, contact Chief Advancement Officer Pat McCowan at [mccowanp@seattleu.edu](mailto:mccowanp@seattleu.edu) or (206) 398-4290.

## CLINIC’S CLEMENCY WORK INSPIRES GIFT

**Over the years**, the work of the law school’s Ronald A. Peterson Law Clinic has positively impacted many lives, even people who aren’t clinic clients.

Such was the case when the clinic petitioned for clemency on behalf of a woman serving a sentence of life without parole under Washington state’s “three strikes” statute. Maryam Steffen, a mental health counselor living on Vashon Island, developed a particularly strong bond with a clinic client while participating in inmate anti-violence workshops at the Washington Corrections Center for Women. Steffen visited the woman in prison almost every week for 18 years.

Clinic students knew Steffen could offer powerful testimony before the Clemency and Pardons Board on their client’s behalf. But as the date of the hearing drew near, it became clear that Steffen would be unable to attend. She had been diagnosed with aggressive lung cancer and was hospitalized for treatment.

With the help of Vice Dean and Professor Paul Holland, she videotaped her testimony from a hospital bed, sharing the story of her friend’s remarkable transformation. Steffen passed away in November 2015, one month before the clemency hearing, not knowing the fate of the woman for whom she had become a mother figure.



The law clinic received two wonderful pieces of news as a result of the dedicated work of Holland and his students on this case: the governor approved their client’s clemency petition, and Steffen, who had been deeply moved by the experience, included the clinic in her will. Through a bequest, Steffen provided support for students and faculty to assist others like the woman she had befriended so many years earlier.

### IN MEMORIAM



### JEAN SUNDBORG

Jean Sundborg passed away in June 2018 at the age of 78. She was a driving force for good in the world, and wherever she lived, Sundborg was an active volunteer and community member. Seattle University School of Law is just one of many communities helped by her generosity, as her family founded and contributed to the Alaska Scholarship Fund and Sundborg regularly attended the Alaska Scholars Breakfast.

She is survived by her husband, Pierre; son George; brother Larry; sister Nancy Penrose (David Muerdter); brother-in-law, Seattle University President Stephen Sundborg, S.J.; and their families.

### APPOINTMENTS

Congratulations to the following alumni recently appointed to the bench in the state of Washington!

**Michelle Adams '95**  
KITSAP COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

**Karen Donohue '87**  
KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

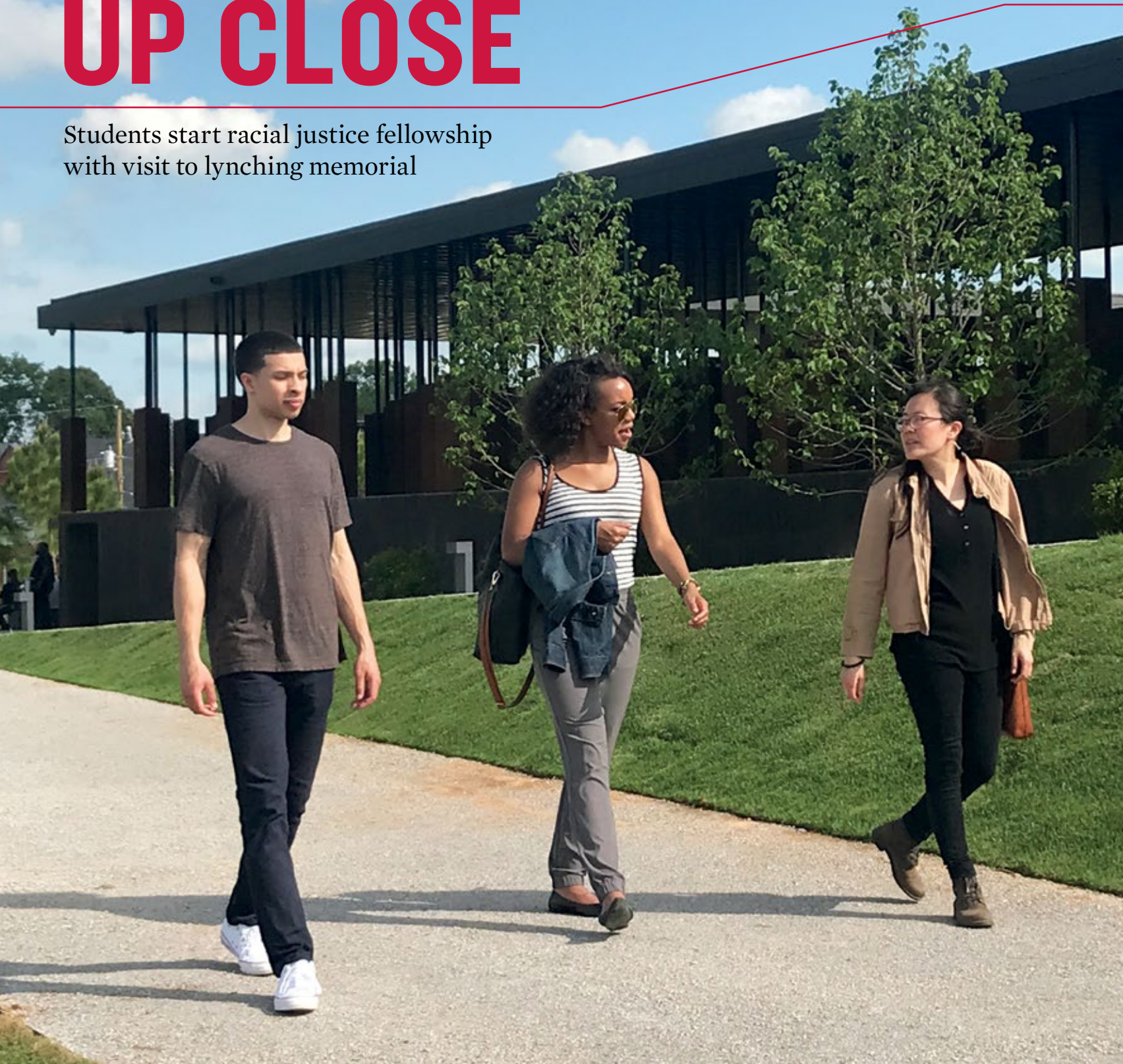
**Jennifer Langbehn '05**  
SNOHOMISH COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

**Robert B.C. McSeveney '84**  
CHELAN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

**Rob Olson '95**  
WHATCOM COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

# HISTORY UP CLOSE

Students start racial justice fellowship  
with visit to lynching memorial



# "YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND MOST OF THE IMPORTANT THINGS FROM A DISTANCE, BRYAN. YOU HAVE TO GET CLOSE."

