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Message from the Dean

Dear Alumni and Friends,

There is an old saying that nothing endures but change. Change is an integral feature of the intellectual inquiry, to which the Law School is distinctively dedicated. Our faculty aspire to hatch new ideas, refine them, and share them with the world. In teaching, we expose students to new ideas, alter the way they think about the world, and even elevate the goals they set for themselves.

At the same time, we are fortunate that many faculty and administrators remain at the Law School for many years. Our students, colleagues, and especially the dean value the knowledge and wisdom of these experienced colleagues. Our alumni are heartened to know that the same people who helped them in their transformative educations continue to help students today.

This year, several admired and long-serving administrators retired. It was change of the sort we don’t wish to see. Richard Badger, ’68, retired this summer after nearly a half-century of devoted service to our students. Dick has had an enormous impact on the Law School and on many of you. Over the years, he has led student affairs, admissions, career services, and graduate programs, sometimes all at the same time. We are deeply grateful for his dedication, humor, and compassion. Also, Abbie Willard, who led our Office of Career Services for the past 16 years, retired. Abbie’s contributions to legal career counseling are nationally recognized. The astonishing paths our graduates have forged in all areas of the legal profession, from public service and academia to law firm practice and business leadership, often began with the help of Abbie and her team in career services.

While we will miss Dick and Abbie, superb new colleagues have joined us. This year we welcomed a new dean of students, Charles N. Todd, who brings a decade and a half of experience in student services, most recently as the College’s deputy dean of students. Charles, who holds a PhD in philosophy from the University of Chicago, has already demonstrated a tremendous ability to connect with our students. The Law School’s support for students—both through the work of our student services staff and the guidance of our faculty—fosters our culture of intellectual curiosity. In this issue of the Record, you will read about one way in which this is apparent: the development of independent scholarship by our students.

This summer Lois Casaleggi became our new associate dean for career services. Lois is a dedicated career counselor with a deep knowledge of the legal job market and a veteran of our own career services office. Her leadership and expertise will enable the Law School to continue its record of exemplary career counseling. One of the most sought-after career opportunities for law students are judicial clerkships. In this issue, you will read about our students’ high levels of success in securing these competitive and privileged positions—a track record that is thanks in large part to the tremendous work of two groups, our distinguished faculty clerkship committee and our exceptional Office for Career Services.

I trust that these and other articles in the Record illustrate the new ways in which intellectual inquiry and powerful education endure at Law School.

Warmly,

Thomas J. Miles
Every Thanksgiving for nearly 50 years, Richard Badger, '68, has invited all of the Law School’s LLM students to his Hyde Park home for dinner. When he started doing this—back in 1971, not long after he joined the Law School as the director of placement (now known as career services)—the LLM program consisted of just a dozen or so students, all of them international. The meal was homemade in those days: Badger and his family cooked and hosted the dinner, almost always with the help of former D’Angelo Law Library Director Judith Wright and her family. Badger even borrowed chairs from the Law School and carried them up three flights of stairs so that everyone would have a seat.

“I knew that most of the LLMs couldn’t go back to their homes for Thanksgiving break,” said Badger, who retired last August after a 48-year career in which he led Law School admissions, student services, career services, and graduate programs—sometimes all at the same time. “But I felt that we should have Thanksgiving for them, and so Judith Wright and I put that on with our families. And in fact, my kids grew up thinking that’s what Thanksgiving was.”

In 1999, the LLM, or master of laws, program became Badger’s primary responsibility in his role as associate dean for graduate programs, the title he held upon retiring. And as the LLM program—which offers international students a rigorous yearlong training in American law—grew under his leadership, so did the dinner. One turkey became two, and a year after Wright’s 2013 retirement, when there were roughly 80 LLMs, Badger decided to hire a caterer. Crucial features remained, though. The dinner always
2012, he had admitted nearly half of all living alumni.

“Dick has been an ambassador and a fixture of the Law School for 48 years,” said Associate Dean for Admissions Ann K. Perry. “He has held almost every position [in student services] during his time here and has represented us through all of those roles—whether with prospective students (both US and international), current students, or alumni.”

Under Badger’s leadership, the number and variety of student organizations and programs grew, and his innovations regarding applications and recruiting became crucial to Law School admissions. His impact is also visible in less tangible ways: alumni often tell stories about Badger, citing his warmth, humor, and honest communication among the reasons they chose the University of Chicago Law School.

