

SEATTLE

LAWYER

A MAGAZINE OF SEATTLE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW / FALL 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

Students step up, help out in coronavirus crisis

The push for a diploma privilege

Students earn prestigious fellowships

BLACK LAWYERS MATTER

ALUMNI AND
STUDENTS
REFLECT ON
THE LEGAL
PROFESSION'S
ROLE IN
RACIAL JUSTICE



NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE

Law student Alexandra Chen '22 is one of several plaintiffs suing the City of Seattle for excessive use of force by police during Black Lives Matter protests. (See page 21.) Twice while peacefully protesting, she found herself engulfed in chemical agents that made it hard to breathe and see.

Photo courtesy of ALEXANDRA CHEN '22





“We are all being called upon to act boldly to create a more equitable world.”

DEAN'S PERSPECTIVE

In the midst of a national reckoning on race and justice, every corner of society – from individuals to multinational corporations – is being asked to reflect deeply on their role in perpetuating racism. The legal profession is no different. Seattle University School of Law is no different. And I am no different. We are all being called upon to act boldly to create a more equitable world.

This issue of Lawyer magazine focuses the Black Lives Matter rallying cry by examining the role of Black lawyers and why they matter. The two Black alumni we profile on pages 22–23 – Twyla Carter and Judge Frank Cuthbertson – are blazing a path for future Black attorneys and are outstanding examples of why diversity in the legal profession is so vital.

For the cover story on page 16, we seek to amplify the voices of our Black alumni, who shared their personal reflections about what this moment in history means to them. Three of these lawyers were in law school at the time Michael Brown was killed in Ferguson, Missouri, and when a grand jury failed to indict the police officer who killed him. Then, as now, our community has had to ask difficult questions about whether the justice system is truly serving our Black brothers and sisters. Then, as now, our students have demanded accountability and action from their law school.

Best,

Annette E. Clark '89
Dean and Professor of Law

Every year since Ferguson, we have centered our new student orientation around the theme of racial justice. I doubt any student who's joined us since then will ever forget the powerful call to action issued by Washington Supreme Court Justice Mary Yu in their first days of law school. Telling them they are now a part of the profession, Justice Yu asked for our students' help in creating a legal system where all persons, regardless of color, can find justice.

I'd like to share with you what she told our incoming students in August:

“You have the opportunity to perhaps sit back and think, if you could design a system of justice, what would it look like? How would we inject compassion? How would we have a sentence that gives an opportunity for somebody to have hope? How would we promise and deliver on rehabilitation rather than punishment for life?”

“We do have an opportunity to create a new system of justice. And you're a part of it.”

As Justice Yu has called on our students, our students are calling upon us to strengthen our anti-racism efforts and to do more to support our students of color. The story on page 19 outlines how the faculty and administration are responding. You can also read about how our recent graduates and faculty successfully advocated for a diploma privilege using a racial justice lens on page 24.

Working together as a community, we can help create the change in our legal system that this moment demands. I encourage you, our alumni, to develop your own action items and let us know how we can collaborate and stand with you.

LAWYER

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SCHOOL OF LAW / FALL 2020

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Lawyer magazine is published by the
Marketing and Communications Office
at Seattle University School of Law.

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DEPARTMENTS

- 8 The Briefcase**
Law school news
- 22 Profile**
Twyla Carter '07 advocates for criminal legal reform on the national stage.
- 23 Profile**
Judge Frank Cuthbertson '93 reflects on his service as the first Black judge in Pierce County.
- 26 Class Notes**

FEATURES

- 06 Two 2020 graduates earn Equal Justice Fellowships**
Vallen Solomon will work to prevent homelessness in King County and Javier Wood will serve immigrant children in Eastern Washington.
- 12 Responding to the COVID-19 crisis**
Students and faculty offer their skills and services to help those at risk during the coronavirus pandemic.
- 16 Black lawyers matter**
In the midst of a national outcry for racial justice, our community discusses the importance of Black lawyers in advancing equity for all.
- 24 Faculty Showcase**
Professors Robert Boruchowitz and Lisa Brodoff, along with Efrain Hudnell '20, describe how they lobbied the Washington Supreme Court to grant a diploma privilege for 2020 bar exam takers.





TWO 2020 GRADS RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIPS

“During law school, I got really involved in housing-related issues, largely relating to evictions and homelessness prevention. So, it felt like a natural progression to try and turn that interest and passion into a potential fellowship with an organization like Equal Justice Works.”

VALLEN SOLOMON '20

For 2020 graduates Vallen Solomon and Javiera Wood, the social justice values they embraced while studying at Seattle University School of Law will shape their early legal careers as they begin prestigious Equal Justice Works (EJW) fellowships.

Solomon and Wood are two of 78 public interest lawyers across the country chosen to receive the 2020 fellowship, which will allow them to pursue a project of their own design for two years following graduation.

Solomon will work with the King County Bar Association's Housing Justice Project on addressing homelessness, and Wood will serve immigrant populations

with the team at Kids in Need of Defense. The fellowships officially began Sept. 1.

The EJW fellowship is one of the most prestigious and competitive post-graduate legal fellowships in the country, with 432 applicants this year.

“During law school, I got really involved in housing-related issues, largely relating to evictions and homelessness prevention,” Solomon said. “So, it felt like a natural progression to try and turn that interest and passion into a potential fellowship with an organization like Equal Justice Works.”

Solomon said the COVID-19 pandemic, which has put more than 1.2 million Washingtonians out of work, has intensified the sense of urgency he already felt about helping people stay housed.

“COVID-19 has dramatically shifted both the expectations that I had when I designed this project last summer and the reality of the project as it exists today,” he said. “Absent large-scale intervention by the government, we expect that the court will be flooded with an unprecedented number of evictions filed against tenants.”

Through his project, which is sponsored by Costco Wholesale and The Raikes Foundation, Solomon will provide legal advocacy to young adults facing homelessness, through youth-centered services and by increasing legal literacy on evictions and tenant rights. He'll provide direct services to clients and help distribute educational resources more broadly.

Wood's project, sponsored by Microsoft Corp. and The Sidley Austin Foundation, will focus on unaccompanied immigrant children in Eastern Washington who need access to legal services. She plans to work with the statewide legal community to mentor advocates for unaccompanied children. Additionally, she will provide direct representation, engage in strategic public outreach, recruit pro bono attorneys, develop training materials, and educate

the state judiciary about the needs of unaccompanied children.

“I am truly proud and honored to have this opportunity,” Wood said. “The fellowship is a unique way for me to continue my work of breaking down barriers that impede immigrants from accessing justice and services.”

Both students received guidance and support from Visiting Assistant Professor Monika Batra Kashyap, associate director of the Externship Program. Solomon said he was also inspired by Professor Steven Bender's Social Impact Advocacy course, as well as the valuable connections he made within the civil legal aid community through the law school's Access to Justice Institute.

“Vallen and Javiera have an opportunity to create real change for people in need,” said Dean Annette E. Clark '89. “We're inspired by their commitment to public interest law and grateful that EJW supports their goals.”

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., EJW aims to break down the financial and structural barriers that prevent talented law graduates from pursuing careers in the public interest sector. Throughout the two-year project term, fellows receive the support they need, including a competitive salary, benefits, and loan repayment assistance, so they can focus on helping their communities.

“Equal Justice Works is proud to support Javiera and Vallen in their efforts to improve equal access to justice in our country today,” said Mia Sussman, director of fellowships at Equal Justice Works. “Both of their fellowship projects will provide vital legal services to underserved communities in Washington state.”

Previous EJW two-year fellowship recipients from Seattle University School of Law include Alex Romero '19, Hyun-Mi Kim '19, Nick Allen '10, and Erin Shea McCann '07.