Civil rights attorney Bryan Stevenson's grandmother spoke those words to him throughout his childhood, and as an adult, he made proximity – "getting close" – a central pillar of his work toward racial justice.

Four Seattle University School of Law students followed that same advice this year with a visit to Montgomery, Alabama, in April. There, they "got close" to the country's shameful history of white supremacy while attending the opening ceremony of the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and The Legacy Museum. It's the nation's first memorial dedicated to the history of slavery, lynching, segregation, and oppression of African Americans.

Montgomery is also home to the Equal Justice Initiative, founded and directed by Stevenson, a celebrated public interest lawyer and author of the book "Just Mercy." Stevenson and other civil rights activists were the driving force behind the new memorial.

Law students Hyun-Mi Kim, Michael McCorkle, Noe Merfeld, and Jacob Walsh are the inaugural recipients of The Calhoun Family Fellowship, established by Seattle businessman Jerry Calhoun (BA '67) and his wife, Andrea Wenet, to advance equal justice. Calhoun invited and generously

funded the fellows to join him and his family on this life-changing Montgomery journey.

The visit better prepared the students to engage in meaningful work over the summer to address racial disparity in the criminal justice system.

Professor from Practice Robert C. Boruchowitz, faculty adviser for the fellowship, and Dean Annette Clark '89 also accompanied the Calhoun family and the students.

"It gave the students a tremendous head start on thinking about how to incorporate a sense of the history of racial injustice into the work they do," Boruchowitz said.

Merfeld said the trip was inspirational and would help her focus on what she wants to accomplish. "To me, the most powerful aspect of the trip was touring the museum. It drew a clear parallel between slavery in the past and mass incarceration of people of color taking place today," she said. "Achieving equal justice can seem like a big and daunting task, so I am excited to focus on improving the community in Seattle."

During the summer-long fellowship, students worked on four cases with Boruchowitz. One was an appeal for a client who was 11 years old when detained for more than two months in Grays Harbor County in southwest Washington. The girl was convicted of assault for spitting at a jail guard after she was handcuffed to a wall for not doing her homework.

The students have had educational sessions with prosecutors, defenders, and judges, as well as National ACLU Deputy Director Jeff Robinson, Washington Supreme Court Justice Mary Yu, and Attorney General Bob Ferguson. They attended a meeting of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission and met with summer interns for the King County Department of Public Defense.

It was a meaningful summer that started with the opening ceremony for the memorial in Montgomery, where students also attended a series of lectures, seminars, and events featuring notable figures such as former Vice President Al Gore, civil rights lawyer Marian Wright Edelman, women's rights advocate Gloria Steinem, "The New Jim Crow" author Michelle Alexander, and Sherrilyn Ifill, director counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Walsh said activist-authors like Alexander and Stevenson inspired him to attend law school. "I almost can't put into words what the experience was like, but it was truly moving," he said. "I am now even more motivated to be part of the fight to make our criminal court system a more equitable place for everyone."

Dean Clark said visiting the memorial was an "unforgettable and haunting experience."

"The memorial contains both a lesson and a hope: that national reconciliation cannot come without first facing the truth that our history records a direct line from the inhumanity of slavery to lynchings as a means of terrorizing black communities to mass incarceration," she said, "but also that facing that truth can lead to the rebirth of our nation."

Calhoun Family Fellows Jacob Walsh, Noe Merfeld, and Hyun-Mi Kim reflect on the country's painful history at The Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama.





# POVERTY WARRIORS



PROFESSOR SARA RANKIN AND  
HER STUDENTS WORK TO END  
HOMELESSNESS

BY CLAUDINE BENMAR

PHOTO BY REAL CHANGE

Encampments like Tent City 3 at Seattle Pacific University involve a complex web of legal considerations but are ultimately a beneficial interim solution to homelessness, according to law student Evanie Parr's research.

(Photo courtesy of Seattle Pacific University/Chris Yang.)

**“WE ARE ALL STAINED BY WHAT I call the influence of exile – deeply ingrained class and status distinctions that guide us, even subconsciously, to act and enforce laws that restrict the visibility of poverty, of poor people, in public space.”** → Professor Sara Rankin

When Professor Sara Rankin spoke those words at the Real Change Annual Breakfast in the fall of 2016, Seattle was almost a year into a mayor-declared “state of emergency” on homelessness. More than 10,000 people in King County were sleeping outside, in cars, in homeless shelters, or in encampments, most of them in Seattle, according to an annual one-night count.

Now, that number is even higher – upwards of 12,000 – and the tragedy of homelessness has only gotten worse. Some members of the King County Board of Health are calling it a “public health disaster.”

Seattle University School of Law students are diving into the region's most urgent challenge with legal analysis, critical thinking, and impassioned advocacy. The Homeless Rights Advocacy Project (HRAP), founded by Rankin in 2014, has become a trusted and influential resource for regional and even national policymakers.

“I often say that having the legal community now available has been a ‘game changer’ for many of us, like me, who have been doing this [work] for a decade and a half,” said the Rev. Bill Kirlin-Hackett, director of the Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness. “What a gift.”

In the past three years, Seattle U law students have published 16 reports on homelessness, analyzing a diverse array of topics,

from zoning laws to encampments. The reports have been widely promoted to city officials and legislators across Washington and beyond, along with a condensed summary of 12 actions cities can take to stop the spread of homelessness.

“The reports widen the view that legislators have, which is too often solely informed by what they get from the media,” Kirlin-Hackett said. His task force, like many other community partners across the country, helps HRAP identify areas of concern for the law students to research.

Rankin has also organized multiple events, including a poverty law workshop in 2016 and a land use forum in 2018, which gathered well over 100 lawyers, political staff members, activists, and people experiencing homelessness from around the region and across the country. She and some of her students also spoke at the 2018 National Forum on the Human Right to Housing in Washington, D.C., in June. Rankin, her students, and HRAP's work are increasingly appearing in media coverage of homelessness.

#### **BUILDING A COALITION**

Most recently, she co-founded the Third Door Coalition, a nonpartisan civic alliance of

business leaders and service providers working to find solutions to chronic homelessness. The coalition emerged in the wake of a contentious and highly polarized debate about imposing a new tax on Seattle's largest employers to fund homelessness solutions. The tax proposal was repealed, but the animosity lingered.

“Many in Seattle feel forced into one corner or another: you were either for the tax or against it. You either care about helping vulnerable people or you don't. You're either for economic growth or against it,” Rankin said. “But there is a third door: homelessness is solvable if we work together, find common ground, and focus on evidence-based practices.”

Ultimately, how can lawyers – and law students – help end homelessness? They start by calling attention to laws that exacerbate the problem.

