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Dean's Spotlight

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Dean's Spotlight May 18, 2020

Seattle University School of Law Dean

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Dean's Spotlight

SEATTLE
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May 18, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you to everyone who helped make this weekend a special one for the Class of 2020, particularly those members of our faculty and staff who wrote emails and/or attended the watch party with our graduates. I want to recognize Deann Ketchum, Donna Deming, Claudine Benmar, and Brooke Coleman for their efforts on behalf of this wonderful group of students. We'll have a date soon for our rescheduled Commencement Ceremony, but in the meantime, I think we've done well by them given the challenges posed by the pandemic. Also, kudos to everyone listed below for continuing your public engagements despite having to work remotely, but especially Sara Rankin for participating in numerous speaking engagements and media interviews on how to solve chronic homelessness.

Best regards,

Annette

Publications

Ron Clark's new book *Visual Litigation: Visual Communication Strategies and Today's Technology* is being launched by Full Court Press, the publishing arm of Fastcase. His co-authors are Thomas O'Toole, Ph.D., President of Sound Jury Consulting, and Patrick M. Muscat, Deputy Chief of the Special Prosecutions Unit of the Wayne County, Michigan Prosecuting Attorney's Office. As a new generation of jurors step into the jury box, research shows that visual communication in the courtroom is more important than ever before. Effective visual presentation enhances engagement, understanding, retention, and persuasiveness. *Visual Litigation* provides a comprehensive foundation for creating the compelling visual presentations that today's jurors, judges, and mediators expect. It offers a detailed discussion of visual advocacy in both the pretrial venue and trial, from opening statement through closing argument. *Visual Litigation* also includes pragmatic coverage of evidentiary foundations for visuals and ethical and legal boundaries related to what visuals may be displayed in trial. *Visual Litigation* features role-play assignments for both a criminal and a civil case, and case files are available via the book's companion website.

Jack Kirkwood was invited to write a testimonial for economist John Kwoka's new book, *Controlling Mergers and Market Power: A Program for Reviving Antitrust in America*.

Presentations

Upcoming Events

[Memorial Day Weekend](#)

Fri-Mon,
May 22-25
8:00 a.m. –
5:00 p.m.
Office Closed

Visit the
School of Law
website for
more
[upcoming events](#).

Sara Rankin has been invited to speak at five different events, although most have been rescheduled due to COVID-19. These events include: Finding Common Ground on Homelessness, Snohomish County Annual Affordable Housing Community Forum, Everett, WA (June 5, 2020) (keynote address) (rescheduled for Covid-19); Solving Homelessness, Eastside Legal Assistance Program's 10th Annual Breakfast for Justice, Bellevue, WA (May 21, 2020) (keynote address) (rescheduled for Covid-19); Homeless Rights Advocacy, Seattle University Annual Emeriti & Honored Faculty Luncheon, Seattle WA (May 12, 2020) (featured speaker) (rescheduled due to COVID-19); Pandemic Proof: Housing is Healthcare, Salesforce/Tableau, Webex (April 21, 2020) (invited); Hiding Homelessness, Poverty Law? Where We Go from Here, University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, CA (April 11, 2020) (invited) (forthcoming) (rescheduled for COVID-19).

Michael Russo will be speaking at the virtual event "The Death Penalty in the Age of Date, Science, and Abolition," specifically on the topic of defending people accused of capital crimes from the perspective of a trial lawyer. The event is being put on by the Department of Criminal Justice this month on May 22nd.

Other News

Deborah Ahrens was a guest on [KUOW's The Record](#) to talk about the risks of COVID-19 in prisons.

Steven Bender has been a frequent contributor to the DIRT-real estate lawyer listserv on COVID-related foreclosure issues and the Great Depression experience. Most recently he was asked to contribute to the New York real estate lawyer listserv on pandemic foreclosure moratoria, he supplied based on his law review article Equity in Times of Mortgage Crisis, 48 [ABA] Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Journal 543 (Winter 2014).