“The fellowship is a unique way for me to continue my work of breaking down barriers that impede immigrants from accessing justice and services.” JAVIERA WOOD '20

WASHINGTON LAW SCHOOLS UNDERTAKE STUDY OF RACE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Dean Annette Clark '89, along with Dean Mario Barnes of University of Washington School of Law and Dean Jacob Rooksby of Gonzaga University School of Law, will co-chair an ad hoc task force to study racial disparities in Washington's criminal justice system.

This work comes nearly a decade after a previous task force published a report that systematically detailed the scope and causes of racial disparity in the state's criminal justice system, notably emphasizing the concept of implicit bias. The group's "Preliminary Report on Race and Washington's Criminal Justice System" was issued in 2011, followed by its Report on Juvenile Justice and Racial Disproportionality in 2012.

The earlier task force, co-chaired by Seattle U Law Professor Robert Chang and then-King County Superior Court Judge Steven González, disbanded in 2012. But its work was carried forward by advocates who addressed systemic discrimination in various aspects of the criminal justice system.

Important changes have occurred since then. The Washington Supreme Court found the state's death penalty to be unconstitutional because it was being applied

disproportionately to people of color. The court also adopted a new rule to address discrimination in the exercise of peremptory challenges. And, important changes have been made to how judges impose legal fees, helping to alleviate the undue financial burden on minorities and people in poverty.

The three deans issued a joint statement, quoted below, emphasizing that more still needs to be done before the state's justice system can reliably and equitably serve all Washingtonians.

"Despite some positive changes, we find ourselves still living in a world where race matters too much in the wrong ways in our criminal justice system. We need a system where Black lives matter. We need to and can do better. Reconvening the ad hoc task force is one step, an attempt to answer the call of the court to 'lean in to do this hard and necessary work.'"

The second iteration of the task force, again led by Chang, began its research in earnest in the summer of 2020, mobilizing dozens of participants from legal organizations throughout the state, as well as new graduates who were licensed to practice earlier than expected due to the court granting a diploma privilege.



ALUM CELEBRATES ANTI-DISCRIMINATION WIN AT U.S. SUPREME COURT

A landmark ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court five years ago legalized same-sex marriage throughout the United States. But, as many advocates pointed out, someone could marry their partner on Sunday and get fired on Monday, because the issue of whether employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation was expressly forbidden by the law was still unresolved.

No longer. The high court ruled in June that Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act protects lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people from employment discrimination. Seattle University School of Law alumnus Brian J. Sutherland '06 represented Gerald Bostock, one of the plaintiffs in the case.

"There aren't words to say how happy I am that the Supreme Court has recognized the right of LGBTQ people throughout our country to be free from workplace discrimination," Sutherland said. "And there aren't words to say how grateful I am to the faculty and community at Seattle U Law who prepared me to play a part in that."

At the time he took the case, Sutherland was a partner at the Atlanta law firm of Buckley Beal LLP. He has since returned to the Northwest and now serves as assistant attorney general for civil rights at the Washington State Office of the Attorney General.

ALUMNA JOINS WASHINGTON'S HIGHEST COURT

Justice G. Helen Whitener '98 joined the Washington Supreme Court on April 24, sworn in by Chief Justice Debra Stephens in a socially distanced ceremony at the Temple of Justice in Olympia.

She joins Justice Charles Johnson '76 as one of two Seattle University School of Law alumni on the state's highest court.

In announcing the appointment to fill the seat of retiring Justice Charles Wiggins,

Gov. Jay Inslee welcomed Whitener to the court and called her a "true outstanding talent." Inslee appointed her to the Pierce County Superior Court bench in 2015.

Whitener is the first Black, openly gay Washington Supreme Court justice. She's also an immigrant – she was born in Trinidad and Tobago – and has a disability. "My perspective is a little different," she told Pierce County Television. "So I try to make sure that everyone who comes into this courtroom feels welcome, feels safe, and feels like they will get a fair hearing."

In taking office, Whitener promised to stand by her lifelong commitment to serve others before herself.

"I'm very connected to people," she said. "I know what it's like to live off of \$25 a month for groceries. That was my budget during law school. I had three jobs."

Her remarks echoed what she told Seattle U Law students at the ceremony honoring her as the 2019 Women's Law Caucus Woman of the Year. "Be visible. Be vocal. Be vigilant," she said then.

Whitener is a dedicated mentor to young people interested in the law and has long advocated for greater diversity in the profession and on the bench.

"I will have a voice at the table," she said, after taking the oath. "And, as always, I intend to be heard."



Chief Justice Debra L. Stephens (left) swears in Justice G. Helen Whitener at the Temple of Justice in Olympia. (Photo courtesy of Washington Courts.)





PROPOSED SCHOLARSHIP WILL HONOR JUSTICE MARY YU

This spring, the law school met its initial goal of raising \$20,000 to fund this portrait of Justice Mary I. Yu, by Seattle painter Alfredo Arreguin, which will be displayed at the Temple of Justice in Olympia. Justice Steven González commissioned the portrait as part of his continuing efforts to recognize and celebrate diversity on the Washington Supreme Court. A replica print will hang in Sullivan Hall.

In 2014, Yu became the first Asian American, the first Latina, the first woman of color, and the first member of the

LGBTQ community to serve as a justice on the Washington Supreme Court. With additional donations, the law school will also create a new endowed scholarship in Justice Yu’s name. The scholarship is just one way to honor and acknowledge all that she represents to people who never dreamed that someone like them could become a state supreme court justice.

You can help contribute to Justice Yu’s legacy in our state. We invite you to help us reach our \$50,000 scholarship goal by making a gift at law.seattleu.edu/giving.

LAW CLASSES CONTINUE ONLINE FOR FALL SEMESTER

Although Seattle University had hoped to reopen campus for fall semester, even if just partially, it became clear by July that classes would need to continue online to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Sullivan Hall will be accessible to law students for quiet study space and reliable internet access, but anyone coming to campus will have to follow university safety guidelines, including wearing facial coverings and practicing physical distancing.

Unlike the spring, when law faculty found themselves having to adapt their courses to the digital world virtually overnight, the intervening months have provided time for them to prepare and adapt.

“I can state with confidence that faculty are committed to providing our students with a high-quality, interactive educational experience this fall,” said Dean Annette Clark ’89.

Professor Mark Chinen, shown below, found some advantages to teaching online, including the chat function on Zoom and sharing legal documents on screen.

“Lawyers are trained to deal with stressful situations, and it’s our responsibility to model how we should handle these situations for our students,” he said, adding that he has also been impressed with the way the faculty have supported each other. “We have done a great job of sharing best practices and ideas.”



PANDEMIC FORCES CHANGE IN GRADUATION PLANS

A celebratory rite of passage – law school graduation – was put on hold when public health guidelines prohibited large gatherings this spring. The community will wait until it’s safe to celebrate in person, but in the meantime, the law school created a special video to honor the resilient Class of 2020.

In this still shot, Professor Brooke Coleman and Efrain Hudnell ’20 show how comically difficult the hooding ceremony would be while maintaining the recommended six feet of distance. The video also features warm wishes and congratulations from several other faculty members and the dean, recorded at their homes.

Find the full video at youtube.com/seattleulaw.

COALITION PROPOSES \$1.6 BILLION PLAN TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

In May, the Third Door Coalition, an advocacy organization co-founded by Seattle U Law Professor Sara Rankin, released an ambitious and collaborative proposal to create 6,500 units of permanent supportive housing in King County over five years at a cost of \$1.6 billion.

The study of laws that criminalize homelessness has been a unique offering in the law

school’s curriculum ever since Rankin launched the Homeless Rights Advocacy Project in 2014. The Third Door Coalition, which she co-founded in 2018, is an all-volunteer alliance of business leaders, nonprofit providers, health care professionals, academics, and advocates who are committed to working together to develop permanent solutions to homelessness.