“As a lawyer, I'm particularly intrigued by how we express our fears and our impulses in our laws and policies,” Rankin said, explaining that the same laws that make some people feel safe – laws against loitering and panhandling, for example – can harm the most vulnerable populations.

A simple ticket for a civil infraction like begging, for example, imposes a fine that a homeless person can't pay or a mandated court appearance that they can't make. Legal consequences for not paying, or not appearing in court, then cause that simple ticket to quickly escalate into a misdemeanor. With a criminal record, a person in need has a much harder time accessing food, shelter, and social services.

“Criminalization makes people more resistant to recovery, more likely to become sick, more likely to self-medicate, more likely to become incarcerated, and even more likely to die,” she said.

Before they've even graduated, HRAP students have been trained and encouraged to serve as leading advocates for better policies and protections for visibly poor people. Rankin calls the students “poverty warriors.”



The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP) reports that anti-homelessness laws have increased dramatically in the last 10 years across the country. Bans on panhandling, loitering, and sleeping in vehicles are up 31, 88, and 143 percent, respectively.

### **INVESTING IN SOLUTIONS**

Breanne Schuster '15 has been fighting laws such as these for several years now, first as an HRAP student and now as a staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington. Her advocacy helped to defeat unconstitutional ordinances in the town of Burien, where city officials had gained notoriety for wanting to ticket people with offensive body odor in public.

The ACLU continues to oppose a range of unconstitutional policies and practices targeting the homeless in Burien and elsewhere. HRAP'S work has been vital to supporting the ACLU and other legal aid organizations.

"The optimist in me thinks it's possible to eliminate homelessness if we invest in solutions rather than continuing to punish people for their particular situations," Schuster said. "In the interim, I would love to see us change the narrative about homelessness. We have to remember that people are people. And they have the same rights as people living in brick and mortar homes."

Justin Olson '15 was in the first cohort of HRAP students, along with Schuster. For him, the work was so meaningful that he returns as a volunteer and mentor, helping current students with their reports. He's motivated by

the opportunity to serve people whom others want to ignore.

"This is an incredibly underrepresented population. You'll find advocates for almost every issue out there, but homeless advocacy doesn't get a lot of traction or support or funding," he said. "So there was this big void that didn't make sense to me. Why had no one done this before? As law students, we had the opportunity, the resources, the time, and the skill set to do that."

Olson has co-authored or edited several HRAP reports, including a 2016 report about vehicle residency – "Living at the Intersection" – that inspired advocacy efforts on behalf of vehicle residents. The advocacy eventually resulted in a high-profile court victory this spring. Alison Bilow, staff attorney for the Basic Human Needs Project at Columbia



**“Many in Seattle feel forced into one corner or another: you were either for the tax or against it. You either care about helping vulnerable people or you don’t. You’re either for economic growth or against it. But there is a third door: homelessness is solvable if we work together, find common ground, and focus on evidence-based practices.”**

PROFESSOR SARA RANKIN

Professor Sara Rankin and Justin Olson '15 describe the goals of the Homeless Rights Advocacy Project at its initial launch.

Legal Services, cited the report in *City of Seattle v. Steven Long*, successfully arguing that her client’s truck was his home and he was therefore entitled to certain protections against impoundment.

“The reports by Professor Rankin and HRAP have been an incredibly important tool and resource for this work,” Bilow said.

While it’s rewarding to see victories in the courtroom, HRAP students said the program has also been tremendously valuable to their legal education. Each year, the students take a class in homeless rights law for credit, and then the team functions like a small law firm, collaborating on reports with each other, giving and receiving feedback, gathering data, honing their writing skills, and following the extraordinary lead set by Rankin.

“Her energy is infectious,” Olson said.

“Professor Rankin’s passion is apparent, and she sets high expectations for her students,”

said 3L Evanie Parr. “It’s more than you think you can do. My paper, when it was done, was 55 pages and more than 250 footnotes. I did not think I was capable of that as a second-year law student. She clearly has a vision for how the reports are going to be used and what has to happen in order for them to be effective.”

#### A MODEL FOR LAW SCHOOLS

Professor Nantiya Ruan of the University of Denver Sturm College of Law was inspired by Rankin to create a homeless advocacy program at her own law school. Rankin helped Ruan replicate a program similar to HRAP at Denver. In fact, Seattle and Denver students collaborated on one of the latest HRAP research papers about accessory dwelling units (tiny houses in residential backyards). The law school at University of California,

Berkeley, also created a program similar to HRAP; Rankin assists other law schools throughout the country in joining such work.

“Law school tends to be litigation-focused, and this was a chance for students to get experience with policy,” Ruan said. “They have to learn how to work with business interests as well as legislators. They learn how to use the media as a tool for communications. These skills aren’t usually taught in law school.”

For 3L Jocelyn Tillisch, who joined Parr and Rankin at the NLCHP forum on homelessness in Washington, D.C., this summer, working to defend homeless individuals’ rights is what coming to law school was all about.

“I’m from a small town in eastern Canada, and I hadn’t seen a person experiencing homelessness until I was 13 or 14. Then I came to Seattle and it’s so visible here,” she said.

“I was the type of person who would cross the street if I saw somebody begging because

I felt so uncomfortable. But I believe that part of my job in law school is to challenge myself. This class did that.”

Tristia Bauman, senior attorney for NLCHP, helped organize the D.C. forum and was encouraged to see law students stepping up to the plate.

“Lawyers play a really important role in ensuring that people have their basic rights protected,” she said, adding that she hopes the HRAP effort is duplicated at law schools around the country. “There are not nearly enough Sara Rankins in the world, not nearly enough Seattle Universities.”

Bauman praised HRAP, and Rankin in particular, for collaborating closely with service providers and people experiencing homelessness to make sure the students’ policy and advocacy work reflected real needs.

“Sara really understands person-centered policy and advocacy approaches,” she said. “Homeless people and organizers are included and she centers the conversation around what actually works for real people. She’s somebody who gets it.”

Lawyers are trained communicators, Parr said, and they have the ability to make a connection between those real people – people sleeping on the streets, in their cars, or in crowded shelters – and people with wealth and power. Parr served as development coordinator for Real Change before coming to law school. In fact, the 2016 breakfast event at which Professor Rankin gave the keynote address was the last event she organized before becoming a full-time law student.

In her report, Parr examined homeless encampments hosted at authorized locations, such as college campuses, and the zoning, contract, and liability laws, among others, which made such encampments possible. Beyond the legal details, though, she saw that the encampments gave young college

students a chance to learn more directly about poverty and change their perceptions of visibly poor people.

“Lawyers have a translator role. I had a summer internship helping people get their public benefits, and I learned that sometimes it’s just a matter of having someone who can talk to people on either end, to understand how this other person needs to hear it,” she said.