Bob Boruchowitz With Toby Marshall, a lawyer in private practice, have obtained from Island County Superior Court an Alternative Writ of Mandamus to the Island County District Court ordering the judge either to appoint counsel to an indigent prisoner facing a misdemeanor charge in Island County or to show cause March 30 why the writ should not be made permanent. Bob also wrote an article for the [King County Bar Bulletin](#) about prosecutors and defenders working to adapt court operations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Deirdre Bowen's creation of a pop-up clinic for students to help domestic violence victims obtain protection orders was covered by [KING 5](#) and [Crosscut](#).

Charlotte Garden commented on California's lawsuit against Uber and Lyft in [Bloomberg](#). Also in [Bloomberg](#), she's quoted on the issue of sick pay for drivers. She offered her thoughts on striking during a pandemic [in general](#), and what might happen to striking Instacart workers [in particular](#). She also spoke with [The Nation](#) about religious institutions that prevent the formation of worker unions. She wrote essays for [On Labor](#) about workplaces could do to provide economic shelter for their employees, and for [SCOTUSblog](#) about the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in the age discrimination case, Babb v. Wilkie. Additionally she is quoted in [The Seattle Times](#) about how gig workers are falling through the cracks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Madeline Kass was appointed to the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources Council for 2020-21. She will serve a one-year term on the Council.

Jack Kirkwood was again invited to sit on the selection committee for the Cohen Award, given annually for the best antitrust scholarship published the prior year.

Laurel Oates is not in Uzbekistan as she had originally planned. Instead, she is meeting with the faculty of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy (UWED) via Zoom, helping the faculty design a Legal Writing course. The hope is that she will be able to go to the University in September to train the faculty and conduct writing workshops for members of the legal community.

Sara Rankin is quoted in the [Independent](#), [HuffPost](#), [Law360](#), [Real Change](#) about the unique

threats faced by people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic and how public safety measures and reforms should have been in place even before the virus spread. She additionally spoke to [The Seattle Times](#) about social distancing and the effects on people experiencing homelessness. Finally, Under her leadership, the Homeless Rights Advocacy Project issued a call to action for policymakers to respond to homelessness during the Covid-19 crisis: [Homeless Rights Advocacy Project issues call to action for COVID-19](#) on April 3, 2020.

Dean Spade appeared on [Democracy Now!](#) as well as [Agence France Presse](#) to talk about mutual aid in the time of pandemic.

Steve Tapia spoke with [LLM Guide](#) about the benefits of entrepreneurial thinking for law students.



SEATTLEU
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**FARMWORKER
FELLOWSHIP**

Seattle University School of Law, the Latina/o Bar Association of Washington, and the Washington State Labor Council have partnered together with the Unemployment Law Project (ULP) to fund a graduating Seattle U law student to work full-time as the Farmworker Fellow. The fellowship will last one year, starting in the summer/fall of 2020.

COVID-19 is devastating communities of color. Workers are often forced to work in unsafe conditions. Many are being denied unemployment benefits. The fellow will connect farm workers and others in the food industry to legal services.

Based in Seattle, Wenatchee, or Yakima, the fellow will provide advice and direct representation to farmworkers who have been denied unemployment benefits in the Yakima region. The fellow will also coordinate community outreach in the farmworker communities in Central Washington. Spanish language proficiency is required.

The fellowship will provide a \$60,000 salary, medical benefits, paid vacation/sick time leave, paid holidays, time off during bar exam, bar dues, and CLE support.

APPLICANTS SHOULD HAVE:

- › Interest or experience in labor/employment law, public benefits, and/or admin law
- › Commitment to public interest and social justice
- › Strong oral and written advocacy skills
- › Experience with community outreach, education, and organizing
- › Cross cultural competence
- › Ability to travel in Central Washington
- › Commitment to strictly follow COVID-19 safety guidelines
- › Proficiency in Spanish
- › Bar passage or ability to sit for the next bar exam
- › Open to Seattle U Law graduates within the last 2 years (Class of 2019 and 2020)

Applicants should submit letter of interest, transcript, resume, and writing sample by June 5, 2020 to Cindy Yeung at yeungcy@seattleu.edu.



Please send items to be included in the next Dean's Spotlight to [Kathleen Le Coze](#) in the Dean's Office.