Rankin said the proposal specifically addresses chronic homelessness – 30 percent of the homeless population – and focuses on permanent supportive housing, the solution best supported by evidence. Such

housing includes services such as counseling and rehab and doesn’t impose any time limits or requirements like sobriety or employment.

“We know what the solution is, we just need more of it,” Rankin said, pointing out that the need is especially urgent because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. “Now, more than ever, housing is health care.”

The plan calls for a public-private partnership of city, state, and local governments and businesses to raise the estimated capital cost of \$1.6 billion over five years. This would finance the construction of at least 4,500

new units of housing and secure an additional 1,000 units from existing inventory across several sites. Combined with construction already planned, the total reaches 6,500 units over five years.

In response to the coalition’s proposal, the City of Seattle announced that it would expedite construction of 500 housing units already in the works, and several Seattle City Council members put forward tax proposals, including a capital gains tax and a tax on big businesses in the city.

“Government alone can’t solve homelessness,” Rankin said. “It’s our collective responsibility to do it.”

LAW STUDENTS PROVIDE LEGAL HELP DURING PANDEMIC

The primary threat of the COVID-19 pandemic is severe illness or even death, but it has also created a multitude of societal problems that intersect with the law. In response, Seattle University School of Law students have been using their knowledge

Volunteer law students meet with Northwest Justice Project attorney Mary Welch (center left) via Zoom to help with pandemic-related legal research.





“We need pro bono services like this clinic. The lawyers and student volunteers help victims navigate the legal processes so that survivors can find their way out of the violence they’ve endured. The students at the clinic are helping victims find their voices. For many, this is the first time they have told their story to anyone.”

HILLARY ROBERTS '13

and training to help those who are experiencing pandemic-related legal problems.

One area of particular concern is domestic violence, which has surged during the pandemic. “The stay-home orders are intended to keep everyone safe, but if you’re a victim of domestic violence, you’re now trapped at home with your abuser,” Professor Deirdre Bowen said, adding that estimates show an increase of 30 to 50 percent in abuse-related calls to police since the pandemic began.

To address the increased need for domestic violence protection orders, Bowen created a clinic that provides a vital service while helping students gain important experience. To date, 28 student volunteers, all of whom studied family law with Bowen, have assisted in more than 75 cases. Their primary role is to help victims complete the online legal forms required by the court.

Bowen recruited licensed, practicing family lawyers to serve as mentors to the clinic students when questions arise that might be considered legal advice. Hillary Roberts '13, a family law attorney at McKinley Irvin, is one of those mentors.

“We need pro bono services like this clinic,” Roberts said. “The lawyers and student volunteers help victims navigate the legal processes so that survivors can find their way out of the violence they’ve endured. The students at the clinic are helping victims find their voices. For many, this is the first time they have told their story to anyone.”

According to Roberts, domestic violence cases often hinge on what is written and submitted to the court in advance, which makes it essential for students to gather detailed information about the abuse.

“Just hearing how long the abuse goes on before a person decides to take action and file has been eye-opening,” 3L student Ashli Tagoai said. “Part of my job is to create trust with those who are suffering abuse so I can get the necessary information to write an effective account.”

For students like 3L Andrew Perkins and 2L Raquel Enriquez, the work is deeply personal. “It’s particularly rewarding for me because I grew up in a house with a father who was abusive. I want to make sure that people are safe and get the help they need,” Perkins said.

“Many women of color don’t have anybody to turn to, and they feel like they are alone,” Enriquez said. “As a woman of color myself, and someone who is bilingual, I have been able to interact with some clients in Spanish, which has helped to create a bridge. In the process, my work with the clinic is teaching me how to empathize with and validate clients’ painful experiences.”

Javier Ortiz '16 is another mentor who practices family law as an associate at Beacon Attorneys PLLC. “What’s unique about this situation is that it’s all being done remotely. I find it impressive how committed the students are. They understand the gravity of the situation. Even though they have their own challenges during the pandemic, they are rising up to be advocates for domestic violence victims,” he said.

As a result of their experiences in the clinic, Tagoai and Enriquez are seriously considering practicing family law after they graduate. “This is why I wanted to come to law school in the first place – to help people and make a difference, and family law is a great field to do that. It allows me to be an advocate for people who are in trying times and need assistance,” Tagoai said.

Bowen said she expects the protection order clinic to continue as long as the pandemic creates an increased need.

The law school’s Access to Justice Institute (ATJI) also provided opportunities for law students to contribute to important legal work related to the pandemic through an effort called the COVID-19 Pro Bono Clearinghouse. In all, 14 law students contributed 120 hours on several meaningful projects during the late spring and summer.

“This has been a great opportunity for our law students to assist legal aid organizations during the pandemic and to gain valuable legal experience and exposure to barriers that exist for low income populations,” said ATJI Associate Director Abby Goldy.

In an effort to make legal information related to COVID-19 more accessible to the public, several students created audio recordings for the Northwest Justice Project, which ranged from tenants’ rights and the eviction moratorium to public benefits information. Abby Hogan, a part-time student who helped with the project, said, “I learned that a lot of the access to justice

work around COVID-19 was related to helping people understand their rights in certain situations.”

Students, including 2L Maris Hanson, also compiled information on updated pandemic-related procedures at courthouses around Washington state. The information is currently being used by advocates at the Northwest Justice Project to more easily and quickly advise clients of courthouse procedures during the pandemic. “This was a great way for a lot of us to cope with our own uncertainty and grief with respect to COVID-19. Knowing we were able to do something helpful made coping easier,” she said.

Two law school alumni directed two other research projects for which students volunteered. Josh Treybig '16 supervised students on a Northwest Justice Project research project that sought to determine whether incarcerated individuals were eligible to receive the \$1,200 stimulus checks from the government in April. Two students also assisted Sarterus Rowe '09, who founded and directs Inclusive Law, which initiated a research project about whether contact tracing efforts comply with privacy laws.

“As the pandemic continues to negatively impact our region and the nation, it’s incredibly important for our law school to remain as engaged as ever in helping the most vulnerable people in our community,” Dean Annette E. Clark '89 said.

ON THE FRONT LINES OF COVID-19

Four part-time law students use their medical skills to help during the pandemic

Pursuing a law degree while working full time is a significant undertaking in normal conditions. It’s downright herculean when your job happens to be in the medical field during the most severe global pandemic in a century.

That’s the position in which four students in Seattle University School of Law’s Part-Time JD Program found themselves when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States. They are Jeremy Conklin, a trauma surgeon and critical care physician; J. Matthew Lacy, chief medical examiner of Snohomish County; Tracie Newbins '20, a surgical technologist; and David Kane, a clinical trials nurse.

These students are part of a dedicated medical workforce with two goals: care for those who have contracted the virus, and mitigate COVID-19’s spread, doing so while bravely risking their own personal health.

Conklin boarded a plane in mid-April to help out in New York City, at the time the site of the most severe outbreak. What he saw in those first few days and weeks was unlike anything he had experienced in his career.

The primary challenge Conklin and other doctors faced in New York was a lack of effective treatments. “Most medicine is evidence-based, where research and studies are performed. With COVID-19, there was nothing. As a physician, we try to make people better. It’s frustrating to not know how to treat patients,” he said.

Conklin witnessed heartbreaking scenes. “I’ve seen patients who died without family or friends present. Sometimes nurses are able to hold up an iPad and connect patients with their loved ones via FaceTime.” A makeshift morgue in the Brooklyn hospital’s parking lot served as a daily grim reminder of the virus’s toll.

There are signs of hope, though, as Conklin has already seen a dramatic difference in how patients are treated. He has since left New York to help in other pandemic hot zones.

“We now have more data about what treatments work and what treatments don’t,” he said. “We were flying blind during the earlier outbreak in New York. The amount of information we have

gained in just a few months is amazing, and we are putting it to good use.”