## ENDING HOMELESSNESS

This civil and inclusive dialogue, a hallmark of Jesuit education, gives Rankin hope that the new Third Door Coalition will be able to develop a real and meaningful plan to find shelter for all chronically homeless people in King County within five years. Seattle University hosts meetings of the coalition, which

includes business leaders, researchers, and service providers.

Kirlin-Hackett is also hopeful. “Sara’s advocacy brings – and this may sound odd – ‘status,’ which is necessary in addressing leaders who feel somehow that they can only learn from experts of equal status,” he said.

The coalition will focus on “housing first” solutions, which provide permanent supportive housing for people without any strings attached. “This is consistently shown to be the most cost-effective means of ending chronic homelessness,” Rankin said.

In the meantime, the work of HRAP continues, as lawyers and law students continue to serve this neglected population.

“Compassion is key,” Tillisch said. “People experiencing homelessness are human. We have to start with compassion and maybe just a little bit of self-reflection.”



Students Evanie Parr (middle) and Jocelyn Tillisch (right) joined Professor Sara Rankin at the National Law Center for Homelessness and Poverty’s 2018 National Forum on the Human Right to Housing in June.

# HACK

# ING



**DAVID ANDREWS '07**

**EMBRACES  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
SOLUTIONS TO  
LEGAL PROBLEMS**

BY CLAUDINE BENMAR

# THE

# LAW

**The question had been bouncing around in** the back of David Andrews's mind for more than a year: how can police departments manage their officers' body camera footage in a way that satisfies both watchdog groups and investigators? The challenge is that police need to keep video confidential until investigations are complete, while groups such as the ACLU want immediate access to prevent police tampering.

The answer he came up with – using the shared digital ledger known as blockchain along with sophisticated encryption technology – was named the Seattle winner of the Global Legal Hackathon this spring, one of 40 regional winners from around the world. The hackathon drew some 5,000 participants in 22 countries; the local competition was hosted by Microsoft and Davis Wright Tremaine.

His project – dubbed “Watchman” – uses blockchain to insert a secure digital mark called a “hash” at regular intervals in the police video. Watchdog groups would share access to that digital ledger even before the video is released to the public, so they'd know if the video had been altered.

For Andrews, a software developer turned lawyer, the project was right in his wheelhouse – solving a legal problem in a socially thoughtful way by using the best tools technology has to offer. “I wouldn't have chosen this project but for the great grounding in social justice that I received while at Seattle U,” he said.

Andrews is a 2007 graduate of Seattle University School of Law who had spent 10 years at Microsoft before law school writing code for high-profile projects such as the Windows operating system and the popular video game Age of Empires. His law degree allowed him to transition to patent analysis and, later, management positions. He first learned about hackathons while working as a patent attorney for Microsoft Garage, an initiative designed to foster grassroots innovation within the company.

Hackathons are tech-centric events in which people with various skill sets come together for a finite period of time (from a few hours to a few days), form teams, and sprint to create apps or programs that solve particular

problems. For example, Seattle University School of Law hosted a hackathon in 2015 with a focus on increasing access to legal services among low-income clients.

“The nature of a hackathon is that you get to try something you haven't tried before,” Andrews said. “You get to do stuff that isn't part of your day job.”

Andrews served as the legal expert for Microsoft's first company-wide hackathon in 2014, where he fielded all sorts of questions from competitors. One memorable hacker wanted to convert all sales to bitcoin to avoid taxes. (Andrews's answer: sorry, no, that's tax evasion.)



David Andrews '07 uses visualization tools such as the software Tableau in his work as a data analyst. The graphic above shows his recent work charting patent citations for electric toothbrushes, color coded by patent holder.

From a participant's perspective, Andrews said his legal education – specifically, the law school's renowned Legal Writing Program – gave him a distinct advantage at hackathons. After all, presenting an argument before a panel of judges is a lot like a trial.

“Lawyers bring a superpower to hackathons and that's the ability to communicate,” he said. “When I had success with hackathon judges, it was because I could communicate very effectively what I did, why I did what I did, and how it would change the world.”

Andrews, who teaches self-defense classes to vulnerable populations, sees the body camera project as part of his ongoing efforts to make the world a safer place. Watchman does that by promoting transparency in police interactions with the communities they serve.

The project didn't make it to the final round of the hackathon, but Andrews has applied for a patent and may market the idea to body camera companies.

When he's not competing in hackathons, Andrews has built an impressive career

combining his tech savvy and legal skills. He left Microsoft two years ago to form his own company, called Legal Analytics, where he applies data science to the field of patents.

His specialty is data visualization. For example, he created color-coded graphs of patent costs, combined with the likelihood that those patents will be granted, to easily identify patents that are most cost-effective to pursue.


“Easy-to-learn software makes data visualization an accessible tool for lawyers, and every lawyer should have some exposure to visualization techniques,” he said. “A compelling visual depiction of lost prof-

its in a patent case, for example, could lead to a much higher jury award than a confusing spreadsheet.”

Law school classmate Jake Bernstein '07, cybersecurity counsel at Newman Du Wors, said Andrews's career shows what's possible when lawyers embrace technology. “A good lawyer with technical ability can create client value in entirely novel ways,” he said. “From discovery to case law research to predicting how a judge will rule on a given motion, the ability to harness the enormous amount of data that's out there will give lawyers tools the previous generation could never have dreamed of.”

In the end, Andrews said, a lawyer's storytelling ability becomes the critical human skill a machine can never replace.

“People who compile data tend to be scientists, and even scientists say visualization is really a persuasive endeavor, not a scientific endeavor,” he said. “Lawyers have to tell that story. You have to make the story central to all your visualizations.”



# CRITICAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

# MUST SURVIVE

Across the Americas, authoritarian leaders are brutally repressing protests, firing key investigators, and displacing indigenous communities in efforts to consolidate power. Our own president has separated thousands of migrant children from their parents and denied domestic violence survivors opportunities for asylum. The political turmoil has led to critical challenges for the 35-nation Organization of American States (OAS), the world's oldest regional governmental alliance.





**"IN OUR ERA DARKENED BY RAMPANT NATIONALISM, VIOLENCE, AND DISCRIMINATION, THESE RIGHTS MONITORS ARE NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER BEFORE. THROUGHOUT THE AMERICAS – FROM THE U.S. TO NICARAGUA, VENEZUELA, AND BEYOND – WE MUST DEMAND THAT OUR GOVERNMENTS RECOMMIT TO THE OAS INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY AND RULE OF LAW."**

Last year, Venezuela announced its withdrawal from the OAS; a member state had not willingly left since its founding in 1948. In March 2017, the Trump Administration boycotted hearings before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. This marked the first time the United States government failed to participate in a hearing called by the commission. Just last month, the Trump administration decided to leave the United Nations Human Rights Council, yet again rejecting an opportunity to collaborate with other nations to protect international rights.