“In recent years, I often wound up sitting with LLMs at the Graduating Students Dinner, and I could tell from talking with them that Dick has done a truly terrific job, not only in recruiting and selecting students, but also in ensuring that they have a positive experience at the Law School,” said Geoffrey R. Stone, the Edward H. Levi Distinguished Service Professor, who worked closely with Badger as the Law School’s dean between 1987 and 1993. “I have no doubt that Dick’s engagement with our LLM students made a real difference in their education and in their lives at Chicago.”

An Unforeseen Path to Student Services

Badger was born in Battle Creek, Michigan, though he moved often throughout his childhood as the son of a traveling salesman. He began his undergraduate studies at the University of Vermont planning to focus on chemistry, but ultimately majored in political science. After a particularly interesting constitutional law course, Badger said, he decided to go to law school, and chose the University of Chicago primarily because it offered him a full-tuition scholarship. On the first day of class, he was Professor Grant Gilmore’s first cold call—a nerve-wracking moment that ultimately made him a better student.

“One of the great aspects of this law school is the cold calling, because it really forces you to prepare for class,” Badger said. “Like any other thing, whether it’s a meeting or something else, if you prepare for it, you’re going to get much more out of it, and it’s going to be a more rewarding experience.”

Badger graduated in 1968, and after serving in the military for two years and working briefly at a law firm, he returned to the Law School as the sole member of

The tradition is one of many started by Badger that illustrates his approach to working with students—his knack for developing creative solutions, his emphasis on building community, and his resolve to be available to students and responsive to their needs.

“Dick’s contributions to student life and the administration of the Law School have been invaluable and too numerous to count,” said Dean Thomas J. Miles, the Clifton R. Musser Professor of Law and Economics. “It is no surprise that after almost 50 years serving our students with such dedication and expertise that Dick is so beloved and remembered so fondly by alumni. It will be hard to imagine the Law School without him, and we will all miss him tremendously.”

Over the last half century, Badger—who added dean of students and admissions to his responsibilities in 1972—has admitted thousands of students to the Law School. By
what is now the Office of Career Services. When the Law School’s dean of students left about a year later, Badger took on that role as well. In those years, the dean of students also handled admissions and financial aid, so until career services became a separate department in 1976, Badger handled all three areas himself, doing work that—in today’s larger and more operationally complex law school—is handled by roughly 26 staff members. (After career services became its own department, Badger continued as the dean of students and admissions for 20 years. In 1996, those offices split, and Badger remained responsible for JD admissions until taking over LLM and JSD admissions and administration in 1999.)

“Dick was highly regarded by students,” Stone said. “He was a delight to work with and was very caring about the institution. He was clearly someone who had a lot of integrity and who related to students in a very positive way.”

Shaping Admissions and Student Life

Leading both admissions and career services put Badger in a unique position to understand the student experience from start to finish. He learned quickly that an application file didn’t always offer the full story—there were certain skills and attributes that did not show up on paper. To get a better portrait of prospective students, Badger decided to make in-person interviews a part of the Law School’s application process. Now this is a standard practice, but in the 1970s, very few law schools did these types of interviews, Badger said.

“The question was, could an interview help you identify certain skills and personality traits associated with being a great classmate to fellow students and a professionally successful graduate?” Badger said. “The Admissions Committee would read the files in November and December, and in January and February I would travel around the country to interview the applicants that we could not reach a decision on based on the paper file.”

One of the many applicants Badger would interview and admit was James Comey, ’85, former United States deputy attorney general and, later, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Comey had been waitlisted, but the University of Chicago remained his first choice. During a visit to the city, he stopped by the Law School with his girlfriend. When they arrived, his girlfriend—now his wife—insisted that he drop in and try to meet with Badger. Though he was hesitant, Comey ultimately relented, walked
in, and waited patiently until Badger was available.

“[Our conversation] made me even hungrier to be admitted off the waiting list,” Comey said. “I had wanted to come from the start, but [the Law School] took a peek at my scores and grades and didn’t end up as enthusiastic about me as I was about it. So I was waitlisted. After my conversation with Dean Badger, I was admitted. Maybe that would have happened anyway, but I doubt it. He never acknowledged that he changed my life, but he did, as with so many others.”

Throughout his tenure in student services, Badger identified areas needing improvement and devised creative solutions. Early in his time as head of admissions, he realized that the recruiting model most law schools used—visiting colleges and inviting applicants to sign up for meetings—was primarily reaching those already interested in the school. Hoping to gain a much larger audience, Badger convinced several peer schools to band together for joint recruiting.

“We would travel around together to different colleges and do a late afternoon or evening presentation,” Badger said. “We would each talk about some element of the admissions process and then spend a couple of minutes talking about our own schools, and we drew many more people that way.”