Lacy, also a physician, has a different role. If someone dies from a possible COVID-19 infection, his office is called upon to confirm the cause of death and determine who may have been in contact with the deceased, in order to limit the virus’s spread.

“We certified the first US coronavirus death of a previously undiagnosed person who died at home in early March. At the time, there were no other reports of community deaths in the country,” he said. “The experience so far has been full-on and exhausting at times.”

As a result of autopsies he has performed, Lacy has gleaned important information about the virus’s pathology, which he has communicated to researchers who are working to develop a vaccine.

Newbins, who graduated this spring, assisted surgeons on a variety of procedures where many of the patients tested positive for COVID-19, which means she risked exposure to the virus every time she went to work.

To protect herself and her 15-year-old son, she had to adopt more stringent protocols. “I’m doing my best to minimize the risk,” she said. “At home, I immediately put my clothing in the washing machine. I also do a lot of disinfecting.”

Kane primarily works on clinical trials for possible cancer treatments at Swedish Medical Center, but his work has shifted to helping out with trials for COVID-19 vaccines in development. His role is crucial to ensure that the collected data is accurate and reliable. He also serves as a liaison with patients to answer their questions and put them at ease.

“Every day I come to work, it’s very rewarding because I am able to contribute to this big goal, to find a cure. All the small victories help get us through this difficult time. That feels good, but it’s really about the patients I’m able to help each day,” he said.

“The concern for humanity that these students have displayed during this challenging period will serve them well in their future careers as lawyers,” said Dean Annette E. Clark '89.



Jeremy Conklin



J. Matthew Lacy



Tracie Newbins '20



David Kane

BLACK LAWYERS MATTER

“TOGETHER
WE CAN
MAKE A
CHANGE”

In the days and weeks following the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers in May, people across the world took to the streets in revulsion and outrage, their protests unified by a simple refrain: Black Lives Matter.

Floyd's death came 73 days after the killing of Breonna Taylor in Kentucky. Ninety-two days after the death of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia. Three years after the shooting of Charleena Lyles in Seattle. Six years after the killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. Eight years after the slaying of teenager Trayvon Martin in Florida. Sixty-five years after the lynching of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Mississippi.

It was the acquittal of Martin's vigilante killer in 2013 that inspired three Black women and civil rights activists to launch the #BlackLivesMatter hashtag on social media, and the grassroots effort has grown since then to become one of the most powerful movements in the United States.

The scourge of police brutality lies at the heart of the Black Lives Matter movement, but it's also about the ways the legal system fails people of color, especially those who are Black. In this moment of national reckoning on race, what does it mean to be Black within that system?

Legendary attorney and legal educator Charles Hamilton Houston, who played a significant role in dismantling Jim Crow laws, believed the law to be a powerful tool for building an equitable society, and that lawyers should strive to be social engineers. So, Lawyer magazine asked law school alumni to reflect on what role lawyers can play in the Black Lives Matter movement, or what the movement means to them personally. Here's what they had to say.

CRAIG A. SIMS '97

Attorney | Schroeter Goldmark & Bender

My daughter Brooklyn learned the pledge of allegiance when she was a few years old. After reciting her toddler version of the pledge, she smiled with pride. But I was saddened because, after a few moments of reflection, I knew the promise within the pledge, “liberty and justice for all,” was not the lived reality. I knew justice did not exist for all who availed themselves of constitutional protections. I knew justice did not universally exist for those who looked like my family.

Brooklyn is now older, and I speak with her about Black lawyers who are making a fundamental difference in our country. I speak of lawyers such as Justice G. Helen Whitener '98, who actively encourages young girls like Brooklyn to consider careers in the law; Judge Dwayne L. Christopher '97, whose deep experience enriches Tacoma Municipal Court; keen political commentator Angela Rye '05; and tireless community organizer Karen Murray '91. There are many others.

These lawyers are doing the hard work to ensure America lives up to the covenant of liberty and justice for all. Black lawyers continue to positively influence our country, local community, and even my family.

Black lawyers have inspired my daughter to become a lawyer one day. I hope America is prepared for generations of Black lawyers like Brooklyn and the many other future powerful advocates.



GOLDIE PRITCHARD '04

Academic Success Program Director | Michigan State University College of Law

For me, Black Lives Matter means that my existence is of concern and valuable. This is not always evident in some of the life events I have experienced. I am visibly Black, the product of a Black family, so certain negative stereotypes, negative behaviors, and low expectations are projected onto me because of the color of my skin.

It is difficult to feel valuable when your family tells you positive things but society, structures, institutions, and people say the opposite. It gets worse when you realize that your achievements, degrees, work product, and evidence of success do not yield the same positive reception and treatment as it does for someone who does not look like you.

As a Black lawyer, I still struggle for equal pay, racial equity, respect, and positive acknowledgment, as does the Black janitor who cleans my office. I am followed in stores, fearful when a police car drives close to me or stops me. I opt not to drive through some neighborhoods at night. I have this in common with the law students I work with.

Black Lives Matter means I see you, I hear you, I feel you, keep on keeping on, keep hope alive. It means we are in this together, and together we can make a change – however small – in our immediate spheres of influence. It also means we need to make it just a little easier for the Black lawyers who come after us; it is our duty.

RAYSHAUN WILLIAMS '22

Law student | President, Black Law Student Association

Black Lives Matter is like the ambient orchestra underscoring our nation’s historical narrative. Now reaching a crescendo, its tenor resonates with me uniquely across differing planes at once – as a Black American, a Black man, and a Black law student. These frequencies intertwine, yet each remains distinctive in their essence.

As a Black American, BLM is about cognizance and consciousness for Black life in its entirety. From Black craft, culture, and community, to camaraderie, constraint, and compassion. It’s the actualization of inherent value existing in all Black lives. I am a Black man, but to me BLM means ALL Black lives matter. A monolithic Black experience is fictitious. Instead, there exists a plethora of intersectionalities to embrace and explore – Black women, queer Black folks, Black folks with disabilities – each walk steeped in its own intricate experience. BLM is about centering those experiences and fighting for a heartened reality for all of these folks.

Although this is crucial, it is not sufficient – on the contrary. To me, BLM means definite policy change. BLM means advocacy opposing systemic vehicles for oppression. BLM means deliberate moral introspection by a country that has unequivocally plundered Black bodies.

But most important to me, BLM means commemorating the dignified triumphs of blackness in all its range.



STUDENTS CALL ON LAW SCHOOL TO STRENGTHEN ANTI-RACIST EFFORTS

In the aftermath of the tragic killing of George Floyd by police officers, the Black Law Student Association (BLSA) published a powerful open letter to the Seattle University School of Law administration and community.

“Are you indifferent to systemic racism?” the letter asked. “Are you anti-racist? Do you benefit from racism? Are you undoing racism?”

More than 800 people signed a statement of solidarity with BLSA. Several student organizations and student-run journals echoed BLSA’s call to action, including the Seattle Journal for Social Justice (SJSJ), which implored the law school’s administration to do more to support Black students.

“[W]e challenge the university to engage in deeper institutional reflection and meaningful

dialogues that promote racial justice rather than remaining complicit in the status quo,” the editors wrote.

In response, faculty and Dean Annette Clark '89 lobbied for a diploma privilege [see page 24] and announced efforts to strengthen the law school’s commitment to racial justice.