If member states turn away from the OAS, this will seriously debilitate its vital human

rights institutions: the Inter-American Commission and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The commission, based in Washington, D.C., decides individual cases of rights abuse and promotes rights through country visits, hearings, and reports. The court, located in Costa Rica, issues binding judgments and emergency protection orders. The United States has yet to agree to the court's jurisdiction, but the commission has found our nation in violation of human rights in numerous situations, and has recommended a range of remedial measures.

For decades these two institutions have saved lives, secured redress for victims of rights violations, bolstered the rule of law, and provided crucial opposition to despotic regimes in the hemisphere. Through the 1980s, the commission shined a spotlight on the widespread abuses perpetrated by Latin American dictatorships. Subsequently, during the region's transition to democracy, both institutions confronted the sinister legacy of these regimes. By striking down amnesty laws and urging investigations, they fostered accountability for serious rights violations. Currently, the Inter-American Human Rights System has sharpened its focus on the marginalized of the Americas: indigenous communities, victims of gender violence, and many others who suffer discrimination.

As a result of their bold rulings, the court and the commission have often strengthened the protections of the American Convention on Human Rights, the hemisphere's main rights treaty. They have also developed a creative jurisprudence that has become influential beyond Latin America – inspiring the

major human rights institutions of the United Nations, Europe, and Africa.

At Seattle University School of Law, our International Human Rights Clinic has litigated before the commission and court several times. Backed by their decisions and subsequent media attention, we were recently able to free an illegally detained indigenous leader. In other cases, the commission helped us obtain reparations for a client tortured by Mexican police and endorsed our defense of indigenous territories in Peru and Nicaragua.

The court and the commission are not perfect, of course, and their decisions can disappoint for a variety of reasons. Still, in our era darkened by rampant nationalism, violence, and discrimination, these rights monitors are needed now more than ever before. Throughout the Americas – from the U.S. to Nicaragua, Venezuela, and beyond – we must demand that our governments recommit to the OAS institutions and their principles of democracy and rule of law. Whenever our political leaders deviate from these fundamental norms, we will need the support of these institutions to oppose authoritarians and redress victims of rights abuse.



*Thomas Antkowiak, associate professor of law, teaches international law and the International Human Rights Clinic. He recently co-authored*

*The American Convention on Human Rights: Essential Rights (Oxford Univ. Press). A different version of this essay appeared in the Oxford University Press Blog.*



A



B



C



D



E

# OUT & ABOUT

Law school is so much more than classes and exams. Together, we celebrate successes and milestones. We especially enjoy seeing our alumni out in the communities they serve, doing the work they love.

**A.** Seattle University Law Review has a new look! The new cover design was unveiled by Editor in Chief **Mylla Dawson '18** (right) at the 41st Annual Law Review Alumni Dinner in March. Design Editor **James Alexander** (left) received a BA in graphic design from Seattle U in 2018.

**B.** **Karen Korematsu**, daughter of civil rights legend Fred T. Korematsu (shown on screen with Rosa Parks), spoke at Pigott Auditorium in April. Her presentation was part of a forum on Japanese American incarceration during World War II and its current-day relevance to civil liberties and the rule of law. (Photo courtesy of Tiffany Adamowski.)

**C.** Graduate **Tarra Simmons '17** was sworn in to the Washington State Bar after a long but ultimately successful struggle to gain permission to sit for the bar exam, despite having a criminal record.

Dozens of friends and supporters gathered to celebrate with her. (Photo courtesy of Laura Anglin.)

**D.** **Dean Annette Clark '89** met with second-year student **Alexis Santiago** (left) and **Catherine Romero '96** (right) at a special lunch event with alumni at the Microsoft campus in Redmond in June.



**E.** Law student **Caleb Carr** (right), along with business partners **Brittany Bourcy** (left) and **Renee Owen** (center), won the grand prize at the 20th Harriet Stephenson Business Plan competition at Seattle University in May. Carr founded his company, Vita Inclinata, to build and market technology that stabilizes loads hoisted by helicopters and cranes. Carr is a former search and rescue volunteer who watched an injured friend die in 2009 after heavy winds prevented a safe wilderness evacuation by helicopter.

**F.** Chief Advancement Officer **Pat McCowan**, Distinguished Jurist Affiliate **Terrence Carroll**, Judge **Mark W. Pouley**, Dean **Annette Clark '89**, Center for Professional Development Director **Georgia Woodruff**, and Judge **Patricia Paul '98** (left to right) visited Swinomish Tribal Court in La Conner, where Judge Pouley is the chief judge.

**G.** **Lexi**, the service dog for Student Bar Association President **Janice Langbehn '18**, made so many friends at Sullivan Hall that we bestowed upon her a “Juris Dogtor” degree for fun and social media glory.

**H.** **Kathie Bauer '92** (left) and Judge **Anne Hirsch '84** (right) of Thurston County Superior Court catch up at the Olympia Sidebar Happy Hour in April, where Judge Hirsch was an honored guest.

**I.** We were honored to host the 25th Annual Judge **John R. Brown** Admiralty Moot Court Competition in March. Championship round judges (shown here with the top two law school teams) included the **Hon. Richard Tallman** and the **Hon. Morgan Christen** of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, **Justice Mary Yu** and **Justice**

**Charles Johnson '76** of the Washington State Supreme Court, the **Hon. Bob Lasnik** and the **Hon. Edward Shea** of U.S. District Court, and the **Hon. Jackie Shea-Brown** of Benton Franklin Counties Superior Court.

**J.** **Justice Debra Stephens** of the Washington Supreme Court spoke with **Keshena Williams** (left) and **Sabrina Helton** (right), two formerly incarcerated women who explained how difficult it is to support their families with the debt they carry. Justices visited the law school in June for a special forum on legal financial obligations.

**K.** **Elida Moran '98**, **John Tymczyszyn '12**, **Dean Annette Clark '89**, **Professor Janet Dickson '88**, and **Rhys M. Farren '89** (left to right), gathered with friends and former classmates at the Bellevue Sidebar Happy Hour in March.

# PROVIDING PEACE WITHIN THE STORM



Verónica Quiñónez '11 has stayed true to her values in building her law practice

BY DAVID SANDLER

**Family law attorney Verónica Quiñónez '11** strongly believes she has a duty to advocate for those who lack the power and resources to do so for themselves.

That principle was seared into her consciousness as an adolescent growing up in El Paso, Texas, when a caretaker physically abused her beloved grandfather, most likely causing him to have a heart attack. Because health problems limited his ability to communicate this mistreatment, the woman was not held responsible for his subsequent death.