Badger has been recognized as a leader not just within the Law School’s administration, but nationally. He has served as the president of the National Association for Law Placement, as a member of the board of trustees of the Law School Admission Council, and on the board of directors of the Law School Admission Services Corporation.

Despite the breadth and depth of his responsibilities, Badger found time to encourage students to bond and have fun outside of the classroom. He organized soccer matches between UChicago and Northwestern law students, launched—and identified funding for—the first Law School Musical, and allowed the highest student bidder to throw a pie in his face at the annual “Over the Hump” Party. For over 30 years he was the “commissioner” of the Law School’s Kalven League—an annual fantasy baseball competition named after Professor Harry Kalven Jr., ’38.

“One idea I had, which I never did for obvious reasons, was one day a week to handcuff the whole first-year class together so that they would go off and do something,” Badger said, laughing. “That way they wouldn’t worry about who was back in the library studying. They’d all be out there doing something together.”
Leading and Expanding the LLM Program

After roughly three decades working with JD students—a time in which class sizes grew and the roles and duties of administrators changed—Badger took over the Law School’s LLM and JSD programs. As associate dean for graduate programs, he streamlined the application process, making it as user-friendly and transparent as possible for the hundreds of international students who applied to either the one-year master of laws program or the multiyear doctoral program. Each year, he involved current LLM students in the preparation of housing and student life information he sent to admitted applicants.

Ruoying Chen, ’05 LLM, ’10 JSD, began at the University of Chicago as an LLM student before moving on the doctoral program. Early on at the Law School, Chen said, she got a sense of the care and purpose that Badger and the Graduate Admissions Committee put into selecting each year’s class.

“The LLM program in Chicago is one of the smallest ones among all top law schools in the US,” said Chen, who is currently an associate professor at Peking University Law School in China. “Therefore, the margin for errors and mismatch is much thinner than with a 500-student LLM program. I am completely persuaded that Dean Badger cared about it and always worked hard to ensure [that the LLM class fit] the rest of the Law School community. He insisted on picking candidates who could function as full citizens of the Law School—who not only benefited from the program but could also contribute to it.”

The LLM program’s smaller size already made it easier for students to become a close-knit group, but Badger nonetheless worked hard to foster a sense of community. He initiated the “national dinners” in which LLMs from each country would organize an activity and traditional meal for all of their classmates. He also started traditions that would offer them exposure to American culture throughout the yearlong degree. In addition to the Thanksgiving dinners and annual Super Bowl parties at a faculty member’s home, he organized Halloween pumpkin carving in the Green Lounge and created the international fellows program, which connects JD students and LLMs through a variety of attractions and events throughout Chicago. Badger’s well-known love of baseball meant there was an annual class trip to a Chicago White Sox game.

“The faculty would teach them the academic material
they wanted to know by being in the United States, but part of our job was also to give them exposure to American culture,” Badger said. “Early on, before I had the LLM program, I actually took the LLM students to baseball games because I thought that was part of their experience. There was the general sense that it’s more than just an academic experience for them.”

**Prioritizing Students and Their Needs**

Whether he was working with JDs or LLMs, applicants or current students, Badger made a point of listening to his audience. Recognizing the academic pressure that students were often under, he reorganized the exam schedule to give them no more than one exam each day. Taking in and understanding their perspectives, Badger said, made it possible for him to shape the student experience to their benefit.

“He remained open-minded to new information, suggestions, and feedback from LLM students and alumni like me,” Chen said. “Every time I visited the Law School, which I did a lot, he always asked me some questions about law schools, law firms, and law students in China, and sought comments and suggestions on enhancing the programs.”

During a farewell celebration last June for Badger and other retiring senior staff members, Miles mentioned the extent to which alumni flock to and surround Badger during Reunion Weekend and other events. It is an indication, perhaps, of the value that Badger’s presence—his kindness, his accessibility, his wit—added to their years at the Law School.

“He was loved by my classmates for the same reason I loved him,” Comey said. “His warmth and humor were essential, especially in a place that, from time to time, was not chock-full of those attributes.”

Looking back on his time at the Law School, Badger attributes his 48 years at the institution in part to his childhood. Having moved around so often when he was a kid, once he found the right fit in Chicago, he knew he wanted to stay. Badger has also appreciated the chance to polish and perfect various student services over the years, and he has enjoyed the direct contact with students, from application to graduation and everything in between.

“The students here are fabulous,” Badger said. “They’re smart, they’re generally very ambitious people, and again, if you listen to them and try to understand their perspective, they’re great people to work with.”