In August, BLSA encouraged the law school to adopt specific measures to improve racial equity, including:

- » A mandatory law and critical race theory or race equity seminar for every 1L student
 - » A mandatory oath for each incoming student pledging to not partake in discriminatory rhetoric
 - » Recruitment and retention of Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) for faculty and staff positions
 - » Reconsideration of conditional scholarships and establishment of a fund specifically to help mitigate the financial burdens faced by BIPOC students
- As the law school considers implementing these changes,

several efforts are already underway:

- » The administration will work to better center the voices and lived experiences of students of color in decision-making processes, including setting up a regular check-in with BLSA and other affinity group leaders.
- » The admissions process will be reviewed to identify barriers for applicants of color and to enhance recruitment of diverse students.
- » The dean and faculty will create a new standing committee on diversity, equity, and inclusion, and charge that committee with evaluating diversity recruitment efforts and conditional scholarship policies, as well as evaluating the curriculum with the goal of providing additional meaningful educational opportunities to address issues of racial violence, police brutality/accountability, and racial profiling.
- » The Social Justice Leadership Committee will complete the Washington Race Equity

& Justice Initiative audit of the law school and prioritize implementing the report’s recommendations.

» The Student Emergency Fund will be made available to help fund racially informed mental health counseling for students and recent graduates.

“I acknowledge and offer my apology that the law school has been silent when we should have spoken, reactive when we should have been proactive, and defended the status quo when we should have been agents for change,” Clark wrote in announcing these and other efforts.

Faculty, too, committed to making changes that will create a more supportive and inclusive environment at Seattle U Law.

“Thank you for your passion, your empathy, and your advocacy. We are better for it,” wrote more than 40 faculty members in a letter to students. “[T]here is no other choice than to do better. We promise that we will.”

NOTE: FULL TEXT OF THE STUDENT LETTERS IS AVAILABLE AT LAW.SEATTLEU.EDU/BLM.



Darrah Hinton (right) with Professor Connie Krantz

DARRAH HINTON '16

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney | King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

The role of Black lawyers in the Black Lives Matter movement is to first acknowledge that Black Lives Matter is more than a movement – it's an extension of our centuries-long struggle to be treated equally.

The Black lawyer has always been uniquely positioned to serve as a bridge between the legal system and the communities most susceptible to systemic oppression. We must engage in conversations within our respective organizations in order to advocate for

substantial – not incremental – change. We must find ways to advance the voices of those directly impacted by the systems of oppression that we work within.

We must also commit ourselves to using the law to build power for the community, in order to effectuate transformative change. This moment in history is an opportunity to respond to the calls of the community in a way rooted in acknowledgement, accountability, and action. Let's seize this chance while we have it.



SHARONDA AMAMILO '03

Managing Attorney | AmamiLO Law, PLLC

It is when we let the quilt of society fray at the edges, without intervention, that it is made easy for one big tug to render an irreparable tear. Society was fraying at the edges already from COVID-19, with many individuals and families struggling to get by and feel connected and heard.

The murder of Mr. Floyd was the one big tug that has forever changed our society's quilt. How we move forward from here, how we patch up the damage as best we can, will result in seams that

represent scars, memories, trauma, healing, and opportunities for change.

For Black communities, this is about being heard and demanding change so that not another life is taken in vain. Current conditions of inequity in the law and justice system are unacceptable.

Under the eyes of the law, no person should be treated differently from another. Regardless of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, professional title, or any other factor, justice must be served and given to all.



MARK MORGAN '16

Attorney | Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.

1. *The primary role of being a Black lawyer in the Black Lives Matter movement is being just that – a lawyer.*

Preserve your mental health, peace, and security at all costs. Simply being a Black lawyer is an act of protest. You are existing and thriving in a system and a profession that was not built for you and, in many ways, has played an integral role in maintaining systems of oppression.

2. *Be present in your space, occupy it, and do not waver in your conviction.*

The experience of being Black in America does not stop when you begin your workday; it is an omnipresent reality that most of your co-workers will never experience.

Visibility matters – only 5 percent of the 1.3 million lawyers in this country identify as Black. With this visibility comes a measure of responsibility. Not a responsibility to “act right” or “prove” anything, but a duty to be authentic and present. Prioritizing the comfort of others over your own authenticity does a disservice to your co-workers and to yourself.

3. *Communicate and collaborate with other Black lawyers within your office, law firm, or bar association.*

There is always a network within your larger community that is there to support you and take steps in supporting the Black Lives Matter movement. Black dignity matters. Black futures matter. BLACK LIVES MATTER.



MIGUEL WILLIS '17

Director

Access to Justice Technology Fellows Program

Black lawyers are a bridge to justice for members of the Black community.

I often reflect on the instrumental roles that Charles Hamilton Houston, dean of Howard Law School, and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall had in promoting racial equality during the civil rights movement. Today, Lee Merritt in Philadelphia, Sue-Ann Robinson in Florida, and so many other Black lawyers have been critical in the Black Lives Matter movement by defending Black lives against police brutality and other systemic injustices.

However, Black lawyers' roles in this movement are neither monolithic, nor all-encompassing. Racism in the legal profession is pervasive and entrenched, deeply embedded within the culture of many institutions and firms. While this begins with inequitable access for Black law school candidates, persistent racial disparities are present in law school and in practice. These issues are also compounded by the regular occurrences of interpersonal racism, marginalization, and isolation.

Black lawyers should not have to carry all of the weight and burden during this movement. Navigating these difficult issues in the workplace can be extremely exhausting and re-traumatizing. Now more than ever, leaders entrusted with power within the legal profession must take a more nuanced and intentional role to support Black lives, moving beyond statements of support and other symbolic gestures.

KOREMATSU CENTER JOINS ACLU OF WASHINGTON AND PERKINS COIE TO PROTECT PEACEFUL PROTESTORS

“I will continue to protest, but I fear being gassed by my own police force.”

These are the closing words of the sworn statement given by law student Alexandra Chen, one of several plaintiffs suing the City of Seattle for excessive use of force by Seattle Police Department officers. The lawsuit was initiated by the ACLU of Washington, Perkins Coie LLP, and the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality at Seattle University School of Law.

At the time she joined the lawsuit, filed on June 9, Chen had peacefully protested against police brutality in the streets of Seattle several times and had twice been hit with the noxious chemicals deployed by police officers to disperse the crowds.

“I found it hard to breathe. I found it hard to see. The gas got caught under my mask and irritated my skin,” she said.

In the lawsuit, the plaintiffs and their attorneys sought – and were granted – a temporary restraining order against the use of chemical agents like tear gas and pepper spray for crowd control. The team of lawyers argued that such excessive force violates the U.S. Constitution's Fourth Amendment protections against unreasonable search and seizure, and that the use of these tactics by law enforcement chills free speech in violation of the First Amendment.

“As executive director of the Korematsu Center, I am keenly aware that government wrongs occur more easily when people do not speak out against those wrongs,” said Professor Robert Chang. “This lawsuit seeks to ensure that people can raise their voices to protect Black lives and to gather together and march in silent protest against police violence without having to fear police violence.”

The lawsuit is pending in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington before Judge Richard Jones. In late July, police again allegedly deployed excessive and indiscriminate use of force

against protestors in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Seattle, so the team filed a motion to hold the city in contempt of Jones's earlier order. Approximately two weeks before the scheduled contempt hearing, the plaintiffs agreed to stop the proceedings in exchange for clarifications of the order restricting the use of crowd control weapons.

The new order signed by Judge Jones offers clearer protections for protesters and adds language specifically protecting media, medics, and legal observers, Chang said. “We remain watchful, though, and ready to go back to court to reassert our contempt motion for the actions taken by the police on July 25 as well as for any violations of the new order.”

Chen said her family and friends urged her to stop protesting for her own safety, but she concluded it was more important to speak up against racial injustice and police brutality.

“I felt that as a future lawyer, I have both the privilege and the duty to pursue justice and lead by example,” she said, adding that she has since joined the National Lawyers Guild to volunteer as a legal observer at demonstrations. When she is observing, she does not participate as a protester.

Chen also joined an ad hoc task force (see page 8) to work with Chang in studying racial disparities in the state's criminal legal system.

“I am looking forward to helping to make real changes in the community,” she said.

The lead plaintiff in the lawsuit is Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County. Other plaintiffs include a journalist, a videographer, and other protesters.