Later, while studying at the University of Texas El Paso (UTEP), Quiñónez worked closely with victims of crime, including survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, as a volunteer for the local police department. She witnessed firsthand their often lonely struggle with the lingering effects of such trauma.

In both cases, Quiñónez saw an enormous need for advocates who could work with vulnerable people to ensure they received justice, and law school seemed the logical path for someone with her ambition to proactively help others.

Now in her fifth year of solo practice, Quiñónez has made good on her promise to herself to assist those most in need. In fact, working on a pro bono basis on behalf of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, she recently helped to gain the freedom of a

Honduran woman who was detained at the Mexican border and had been incarcerated in Tacoma, while her 13-year-old son was separated from her and sent to a detention facility in New York. Although Quiñónez doesn't normally take immigration cases, she felt a strong urge, as a mother, to do everything possible to right this injustice.

"I am extremely passionate about this work. People often ask, 'Don't you get burned out? Is it too emotional?' My response is that it is tremendously gratifying to help people who are in these difficult situations. I try to provide a sense of peace within the storm that is raging through their personal lives at that moment," she said.



Quiñónez, who learned about Seattle U Law through a UTEP program, identified with its strong commitment to advancing social justice. As graduation from law school neared, she thought deeply about her future in the legal profession. Despite financial pressures, including a growing family to support and substantial student loans to repay, it was imperative for her to build a career that was true to her initial motivations to become a lawyer.

"My experience at Seattle U Law taught me to think about clients who need help and situations that need to be remedied, and not just about money," she said. "Working in the clinics as a law student, I learned how to effectively represent people and make their lives better."

Quiñónez also had to decide where to practice. Although her family was back in Texas, she felt called to represent the underserved Spanish-speaking community in Seattle and the surrounding area. "I knew I could make the biggest difference here since there are few lawyers who are fluent in Spanish," she said.

Working pro bono, Verónica Quiñónez '11 (right) secured the release of Jenny, a Honduran immigrant who was detained when attempting to cross the Mexican border and sent to the Federal Detention Center in SeaTac. (Photo courtesy of Verónica Quiñónez.)



**“My experience at Seattle U Law taught me to think about clients who need help and situations that need to be remedied, and not just about money. Working in the clinics as a law student, I learned how to effectively represent people and make their lives better.”**

Quiñónez provides legal advice to a Latino community member during a recent clinic, sponsored by the Latina/o Bar Association, at El Centro de la Raza in Seattle.

After passing the bar exam, and with just \$300 in the bank, Quiñónez launched her own family law practice in the Seattle area. “It was definitely one of the scariest things I have ever done,” she recalled. She handles custody disputes and civil protection orders for domestic violence and sexual assault, as well as adoption cases, taking pride in helping individuals and families who have few resources to advocate for themselves.

“The first year was tough. Trying to learn how to run a business was the most difficult part, and without the support of my husband and daughter, it would have been almost impossible,” Quiñónez said. Though she was committed to serving clients of moderate means by working at low-bono rates when needed, at times it was hard to

earn enough to cover expenses. But she was able to lean on mentors, who offered support and encouragement.

“I knew Veronica could learn the law to be successful, she just needed a little help in building confidence that all the hard work and sacrifice would eventually pay off,” said Chach Duarte White ’00, a staff attorney with Legal Counsel for Youth and Children and mentor to Quiñónez.

By the second year in practice, Quiñónez was receiving consistent referrals from several sources – including the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington (she is currently its president) and the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center.

Her practice continues to grow. She’s leasing office space for the first time and hopes

to add a second attorney in future years. Most importantly, she has kept true to her commitment to serving the Latina/o community, which makes up more than half of her client base.

Quiñónez realizes many more Spanish-speaking advocates are needed in the Puget Sound region. That’s one reason she makes regular trips to her alma mater in El Paso on behalf of the law school, where she extols its many attributes to pre-law students. As a result, a steady stream of UTEP students have followed the path she has blazed to Seattle.

“It is important to me that UTEP students and fellow El Pasoans attend a law school that supports them, provides a positive experience, and allows them to grow into compassionate and ethical attorneys,” she said.



▲ **BRIAN ROBERTS '80**

(right) manned a machine gun with son John (left) in a visiting World War II B-24 bomber at the air show at Boeing Field.

**CYNTHIA LINET '93**

chained herself to an LNG storage facility under construction in Tacoma. She and her colleagues were arrested for trespassing and failure to disperse after they were ordered by the police to do so. The group had been protesting against the use of fossil fuels in Tacoma. A jury found them not guilty.



**1975**

**Gary Getzin** has retired after 40 years of practice. Getzin practiced public defense in Wausau, Wisconsin.

**1980**

**Catherine Walker**, following her retirement from REI, became interim executive director for Plymouth Healing Communities (PHC). Her service for PHC will last until December 2018, when she plans to retire again. PHC provides affordable housing integrated with companionship for adults in Seattle with chronic mental illness who have experienced homelessness.

**1982**

**Jane Pearson** has joined Polsinelli as a founding shareholder of its Seattle office. She is a member of the firm's real estate and financial services department.

**1984**

**Michael Morgan** has achieved successful outcomes in three trials this year in Washington Superior Court. He successfully defended a client's third strike murder 1 charge, mitigated a second client's charge of murder to a conviction of manslaughter, and tried an attempted murder case in which his client was acquitted on all counts.



**Jeff Mahan** retired as the Appeals Review Manager for the Washington State Department of Revenue after 25 years of public service. The Washington State Bar Association Taxation Law Section also bestowed on him its annual award "in recognition of dedication to the community, exceptional skills in the field of taxation and, above all, display of professionalism."

**1987**



**Ann Sweeney** has been awarded the 2018 Governor's Award for Leadership in Management. She is a special assistant to the director's office at the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services. She was one of only 20 managers from a variety of state agencies to receive the award.

**1992**

**Steve Gross** was appointed as city attorney for Auburn, Washington.

**1993**

**Albert Coke Roth** has been named "Best Attorney" for the fifth year in a row in the Tri-City Herald People's Choice Awards. His practice focuses on estate planning and probate, real property and business formation, governance and transactions.

**Jeffrey Izzo** is assistant professor and Mike Curb Endowed Chair of Music Industry Studies at California

State University, Northridge. He also teaches legal and business courses such as copyright and record contracts.

**1996**

**Elizabeth Van Moppes** has a primary practice of independent workplace investigations based in Edmonds. She enjoys working at Beresford Booth, PLLC with fellow alum **David Tingstad '96**.

**Eddie Aubrey**, after 38 years as a prosecuting attorney, judge (pro tem), and police officer, is now a manager overseeing internal affairs investigations for the Richmond Police Department in the Bay Area of California.