In his retirement, Badger is looking forward to reading through the *New Yorker* magazines that have piled up over the years and spending more time traveling to visit family. Though he won’t miss reviewing and worrying about applications, he said, he will miss the community in all its forms—the students, the faculty, other administrators, and his colleagues in admissions at law schools across the country.

Badger looks forward to seeing graduates at Reunion Weekend for years to come. And despite having retired, he plans to have the new class of LLMs over for Thanksgiving this November.
Charles N. Todd might have been a philosopher. But when he was a University of Chicago graduate student, he needed money, and by the time he’d earned his PhD in 2011—paying his bills with jobs at the University’s Center for Leadership & Involvement and as a preceptor for the Masters of Arts Program in the Humanities—he’d discovered that he loved working with students. Turned out he was good at it, too; he could listen patiently, remain calm in a crisis, and think through complex issues. In the years that followed, he honed his skills in a variety of roles across campus: in medical school admissions, as a dean-on-call, as a resident head in undergraduate housing, and in the College’s dean of students’ office, where he became the deputy dean of students and chief of staff.

When he moved south of the Midway late last year to become the Law School’s dean of students, he brought with him a decade and a half of experience. He had a vast network across campus—with deans of students in the other divisions, the University Police, student counseling services, and deans-on-call, who provide crisis and emergency response. He knew how to design interventions to support students, create programs to satisfy different priorities and stakeholders, and navigate complicated interpersonal issues.

“Charles brings to our Law School a great depth and breadth of experience in all aspects of the work that our Dean of Students Office does,” said Dean Thomas J. Miles, the Clifton R. Musser Professor of Law and Economics. “He has already contributed much to our community, and we are grateful for his leadership, intellect, and compassion.”

Student affairs work, Todd said, has meaning for him. “When I was a dean-on-call, I felt how incredibly privileged I was to be able to help someone in what might be their hour of greatest need,” he said. “This was work I wanted to do.”

Last spring, Becky Beaupre Gillespie, the Law School’s director of content, sat down with Todd to discuss his guiding principles and his goals for the Law School’s Dean of Students’ Office. Along the way, they also chatted about the fine line between providing support and encouraging independence, Todd’s study of the Greek concept ἀκρασία, and his love for science fiction, opera, and Chicago’s food scene.
**Gillespie:** Charles, you are very much the product of the University of Chicago—you arrived in 2003 to pursue your PhD in philosophy, and you’ve been here ever since. What drew you to the institution?

**Todd:** I was interested in studying analytic philosophy, and the University of Chicago was one of the best places to do that—and to do it in a way that integrated the history of philosophy and offered opportunities for students to think critically and creatively across disciplines.

I had been drawn to philosophy for a long time; I have always been interested in our beliefs, how we form them, what leads us to change them, and how we become better thinkers and more critical thinkers.

**Gillespie:** Ultimately, your graduate work focused on practical irrationality—specifically the choice to act against one’s own self-interest.

**Todd:** That’s right. The Greek term is *akrasia*, the phenomenon of acting against your better judgment. It’s a fascinating concept. There are debates going back to Plato and Aristotle: can you stare the good in the face and yet choose the bad? I’ve worked with undergrad and graduate students for over a decade, and I know that people really do act against their better judgment sometimes.

**Gillespie:** So then has that inquiry informed the work that you do now?

**Todd:** That’s hard to say. I *am* constantly thinking about how, from the student affairs side, we support students and encourage them to make good decisions. I think about the work of behavioral economists; I especially like the book *Nudge* [by University of Chicago economist Richard Thaler and former Law School Professor Cass Sunstein]. They explore how we “nudge” individuals toward better decisions through choice architecture. For me, that’s useful when thinking about how to structure processes to aid students in, say, reappling for financial aid or guiding them through course registration or deciding how to divide up their time among student programs, studying, and class. There are so many decisions that they have to make as students, young adults, and soon-to-be professionals—and some of those decisions are going to be better than others. I want to make sure that, from the administrative side, the operational side, and the advising side, we provide a sensible and structured framework that’s going to help them make the best decisions. We want to encourage them to take charge of their decisions while simultaneously nudging them toward better decisions.

**Gillespie:** Speaking of decisions, I’m always intrigued by the choices people make as their careers unfold—the ways in which they discover talents and passions, and the ways in which those discoveries sometimes cause them to change course. How did a doctoral student in philosophy end up pursuing a career in student affairs?

**Todd:** The easiest answer is that I needed to support myself financially while I was a graduate student, and I took jobs that involved working with students.