Another is law alumna Sharon Sakamoto '84, a Japanese-American lawyer who was born in Camp Minidoka during World War II and is deeply dedicated to racial justice and civil rights. She was deterred from participating in the protests in Seattle due to concerns over the negative health effects of tear gas and other chemical agents used by the police.

“I am extremely proud of all the young people who have showed up to peacefully protest as part of this movement,” she wrote in her declaration as part of the lawsuit. “I wish I felt safe enough to join them.”

A SHOCK TO THE SYSTEM

Public defender Twyla Carter BA '04, JD '07 takes her passion and skills to the national stage

BY CLAUDINE BENMAR



If Twyla Carter shows up in your courtroom, something's wrong.

"We're the ACLU," she said. "We don't make social visits. If we're in your jurisdiction, it's likely you're violating someone's rights."

The 2007 graduate of Seattle University School of Law now serves as senior staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union's Criminal Law Reform Project, based in New York City. She parlayed a decade of on-the-ground public defense work in King County into a career making systemic change around the country.

Carter moved to the ACLU in 2017 after the election of President Donald Trump spurred a flood of donations to the country's preeminent civil rights organization. New funding meant new attorney positions.

Already, she and her colleagues have won cases and achieved significant reform through settlements in the areas of cash bail reform and right to counsel in South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, Texas, Michigan, and Oklahoma (pending). She won a temporary injunction in Galveston County, Texas, for example, where defendants now have attorneys present at bail hearings, thanks to the ACLU.

Her clients are familiar to her – poor people, people of color, and people without the resources and support systems necessary to keep them out of the court system. Carter's years as a public defender proved essential in this work and gave her a natural rapport with clients.

"I'm talking to folks who are arguably at the lowest point in their lives, and telling them that I am not their attorney on their criminal case but instead want them to help me change the system," she said. Those clients then become the face of the ACLU's class-action litigation.

Professor from Practice Robert C. Boruchowitz hired Carter as a summer extern at The Defender Association immediately before he moved to Seattle U to begin teaching. She returned as a staff attorney after graduation.

"I quickly recognized her ability, her energy, her commitment, and her potential to be a great public defender," he said. "Twyla's commitment to understanding the community in which her clients live and her devotion to justice help in her national work."

Carter can't remember a time when she wasn't aware of racism and her desire to create a more equitable system for people who suffer its effects. But she recalled one experience in particular that cemented her plan to become a defender.

Throughout her undergraduate years (she earned a BA in criminal justice from Seattle U in 2004) and law school, she worked at a nonprofit that helped people find housing after their release from prison. Carter recalled a time when she attended a community notification hearing for someone who had served time for sexual assault and was about to transition into a new neighborhood.

As her client faced a torrent of hatred from the crowd, Carter spoke up and was able to quiet their fears with common sense. Parents would know which house their children should avoid. It would be the most policed house in the neighborhood. And would they really want this person to be homeless?

"In that moment, I knew I wanted to advocate on behalf of poor people, people that society seemed not to care about at all," she said. "Nobody should be fully defined by their worst decision. And we can't judge people's decisions without knowing what their options were."

BUILDING A DEEPER BENCH

Recently retired Judge Frank Cuthbertson '93 reflects on his historic career

BY DAVID SANDLER



For a lawyer who initially had no ambition to join the bench, Frank Cuthbertson '93 has had a momentous career as the first Black judge in Pierce County. In addition to blazing a trail for Black jurists, he has served as a catalyst for important criminal justice reforms that have advanced equity, especially for people of color.

"I felt it was important to try to improve the justice system and build public trust and confidence, and that meant throwing my hat in (to become a judge)," Cuthbertson said.

After nearly two decades of service as a Pierce County Superior Court judge, the Seattle University School of Law graduate retired in March.

Cuthbertson's path to the bench began by working with attorneys during his initial career in community organizing and in state government in Tennessee. "They impressed me with their ability to use their legal skills to advocate for equal justice for poor people," he said.

This inspired him to enroll in the law school, then located at University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, at age 40. It turned out to be a great fit. "It was everything I expected and more. It had a strong reputation for academic rigor, and I had outstanding professors."

While in law school, he participated in a minority clerkship program, which led to a summer internship at Davis Wright Tremaine and eventually a position as an associate after he graduated. He then served as in-house counsel for Group Health Cooperative and as an associate for Gordon, Thomas, Honeywell before being appointed to the bench by then-Gov. Gary Locke in 2001.

Cuthbertson made an impact from the bench in several ways. He helped reduce the number of incarcerated youths, especially children of color. He also created a pretrial services program in Pierce County that enabled judges to release and supervise arrested

people rather than jailing them or imposing bail. And in 2016, he developed the county's first felony mental health court, which led to lower recidivism rates through an emphasis on treatment instead of incarceration.

With his historic appointment, Cuthbertson said he felt a responsibility to help diversify the bench even further. Over the years, his mentorship and support has helped several Black attorneys become Pierce County Superior Court judges.

One of those is Judge Sabrina Ahrens '01, appointed last year, who got to know Cuthbertson by arguing cases as a prosecutor in his courtroom. He became her mentor over time. "He kicked the door open, held the door open, and encouraged women and minorities to walk through," she said.

Justice Helen Whitener '98 – appointed to Pierce County Superior Court in 2015, becoming the first Black and openly LGBTQ judge in Washington – also worked in Cuthbertson's courtroom, as a prosecutor, public defender, and private litigator. "He made me think bigger in terms of my aspirations," she said.

In April of this year, Whitener become the first Black woman to serve on the Washington Supreme Court when Gov. Jay Inslee appointed her associate justice.

"Judge Cuthbertson understands that it's critical to have jurists with diverse backgrounds and perspectives at the table because it ensures that the judiciary makes more well-informed decisions that impact people's lives," she said.

Although he is now retired, Cuthbertson is still hard at work advancing equity. Inspired by the Black Lives Matter protests, he is serving as an advisor to a task force, created by Inslee, which will address policing reform and racial justice.



MAKING THE CASE FOR DIPLOMA PRIVILEGE

Faculty, grads cite concerns for safety, racial equity

BY ROBERT C. BORUCHOWITZ AND LISA BRODOFF

In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic and the national upheaval following several high-profile cases of racist police brutality and murder – and after reading an especially powerful open letter from the editors of the Seattle Journal for Social Justice – we were moved to check in with some of our recent graduates and current students to see how they were doing. Universally, they conveyed their deep despair and frustration with these national crises and what they perceived as inadequate support from the law school.

Their anger and disappointment were palpable. Graduates of color and their families are disproportionately at risk of contracting

the virus. Many of them or members of their families had lost jobs. The damage to our communities and the potential harm to the law school of failing to respond to the needs of our students were, in our minds, real and significant.

We decided to ask our faculty colleagues to consider at least one significant step that, if successful, would make a huge difference for new graduates – requesting that the Washington Supreme Court reconsider its April ruling that denied a diploma privilege and to admit recent law school graduates to the state bar without having to take a bar examination.

A window of opportunity for such advocacy had opened. In early June, the court issued a dramatic statement about its own role in systemic racism and its willingness to reconsider precedents. The justices wrote: “Too often in the legal profession, we feel bound by tradition and the way things have ‘always’ been. We must remember that even the most venerable precedent must be struck down when it is incorrect and harmful.”

Removing the exam barrier to bar admission, we thought, would directly respond to our graduates’ concerns while, as the court wrote, bring “greater racial justice to our system as a whole.”

We put the reconsideration motion before the faculty, who added a request that the court evaluate whether the bar examination is the best way to determine admission to the bar, given that it poses significant challenges to graduates of color and those who experience economic disadvantage. Studies also suggest the bar exam may be biased. With that addition, the faculty – who were immediately supportive of the premise – unanimously passed the motion.