**1997**

**Anne-Marie Sargent** has been practicing in the area of employment law for 20 years. She represents small- to medium-sized businesses and individual employees. She also serves as a mediator for employment-related disputes and conducts trainings for businesses, including sessions at corporate retreats.

**1998**

**Kris Haworth** has recently relocated back to the Seattle area. She is the managing director of The Forensics Group, a San Francisco-based cyber investigation firm that has expanded to Kirkland, Washington.



Most of her company's work involves investigating cybercrime, employee or company misconduct, and fraud.

### 1999

**Shawn Harju** joined the Equinox Business Law Group. Equinox's general counsel services include business formations, mergers and acquisitions, contract negotiations, intellectual property, real estate, and succession and transition planning.

### 2000

**Gina Melton Buskirk** was awarded the YWCA "2018 Women of Achievement Award" in Kitsap County. She was recognized for her extensive public service work.



**Devra Hermosilla** now serves as assistant dean for career services at the Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon. She had been working the past two years as the director of career services at the University of South Dakota School of Law, after practicing law in the Pacific Northwest.

### 2003

**Erik K. Rasmussen** joined Grobstein Teeple LLP in Woodland Hills, California, as an incoming partner. He will head the firm's cybersecurity and risk management solutions practice.

### 2004

**Kyle Olive** opened a new law firm called Olive Law Northwest PLLC in Seattle. His practice is devoted to representing individuals and families in personal injury actions and consumers treated unreasonably by their insurers. Kyle resides on a small farm on Vashon Island with his wife and two young children.

### 2005

**Tim Ashby** created GloblMed, a fully automated, cloud-based digital marketplace offering a complete range of medical and dental services. The platform offers travel packages and information about global health options.



### 2006

**Matt Boisen** has accepted a new position as vice president of legal at Highspot. The company, based in Seattle, is an advanced sales enablement platform, helping organizations connect with customers online through precise marketing and sales.

**Stephanie Hartung** will release her debut novel, "Offensive Charge," a young adult work of crime fiction, this year. She is currently a deputy prosecuting attorney in Kittitas County.



### 2007



**Todd E. Hubbard** joined the Northwest Justice Project as the staff attorney for the Everett Medical-Legal Partnership program. He works with low-income clients and families to help them overcome legal barriers to health care and wellness.

### 2008

**Hagen Ganem** was recently promoted to counsel in the Washington, D.C., office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom.



**Carlos García** works as an immigration lawyer, representing families who have been separated by immigration authorities along the southern border in Texas. He was featured in a HuffPost article, "The Border Area Is In Dire Need Of Lawyers To Represent Asylum-Seekers."

### 2009



**Justin Famer** has earned the Certified Business Intermediary designation from the International Business Brokers Association, denoting extensive coursework and proficiency, high ethical standards,

### ▲ CHARLES SWIFT '94 AND CATHERINE MCDONALD '94

achieved the first not-guilty verdict in an ISIS-related trial in the last decade for their client, Noor Salman, the wife of the 2016 Orlando Pulse Nightclub shooter. (Omar Mateen murdered 49 people and injured 53 others in the attack.) She was charged with material support of terrorism and lying to the FBI. Swift and McDonald spent 14 months preparing for the month-long trial with their team at the Constitutional Law Center for Muslims in America.

### ▲ ROBERT ANDERSON '97

a maritime plaintiff's lawyer, recently sailed as relief captain on the research vessel (RV) Sikuliaq. The 261-foot ship was built by the National Science Foundation to conduct polar oceanography and ice studies in the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean.



# CLASS NOTES



## ANDREW HUGHES '09

reached the summit of Carstensz Pyramid, located in Indonesia on the island of New Guinea, this past March. (At 16,024 feet, it is considered the highest point of the continent of Australia.) In the last two years, Hughes has reached five of the seven highest points on each continent, dubbed the "Seven Summits," and plans to climb Mt. Everest are in the works.

and demonstrated excellence in business brokerage.

## 2011



**Kurt Kruckeberg** was named principal in real estate and land use practices at Hillis Clark Martin &

Peterson PS. He represents clients in a variety of real estate matters ranging from acquisitions and sales of real property to commercial lease agreements and construction and permanent financing. He currently serves as an adjunct faculty member of the University of Washington School of Law, where he teaches civil procedure.

## 2012

**Winfield B. Martin** was selected as a Rising Star of Washington State by Super Lawyers magazine. He

continues to practice intellectual property law at Perkins Coie LLP.



**Lola Zakharova**, an immigration lawyer at MacDonald Hoague & Bayless, was selected as a Rising Star of Washington State by Super Lawyers magazine.

## 2013

**Frank Ruiz** represents Kings County, California, in matters involving Child Protective Services. He is certified as a child welfare law specialist with the State Bar of California and the National Association of Counsel for Children. In 2018, he also received his black belt in Brazilian jiu-jitsu after 14 years of training.

## 2014

**Rachel Lumen (Lewis)** and her husband Greg settled on a new last name after much negotiation: Lewis plus Mennenga equals Lumen. This life change was the cherry on top of a big year: getting married, a honeymoon in Ecuador, buying a house, and Rachel starting work at the Washington State Office of the Attorney General.

**Nicole Gainey** has transitioned her downtown Seattle solo practice to focus on employment rights law. She is successfully holding corporations accountable when they fail to protect employees from



sexual harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and wage and hour theft.

**Natalie Reber** is now Family Law CASA's executive director. She comes to the organization with a 20-year career in nonprofit work, with more than 15 years of experience in an executive director capacity. Family Law CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is a nonprofit organization in King County that provides legal advocacy to children suffering the hardships of high-conflict, contested custody cases.



## 2015

**Trevor White** was hired in January 2018 as an associate attorney at Andrews & Thornton. The Newport Beach, California, firm represents plaintiffs in pharmaceutical, medical device, and dietary supplement litigation.

**Jeremiah Styles** is entering his third year as a founding partner in his own law firm. He specializes in criminal law, family law, personal injury, and immigration. He works with **Alice Bagirova '14**, who specializes in family law, and **Patrick Patton '14**, who focuses on personal injury, criminal law, and immigration.

**Molly Peach Matter** opened Amend Law LLC to advocate for voting rights and human rights following the passing of her mentor and close friend, Joaquin Avila (see



## RACHEL GROSHONG '13 (DUNNINGTON) AND RYAN GROSHONG '11

were married on September 9, 2017, at Suncadia Resort in Eastern Washington. Ryan is a labor and employment associate at K&L Gates, and Rachel is a litigation associate at Stoel Rives.







page 6). She works for the city of Wapato in Eastern Washington to ensure fair elections, co-counsels with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund to defend state voting rights legislation, volunteers with the Washington State Bar Association Civil Rights Section, and practices Buddhist meditation.