**Gillespie:** And then you made a career out of it.

**Todd:** I did—I enjoyed it, and I was good at it. I think one of the hardest things for anyone to do is to find work that they enjoy, excel at, and that allows them to contribute in a meaningful way. This pushed all three buttons for me.

**Gillespie:** Your career path led you here late last year, when you became the Law School’s dean of students. What are the guiding principles you bring to the office?

**Todd:** We are training our students to become independent and self-sufficient, and, in order to do that, we have to consider how our policies and procedures encourage that type of independence—and independent decision-making in particular—as opposed to doing everything for them. We don’t serve any students well if we hold their hands all the way to the finish line. There’s a balance in terms of providing support and encouraging independence and self-sufficiency.

**Gillespie:** Who, or what, instilled those values in you?

**Todd:** My family was a huge influence in thinking about what it means to become independent and develop self-sufficiency. Some of that was circumstantial: my family moved constantly growing up because my dad had job opportunities that took us places—Saudi Arabia, North Carolina, Kuwait. I spent my time bouncing back and forth among different types of schools, states, and countries. I was constantly thrust into new situations and cultures. I often felt like I was a fish out of water and had to struggle to find my place. Sometimes I had...
incredibly powerful and dedicated mentors who guided me—and other times I didn’t, and I felt at a loss. I think my commitment to student affairs work comes from having learned how valuable it is to have a powerful mentor, someone who’s thinking about you and caring about your development. I’ve seen, too, how important it is to develop grit, resilience, and independence—and I’ve experienced the way in which that can be a source of strength for a young person.

Gillespie: Tell me about some of your goals as dean of students. Are there specific initiatives you have planned?

Todd: Two things come to mind right now. One is that we live in a polarized moment in our culture, and I think institutions of higher education have an opportunity—and maybe an obligation—to encourage better communication and encourage our students to listen and expand their horizons. I don’t think our place is to force students to change their values or beliefs, but I do hope that we can encourage a better dialogue. To that end, we are adding an orientation program called “Hearing One Another.” It’s a small-group workshop that was developed by University of Chicago social scientists, based on research about how we listen to one another and what types of things keep us from listening to one another. Listening is, in a way, the flipside of freedom of expression, which is another important University and Law School value. If no one’s hearing what you’re saying and you’re not listening to what others are saying, you will have missed out. We’ve also hired a new director of diversity and inclusion, Christopher Clarke, who will help us continue this work through additional workshops during the year.

Another priority is wellness. Our students form habits in law school that can either sustain them as they head off into the workforce or can negatively impact them. Our plan is to launch a new wellness week in the fall along with a field day where we’re going to get our students out to compete in friendly athletic exercises, things like kickball and tug-of-war. We already have yoga and mindfulness. The goal is to get students thinking about wellness and working to develop good habits.
TODD: One book? There are too many—and they all resonate in different ways! But one that I particularly love to share with people is *Oblomov* by the 19th-century Russian writer Ivan Goncharov. It’s a 400-page book in which the main character spends something like the first 100 pages trying to figure out if he’s going to get out of bed.

GILLESPIE: Wow. That’s some serious indecision.

TODD: It’s fascinating, especially if you’re thinking about practical irrationality and the way in which even decision-making can become a challenge. I also love science fiction. I’ve always been a big fan of books like *Dune* [by Frank Herbert, published in 1965] that transport you to other worlds and present really interesting ways to think about our own societal problems. I also like *Cutting for Stone* [by the Ethiopian-born, Indian-American medical doctor Abraham Verghese, published in 2009].

GILLESPIE: Do you have a favorite movie?

TODD: I love *The Matrix*. I’ve seen *Star Wars* a million times. I love to recommend the Spanish film *Abre Los Ojos* (*Open Your Eyes*). I also like Bollywood films—I love the drama, the importance of family, the music.

GILLESPIE: If you could pick one person—dead or alive—to watch one of these movies with, who would it be and what would you want to discuss afterward?

TODD: Oh, goodness. I would be fascinated to hear what the philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein thinks about these contemporary ways of exploring some of the questions [posed by films like *The Matrix*]. I would be really curious to know what someone like Frank Herbert or Isaac Asimov thinks about the field of science fiction now and the influence that they had on it. That would be really neat, too.

GILLESPIE: What do you like best about the city of Chicago?

TODD: I love the food. I love the lakefront, the arts, the theater scene, the neighborhoods. And I love that transition from winter to spring—you know, that first warm day in April or May, when everyone has the same idea to go out and hit the lakefront trail at the exact same time.

GILLESPIE: What are your favorite things to do outside work?