We then formed a mighty writing team with Professor Jeff Minneti and Dean Annette Clark to draft the request. We shared with the court our pride in our graduates and emphasized that they are ready and able *right now* to be the excellent practitioners who are needed – now more than ever – to provide our communities with access to justice. When the Washington Supreme Court agreed to our request just two days later, we were thrilled for our graduates and buoyed by the court’s additional decision to establish a study group on the efficacy of the bar exam.

While this was an important victory, it is only the beginning of the work we all need to do to further equal justice. We are excited to work with our faculty, staff, administration, and students to meet our social justice mission in these most challenging times.



Robert C. Boruchowitz is a professor from practice and director of The Defender Initiative.



Lisa Brodoff is an associate professor and director of the Ronald A. Peterson Law Clinic.

A RECENT GRAD’S PERSPECTIVE

BY EFRAIN J. HUDNELL

Diploma privilege was the only option for two reasons – equity for would-be attorneys, and justice for the communities we serve.

The first assertion became clear when I and other recent grads circulated an impact survey among the July 2020 test takers and found that 40 percent were at high risk for COVID-19, lived with someone at risk, or both. Three-quarters of them would face financial hardship if the bar exam was postponed or canceled, almost 60 percent would need to find temporary employment, and 5 percent would need to find permanent employment outside the practice of law.

One proposed solution – temporary licensure as a Rule 9 – was riddled with problems. First, it wouldn’t guarantee compensation. Law school debt is at an all-time high and graduates depend

on compensation as fully licensed attorneys. Further, employers would have little incentive to hire under this regimen, since the new hire would require an attorney’s supervision and time off for the (eventual) bar exam.

While an online exam wasn’t an option in Washington, the flaws in that proposal have become clear in other states. A California survey found that less than 28 percent of registrants had stable enough internet access for an online test of this importance. Michigan held an online exam in July and was hit by a cyberattack.

No conversation about the bar examination would be complete without discussing its racist origins, outcomes, and the ironically untested assumption that standardized testing is an adequate means of measuring competence. The American Bar Association excluded Black applicants until 1943 and some speculate that the bar exam – which gradually replaced diploma privilege in the years that followed – was a means of filtering out minority candidates who

started to integrate into the legal profession. Whether or not that’s true, it’s undisputed that passage rates trend along racial lines to this day.

Lastly, there is a true need for fully licensed attorneys, especially in the public sector. Public defenders and prosecutors depend on new attorneys joining their ranks each fall. Without new attorneys, cases will be adjudicated even more slowly, and existing public servants will be even more overworked. What’s worse is that communities of color rely on public defenders the most and would be disproportionately affected.

If our profession truly exists to champion justice and if we are to make good on the promises to further racial equity, then we should embrace this unique opportunity to evaluate the bar exam’s place in our profession. We don’t need a new way of testing; we need new and creative ways to measure competence. To do anything else is to cause undue hardship to those seeking to enter the profession, as well as to those we seek to serve.



Efrain J. Hudnell ’20 is a newly licensed attorney and former president of the Student Bar Association.



▲ SUSAN KEERS SERKO '82

retired after almost 14 years as a Pierce County Superior Court judge and has rejoined the Washington Arbitration and Mediation Service as a mediator. She looks forward to reconnecting with the legal community.

CHRISTINE MAYOUE '02

has started her own family law firm, Mayoue Family Law, P.S., in Seattle. She takes cases involving divorce, separation, parenting and support issues, domestic violence, and various post-decree enforcement issues.



1976

Ted W. Fredericks and his partner Mandi produced their 25th play for the Leavenworth (Washington) School District, titled “Brigadoon,” in February before schools closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1979

John Ellingson was granted a number of cybersecurity patents.

1981

Tom Galligan has served as interim president of Louisiana State University since Jan. 1, 2020. Fascinating times!

Judge Stephen R. Shelton (Ret.), after serving for nearly 19 years as Puyallup Municipal Court judge, has been appointed as a Pierce County deputy hearing examiner and a judge pro tempore for Pierce County District Court and Tacoma Municipal Court. He’s also of counsel at Stuart E. Shelton Injury Law, where he works with his brother **Stu Shelton '81** and his nephew **Eric Shelton '11**.

Karen Lambart Spencer retired. Her son, Patrick, is now on the bench with the Office of Administrative Courts, Southern Region office in Colorado Springs, Colorado, so the firm of Spencer and Spencer, PC is closed.

1984

Michael Mazon added a new guitar to his collection.

1985

John A. Bender retired in January 2020 from Ryan, Swanson & Cleveland and joined his daughter-in-law’s firm, Bender Law PLLC.

1987

King County Superior Court **Judge Judith H. Ramseyer** was elected president of the Superior Court Judges’ Association.

Brent Zadorozny has decided to move to Bangkok, Thailand, with his beautiful wife of six years. He will remain of counsel to his previous employer, Simmons Hanly Conroy.

1989

Joanne Wolfe Sprague has been named executive director of Kitsap Legal Services, a nonprofit volunteer lawyer program in Bremerton, Washington, that provides civil legal aid.

1991

Sans M. Gilmore started his firm, Sans M. Gilmore, P.S., Inc., in 1992. He was an E-7 in the Army Reserve when he attended law school and continued to serve until he retired as a command sergeant major in 2014.

1995

Curt Cutting is the co-director of the Ninth Circuit

Appellate Advocacy Clinic at the Pepperdine Caruso School of Law. The clinic gives law students the opportunity to represent people in need of pro bono counsel. He maintains an active practice as a partner at Horvitz and Levy, a California appellate boutique firm.

1997

Sarah Lee started working at the Seattle City Attorney’s Office in July 2018. She serves on the Washington State Bar Association Court Rules Committee and as a court-appointed arbitrator in the superior courts of King and Pierce counties.

1998



Joe Foley joined the Disability Counsel Program for the Department of the Navy in Washington, D.C., continuing more than 15 years of representing people with disabilities. His daughter Grace, born during his 1L year, is now pursuing a PhD at Northwestern University, researching genetics and women’s reproductive health. Time flies!

Stephen Sneider retired in 2017 after 20 years as a senior felony trial attorney with the Colorado State Public Defender’s Office due to a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis in 2007.

1999

Joleen Hughes’s firm, Hughes Media Law Group, became a nationally certified woman-owned business by Women’s Business Enterprise National Council. The firm also launched The Lemonade Stand Initiative in response to the COVID crisis, providing \$10,000 worth of free legal services to five companies/nonprofits to give them a jump start. Hughes started her second term as a City of Seattle Music Commissioner and was appointed vice president of the board of the Seattle International Film Festival.

2000

Amy F. Cook was promoted to the rank of brigadier general from her position as Texas Army National Guard colonel and assistant adjutant general for manpower and personnel for Texas. She is responsible for federal and state personnel readiness for the Texas Military Department.

2001

Joan Tierney was a presenter at the Washington Immigration Defense Network (WIDEN) Removal Defense Training Day for Non-Immigration Lawyers and continues to volunteer to free children held in detention who have been separated from their parents.

2002

Garrett Ferencz was appointed TrueBlue’s chief legal officer on July 1, 2020, and continues as the company’s chief ethics and compliance officer. Ferencz joined TrueBlue in 2007 and was formerly employed by Perkins Coie LLP.

2003

Ari Magedoff was promoted to head of management liability claims at AXIS Insurance. Magedoff has been with the company since 2010 and works out of the Berkeley Heights, New Jersey, office.



Dalynne Singleton was appointed in 2019 to the Washington State Bar Association Disciplinary Board for a two-year term.

2004

Curt Malloy was recently elected as board member and secretary to The Max Foundation, a Seattle-based nonprofit with the mission of increasing global access to treatment, care, and support for people living with cancer.

Regina Paulose’s book, “People’s Tribunals, Human Rights and the Law,” was recently published by Routledge UK (2019).