## 2016

**Paul Heer** was awarded Foster Pepper's Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award for his demonstrated dedication to accessible and merciful justice.

**Adam Star** recently accepted a new position at Amazon Web Services on the security assurance team as a manager of program management. His role encompasses a wide spectrum of security and compliance-related contractual negotiations globally across the public and private sector.

**Paul A Barrera**, founder of North City Law, PC, welcomed M. Ian Wyckoff as a shareholder in May 2018. Wyckoff is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center.

## 2017

**Tarra Simmons** received the Champion of Justice Award from the Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers for her work advocating for former offenders reentering society.

## IN MEMORIAM

**William Michelman '76**, 70, passed away in May 2018. Michelman opened his criminal defense and personal injury private practice in Washington in 1980, which stayed open during his appointment as a Steilacoom Municipal Court judge from 2007 to 2014. He will be remembered as a champion of justice.



**Harold Booker '77**

passed away at age 84 in February 2018. He spent his life as a beacon for change, fighting against racism and advocating for equality. After working as a chemical engineer for The Boeing Company, he became an attorney in the aircraft contracts department. He later worked on patents in the research department, and retired after 40 years with the company. In 2015, Federal Way Mayor Jim Ferrell presented him with the "Key to the City" for his leadership.

**Scott Candoo '77**, 66, passed away in April 2018. He practiced law in Washington for 40 years and served as a president of the Tacoma Pierce County Bar Association. He was named Family Lawyer of the Year by the Family Section of the TPCBA in 2004.



**John Glassman '81**

passed away in April 2018 at the age of 62. He practiced law for 13 years after graduation, then transitioned to become a high school substance counselor, chief information officer, and graduate school teacher. He is survived by his son, **Thomas Glassman '16**.

**Glen Anderson '87**, 55, passed away in October 2017. He spent more than 30 years in service with the Washington State Office of the Attorney General as a senior torts litigator. He defended major state agencies in both state and federal courts, including appeals in the Washington Courts of Appeals, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the Washington Supreme Court.

**Donna Powers '87** passed away at the age of 55 in March 2018. She had been in private practice in Ohio with her father, Donald Powers. Their practice specialized in estate planning, domestic relations, corporations, and real estate.

**Frances Chmielewski '89**, 56, passed away in June 2018. She most recently served as a Superior Court judge in Kittitas County from December 2011 through January 2017, and prior to that as special assistant attorney general, Ellensburg city prosecutor, and assistant city prosecutor in Seattle. Flags were lowered in her honor across Washington state. Chmielewski is survived by her husband, **Mark ('89)**, and son, Stephen.

**Kenneth "Barry" Dore '91** passed away in May 2018 at age 67. During his career, he argued and won a case before the Washington Supreme Court. His son **Jeffrey ('11)** is also an alumnus.

**Thomas Hargan '01**, 42, passed away in June 2018. He opened his own law practice in 2006, which specialized in municipal law and prosecution, and served as a prosecutor across the region. He previously worked as city attorney and prosecutor in Covington, Washington.

# JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter [@seattleulaw](#)

**David Keenan** added 3 new photos — talking about civility at Seattle University School of Law. March 22 · Seattle ·

Had the privilege of guest-lecturing a group of really engaged and impressive law students in Professor Jamie Corning's Professional Responsibility class tonight at Seattle University School of Law. We talked about civility and joining and serving a community, not just a profession.

**Thomas Antkowiak** @RightsClinic\_SU

Seizing Children From Parents at the Border Is Unacceptable. Here's What We Can Do. [nyti.ms/2i7x1v0](https://nyti.ms/2i7x1v0) @seattleulaw #HumanRights

Opinion | Seizing Children From Parents at the Border Is Immoral. Here's What W...

**nik\_hil**

125 likes

nik\_hil I feel honored to be recognized by Super Lawyers as a "Rising Star" for the third year in a row. Super Lawyers recognizes no more than 2.5 percent of attorneys in each state as a "Rising Star".

**Kelli Currie** @kellicurrie

When your kid's favorite part of her field trip to the Temple of Justice was learning about Gardner v. Loomis.

**carriemount**

Liked by harms\_jd, dropthatcass1 and 42 others

carriemount Nothing makes these two citation nerds happier than Law Review sweatshirts! I was talked into the quarter-zips but I still maintain #hoodies win. @harms\_jd @jv4

**lehernan**

117 likes

lehernan this lawtina just tried her first jury trial and WON!! big milestone. big leagues. #lawyering

**jasonrd** Madrid, Spain

Liked by uoromero7, thepeppingirl and 10 others

jasonrd SeattleU Law in Spain! seattleulaw

**benicio\_del\_churro**

Liked by samwisesung, damaralynn and 210 others

benicio\_del\_churro This paper says I'm cool.

**John Chun** @JohnHChun

Thank you, @uscourts Judge Tsuchida and @seattleulaw, for having me as a panelist at your externship seminar! I enjoyed it very much!

**Judge Johanna Bender** June 10 at 7:59 PM ·

Spent the day with my fellow Judicial Institute board members mapping out our 2019 program. So many wonderful changes and opportunities for growth are on the horizon. For the first time we will be presenting a 16 hour program over the course of two days. And we are formally partnering with Seattle University School of Law, a collaboration that reflects a shared vision of a richly diverse and talented bench in Washington State. #diversitymatters #whatjudgeslooklike



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## THE DOCKET

DETAILS AT [LAW.SEATTLEU.EDU](http://LAW.SEATTLEU.EDU)

### September 17

An Evening with John Kerry

### September 21-22

7th Annual Promoting Diversity in Law  
School Leadership Workshop

### September 28

CLE: On the Edge of the World – Navigating  
Environmental and Legal Challenges  
on the Washington Coast

### October 4

Mass of the Holy Spirit

### October 5

CLE: Navigating Modern Discovery

### October 6

Red Mass hosted by Archdiocese of  
Seattle (St. James Cathedral)

### October 6

CLE: Beyond the RPCs – Ethical and Moral  
Decision Making in Challenging Times

### October 8

Influential Voices: Steven A. Reiss

### October 26

CLE: Persuasive Presentations 2018

### November

Seattle Sidebar Happy Hour

Tacoma Sidebar Happy Hour

### November 9

CLE: Sex at Work: Creating Safe,  
Inclusive Work Environments

### December 7

Ethics with Strait and Boerner

### December 12

CLE: Learning from the Master Bard

### December 15

Winter Commencement

### January

Bellevue Sidebar Happy Hour

### March

Olympia Sidebar Happy Hour

### March 9

Public Interest Law Foundation Auction

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