TODD: I travel a lot still. I just got back from China, and I was in Oaxaca over Christmas break. My next trip I’m planning is to Cambodia. I love to camp, and I’ve been slowly working around the national parks. I enjoy the opera and am a subscriber to the Lyric. I’m a foodie, and I love trying new things.

GILLESPIE: Is there anything we haven’t discussed that you’d like our community to know?

TODD: I’m available as a resource. It’s easy for people, for students, to feel alone or isolated or to believe that the people who work here aren’t there for them, or for students like them. I want students to know that our office is committed to their success. I hope that they will take the time to get to know me, to share with me, and to let me know how I can be a resource and a support for them.
The first time Byron White called Robert Barnett, '71, the young lawyer didn't believe he had a US Supreme Court justice on the other end of the line. Barnett was sure it was Barry Alberts, '71, who was famous among their recently graduated classmates for his uncanny impressions of Law School faculty. It wasn’t hard to imagine Alberts mimicking a distinguished jurist.

“Barry, what are you doing?” Barnett said, impatiently. Barnett was living in New Orleans, clerking for Judge John Minor Wisdom on the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit—his first job out of law school. Alberts was working for a firm back in Chicago.

“Who’s Barry?” the caller said. “This is Byron White.” Barnett sighed, unconvinced: “I’m going to work now, Barry. Leave me alone.”

“It’s Byron White,” the voice said again. And so it was: Justice White, calling to offer Barnett a job as a law clerk for the Court’s 1972–1973 term.

THE BEST POSTDOC YOU COULD EVER HAVE

Behind the Law School’s Rising Clerkship Numbers

By Becky Beaupre Gillespie

The first time Byron White called Robert Barnett, ’71, the young lawyer didn’t believe he had a US Supreme Court justice on the other end of the line. Barnett was sure it was Barry Alberts, ’71, who was famous among their recently graduated classmates for his uncanny impressions of Law School faculty. It wasn’t hard to imagine Alberts mimicking a distinguished jurist.

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The conversation—which improved once the confusion subsided—launched what Barnett, now a prominent Washington, DC, lawyer, calls “another treasured and unique and wonderful year,” a chance to continue refining the writing, research, and advocacy skills he’d been building on the Fifth Circuit.

But it proved to be part of a longer thread, too. That same term, Barnett’s classmate Geoffrey R. Stone, ’71, now the University of Chicago’s Edward H. Levi Distinguished Service Professor of Law and a former dean of the Law School and former provost of the University of Chicago, clerked for Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Together Stone and Barnett marked the start of a Law School streak: for at least part of each of the past 47 years, at least one Law School graduate has clerked on the US Supreme Court. The unbroken record comprises 143 alumni, including four who will clerk this term. It echoes the success of many other Law School alumni who have been part of the Supreme Court’s clerkship program (which celebrates its 100th year this fall): people like Professor Emeritus Kenneth Dam, ’57, a former University of Chicago provost and former deputy secretary in the US departments Treasury and State; Dallin Oaks, ’57, a distinguished Mormon leader; and Rex Lee, ’63, a former US solicitor general.

But even more, the record tells a broader story about the extraordinary ways in which clerkships shape young lawyers, the relationships that emerge, and the role that the Law School has played in supporting its students’ clerkship ambitions, even as the legal market and clerkship hiring practices have shifted.

“My own clerkships made me professionally mature and sensitive to the nuances of the legal system—they made me a smarter lawyer,” said Senior Lecturer Dennis Hutchinson, who led the Law School’s clerkship hiring for more than two decades beginning in the 1990s. He had three clerkships of his own between 1974 and 1977: with Elbert P. Tuttle on the Fifth Circuit, White on the Supreme Court, and William O. Douglas on the Supreme Court. “One thing I’ve always said to the students: this is the best postdoc you could ever have. One of the reasons our [clerkship] numbers have grown is that faculty and the Office of Career Services have built a structure that has really gotten the word out about the [benefits of] clerkships.”

In recent years, the number of Law School alumni in judicial clerkships at all levels in the state and federal system has skyrocketed, rising from 46 in October Term 2008 to 115 in October Term 2018. In 2018, 27 percent of Law School students entered state or federal clerkships immediately after graduation—the highest figure in recent memory, and more than double the 12.9 percent who entered clerkships immediately after graduation in 2013.

“When a judge hires a Chicago student or alumnus to clerk, they invariably get someone who has learned a ton of law but also is fluent in the latest theory, is diligent and bright, knows how to grapple with skeptical questioning, and is used to solving problems and debating ideas with people who think differently than they do,” said Professor Lior Strahilevitz, who now leads the clerkship committee with Professor Jonathan Masur. “What Chicago clerks offer is what every great jurist wants in a clerk.”