2005

Dan Gerl’s firm reformed as Puget Law Group LLP in

March 2019 as a three-partner firm: Gerl, **Nick Andrews '08**, and Casey Arbenz. In July, they added a fourth partner, **Jared Ausserer '02**. PLG has grown 320 percent since 2017 and is one of the highest-rated criminal defense and personal injury firms in the Pacific Northwest.



Julie Seidenstein, an attorney at Lane Powell PC, has been honored for the third year in a row by The Best Lawyers in America® in the category of banking and finance for 2021.

2006

Joanna Plichta Boisen was named Davis Wright Tremaine

QUITA ST. JOHN '06

married her love, Loren Betts, on Sept. 7, 2019, in Normandy Park, Washington. Twelve law school alumni attended the wedding; this group of friends calls themselves the LaLas, which is short for Ladies of the Law. St. John owns The St. John Law Group, which is in its eighth year of operation as a criminal defense practice.



LLP's first-ever chief pro bono and social impact officer.

**Lindsay D. Camandona** was promoted to partner at McKinley Irvin PLLC on Jan. 1, 2020.

**Stephanie M. Nichols** was promoted to vice president for ethics and compliance at GCI, Alaska's largest telecommunications provider, and lives in Anchorage. She also received the prestigious Marshall Memorial Fellowship, which prepares leaders from the United States and Europe for transatlantic relations.

Gwynna Biggers Norman opened her new law firm, the Norman Legal Group, PLLC in January 2020 on Mercer Island, where she will continue her family law practice. Her husband, **Eric A. Norman '06**, practices health care defense at FAVROS Law in Seattle. The Normans have two boys, ages 4 and 7.

2008

**Courtney Kelley** joined Los Angeles, California-based ICM Partners, one of the world's leading talent agencies, as chief human resources officer. Kelley previously served as vice

president of human resources for the National Football League.

Erin Kenway served as executive producer of the feature documentary "The Prison Within," which won Best Social Justice Documentary at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

2012

Win Martin was promoted to counsel at Perkins Coie LLP earlier this year. He continues to focus his practice on trademark, copyright, and internet issues.

Neil Weiss was one of 12 finalists for the Everett Herald's Emerging Leaders 2020 award. He joined ABC Law Group in late 2012 and focuses his practice in representation in dependency litigation for parents and children, defense for allegations of abuse and neglect, family law, and criminal defense.

2013

Ryan Dumm has been named shareholder at Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, where he helps construction companies assess risk, negotiate transactions, and resolve disputes.

2015

Rachel Bender and husband, John T. Bender, welcomed their

first child, Bowie, in July 2019. Bowie is also the first grandchild of alumnus **John A. Bender '85**.

John Butler and his family welcomed Maeve Cordelia Butler into the family in September 2019. Now happily located in Kingston, Washington, they enjoy being out of the city.

Molly Peach Matter successfully defended the California Voting Rights Act in 2019 in the Ninth Circuit with co-counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and Asian Americans Advancing Justice. She also won bond release of \$1,500 for an asylum seeker being held at the Northwest Detention Center. As the 2020 chair of the Civil Rights Law Section of the Washington State Bar Association, she is excited to create opportunities for youth of color from local high schools.


2016

Joanna Adu currently chairs the finance and estate planning practice at her New Jersey firm. She also sits on the board of directors for SERV Behavioral Health Systems, a private not-for-profit organization that serves individuals with mental illness and developmental disabilities. She was named a 2020 Super Lawyers Rising Star for family law.

**Paul Heer** was named Outstanding Young Lawyer for 2020 by the King County Bar Association.

2017


**Jenny Goak** was recognized as a Northern California Rising Star in 2020 for intellectual property by Super Lawyers. She is an associate at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, where she focuses her practice on trademark and copyright matters.

**Greg Pittman** has joined the Seattle law firm Helsell Fetterman and works in the

firm's estate planning and taxation groups.

2018

Allison Lee joined the Unified Family Court of King County Superior Court as a family law facilitator in early 2020. She provides resources and procedural information to pro se litigants and is accomplishing her lifelong goal of empowering the public to advocate for themselves while working in the heart of downtown.

**Brett Kobes** is the founder and principal of Kobes Legal PLLC, with a focus on personal injury, discrimination, and harassment. He is also the assistant general counsel for Pendulum Partners, a

consulting/tech firm located in Bellevue, Washington, and owned by **Ryan Neal '05**.

2019

**Rebecca L. Schade** joined the Tacoma law firm of Davies Pearson, P.C., in 2019 as an associate attorney practicing in personal injury, workers' compensation, and appellate advocacy.

2020

**Lavena Staten** received the Unemployment Law Project's Farmworker Fellowship and will serve agricultural laborers struggling with legal problems as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

IN MEMORIAM



TAMARA MARIE CHIN BA '86, JD '91 passed away in July 2020 after a long struggle with breast cancer. She was 57 years old. She was a longtime practicing attorney in Snohomish County, a mother of two sons, sister, daughter, aunt, friend, and colleague. Prior to law school, she earned her undergraduate degree at Seattle University and attended graduate school at the University of Southern California and California State University, Northridge, earning a master's degree in communications.

JOB TALK TUESDAYS

A special thanks to the following alumni who submitted videos as part of our Center for Professional Development's recent series, Job Talk Tuesdays. These grads offered the Class of 2020 reassurance and valuable advice about building a career during a challenging job market. Find the videos at sulawcpd.blogspot.com.

Nada Alnajafi '09
K.J. Bagchi '11
Sarah Cho '09
Phil Chu '12
Brian Edwards '12
Matt Etter '12

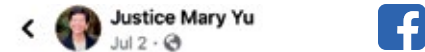
James Johnson '12
Rachel Luke '09
Megan Fouty Lutes '09
Wendawn Miller-Frazer '11
Michelle Pham '11
Kim Sandher '09

Shashi Vijay '08
Eric Wolf '12

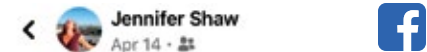
JOIN THE CONVERSATION



First generation daughter of immigrants is now a rising 2L @seattleulaw 🍌 This WILL be my office someday. What a time to be ALIVE. What a time to be a person of COLOR pursuing higher education. What a time to be hopeful about the world WE will create!



Very proud to administer the oath of attorney to SU Alum, former extern, and future law clerk Cloie Chapman. I am so very proud of this warrior for justice. Cloie was formally presented by Professor Lisa Brodoff.



Liked by nmerfeld and 233 others
jbtreybig gotta say my first time working a ballot box was really great. so many excited to vote for the first time. so many young, queer, BIPOC voters. me yelling the countdown like the town crier and people running to make sure their vote counts. PLUS handing out stickers to excited people!



So proud of the work that my colleague Deirdre Bowen and her students are doing!



KING5.COM
Seattle U law students helping domestic violence survivors file protection orders

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @seattleulaw



38 likes
gigi.lynn.m 20 years ago today I graduated from Seattle University #lawschool. To each of my employers over the years: Thank you for the opportunities. I've learned so much and continue to learn every day. @pugetlawgroup @ryanmontgomeryarmstrong #kitsapcounty #bremerton #lawyermom #lawyer #wa #pnw



Liked by amritaajji, sjteil and 15 others
gymaline_187 Got my book!!! I'm about to do my first assignment. Just 27 days until law school!!!!!! #imready #lawschool #jd #criminallaw #goals #dreams #seattleuniversitieschooloflaw #sulawschool

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Thanks to your generosity, Seattle U Law can fulfill its vision to provide opportunities for students to become powerful public interest advocates.

The Public Interest Law Foundation's 27th Annual Auction was the most successful ever, raising \$108,000 to support PILF grants for 20 students.

Stay tuned for information about our Spring Fundraiser!

WHAT'S NEW?

Keep up with the latest law school news at law.seattleu.edu or @seattleulaw on social media.

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