Like all members of the faculty committee, the chairs are former clerks: Strahilevitz clerked for Judge Cynthia Holcomb Hall on the Ninth Circuit and Masur clerked for clerked for Chief Judge Marilyn Hall Patel of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California and for Judge Richard Posner on the Seventh Circuit. The faculty clerkship committee works with the Law School’s career counselors to provide rigorous, individualized guidance for every student who expresses an interest in clerking. They emphasize the benefits of different types of clerkships, including the ability to leverage a lower court clerkship into one at an appellate court; expose students to the judiciary through a variety of programs; and offer access to a storehouse of data on alumni who have clerked.

“During my 1L year, I encountered professors and alumni who had clerked and who said it was an amazing experience—a chance to deepen one’s learning about the law and understand how it works in reality for the
litigants. And they talked about district and appellate court experiences as being pretty different, so I ended up applying to both,” said Roisin Duffy-Gideon, ’18, who clerked for Judge Edmond Chang on the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois during the 2018–2019 term and is clerking for Judge William Kayatta on the First Circuit this term. “I felt very supported. Many of these same professors were willing to talk me through that process and help me understand what hiring looks like and how and when it would happen. I remember when I first got the interview offer from Judge Chang, I stopped by three of my professors’ offices—I think it was a Friday afternoon—to ask if I could talk to them for five minutes, just to think through the interview. They were all there, and they were all happy to help. That was pretty amazing.”

This term, at least 50 Law School alumni will clerk on the US Court of Appeals, 45 will clerk on federal district courts, and nine will clerk on state appellate courts (these numbers were accurate as of September). In addition, four alumni will clerk on the Supreme Court: Mica Moore, ’17, will clerk for Justice Elena Kagan; Kelly Holt, ’17, and Stephen Yelderman, ’10, will clerk for Justice Neil Gorsuch; and Caroline Cook, ’16, will clerk for Justice Clarence Thomas. All four clerked on the US Court of Appeals before earning their Supreme Court spots.

“These are four extraordinary lawyers who were each tremendously successful students at the Law School and whose futures couldn’t be brighter,” said Strahilevitz, the Sidley Austin Professor of Law. “Supreme Court justices are hardly alone in noting the remarkable quality of our graduates. Throughout the federal and state judiciaries, Chicago students and alumni are in especially high demand.”

It is typical for the Law School to have multiple alumni clerking on the Supreme Court at once: in 37 of the past 47 years, two or more clerks on the Supreme Court have been graduates of the Law School. In 15 of those years, four or more Supreme Clerks have been Chicago alumni—including in 1993, when there were eight, and 1994, when there were seven. There were four at one time as recently as 2017, when Nick Harper, ’15, and Krista

Students and faculty gather in the Courtroom to hear from Merrick Garland, the chief judge of the DC Court of Appeals.
Perry, '16, clerked for Kennedy; Eric Tung, '10, clerked for Gorsuch; and Gilbert Dickey, '12, clerked for Thomas. “More and more of our students come to law school hoping to clerk,” said Masur, the John P. Wilson Professor of Law. “And they’re right to want to. Clerkships are great jobs, great learning experiences, and great opportunities to find a lifelong mentor. They can also jump start a student’s career. Our goal as a clerkship committee is to tell students about the advantages of clerking and then to help find a clerkship for each and every student who wants one.”

**Introduction to the Judiciary**

Manish Shah, ’98, a judge on the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois since 2014, had his first judicial experience as a clerk on the same court.

For two years beginning in 1999, he clerked for Judge James B. Zagel, an experience that he said gave him a “crash course” in many topics and areas of law, offered an opportunity to work through complex issues, and connected him with a valued mentor.

### Judicial Clerkships Among Law School Alumni, By Term

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*as of September 2019
Source: University of Chicago Law School Office of Career Services

Note: It is too early to have comparable information for the Class of 2019.
Source: University of Chicago Law School Office of Career Services
“I loved my clerkship and really benefited from the opportunity to get to know Judge Zagel and work with him closely and get to know him personally,” Shah said. “Eventually the relationship became one of mentorship and then, many years later, a friendship. His chambers was a very friendly environment. There was a lot of social interaction with the judge and that was a great way to get to know him and, in a way, demystify the judiciary by having that kind of personal relationship.”

Shah and other alumni judges routinely return to the Law School for a variety of programs: to judge the Hinton Moot Court competition (which Shah did in 2018), to speak at student-run events, or to participate in the Edward H. Levi Distinguished Visiting Jurist lecture series.

The Distinguished Visiting Jurist program started in 2012 to support interaction between judges and students and faculty members. Jerome S. Karzin, ’41, endowed the program in 2013 with a $1 million gift that named the program in honor of Levi, a longtime Law School professor who served as dean, president of the University, and US attorney general.

Since the program began, more than two dozen judges have visited the Law School, delivering lunch talks and often meeting with a small group of students and faculty. Recent visiting jurists have included Merrick Garland, chief judge of the DC Circuit; Michelle Friedland of the Ninth Circuit; Timothy Tymkovich, chief judge of the Tenth Circuit; Cheryl Krause of the Third Circuit; Jeffrey S. Sutton of the Sixth Circuit; John Z. Lee of the US District Court for the Northern District of Illinois; and Beryl Howell, chief judge of the US District Court for the District of Columbia.

“A major goal of the Levi program is to help our students, especially 1Ls and 2Ls, get comfortable with judges and realize that they are people too, albeit very accomplished ones,” said Strahilevitz, who coordinates the program. “When their schedules permit, we always have the judges meet with anywhere between a dozen and two dozen students over breakfast. One of the hardest parts of my job is walking into those breakfasts to let everyone know it’s time to take the judge to his or her next event. The judges and the students alike look really disappointed when I enter the room! And I’ve gotten used to having the

In a visit to the Law School in 2017, Judge Michelle Friedland (shown with Professor Anup Malani) described her experience serving as one of three Ninth Circuit judges assigned to hear the appeal in a legal challenge to President Trump’s travel ban.
But guidance often comes from other faculty throughout the building, too. Lecturer Adam Mortara, ’01, a former clerk for Justice Clarence Thomas of the Supreme Court and Judge Patrick E. Higginbotham of the Fifth Circuit and now a partner at Bartlit Beck LLP, has advised countless students over the years. Among them was Taylor Meehan, ’13, who recalled that it was Mortara who encouraged her to pursue clerkships and then guided her through the application and interview process.

“He pointed me toward Justice Scalia’s A Matter of Interpretation—a book I still refer to from time to time today,” said Meehan, who clerked for Judge William H. Pryor Jr. on the US Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit during 2013–2014 and for Justices Antonin Scalia and Thomas during the 2015–2016 term. (Scalia passed away during her clerkship, and she finished out the term clerking for Thomas.) “More importantly, [Mortara] instilled in me some confidence that I was deserving of the job.”

Nick Spear, ’14, recalled how Stone helped connect him with the federal appellate judge for whom Spear worked after graduation.

The Law School has also responded to changes in the clerkship hiring market. In the past several years, following changes in the previous hiring plan judges used to hire entry-level clerks, the faculty clerkship committee and the Office of Career Services enhanced its system for helping students navigate the application process. Career Services devoted additional staff to clerkship hiring—a project now led by Susan Staab, the Law School’s director of judicial clerkship outreach and support—and increased messaging that encouraged all students with clerkship aspirations to take advantage of one-on-one counseling and interview coaching.

“It’s an amplification of what we were already doing really well,” Associate Dean for Career Services Lois Casaleggi said.

The faculty clerkship committee expanded several years ago to include Professors Genevieve Lakier, John Rappaport, and Daniel Hemel. Along with Masur and Strahilevitz, they each share their deep knowledge of the experience, the judges, and the application process with students, guiding them during law school and, often, for several years after.

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Nick Spear, ’14, recalled how Stone helped connect him with the federal appellate judge for whom Spear worked after graduation.
“I got an email from Geof Stone one night, and he said something to the effect of, ‘Hey, my friend Andrew Hurwitz, a Ninth Circuit judge, is looking for applicants, and I’ve heard you might be interested in the Ninth Circuit—would you like me to pass along your application?’” Spear said. “Professor Strahilevitz and Professor Hutchinson knew that I was interested in going out there. But I’d never gone to [Stone] and said, ‘Can you connect me with this judge?’ He had heard through the grapevine that this was something I might want and reached out to me. Just the fact that [they were all] looking out for me . . . There’s this desire to find out what each student wants and try to get us into that professional world.”

Spear spent a year with Hurwitz and then moved into a second clerkship, with Judge Philip S. Gutierrez of United States District Court for the Central District of California—and the experiences had a big impact.

“I got to sit down with brilliant people and think through problems, the same way I did in law school,” Spear said. “But this time the answers had a real-world effect. Clerking was transformative.”

In addition to giving students a chance to hear from judges, the Law School also maintains what Casaleggi calls a “treasure trove” of data on alumni clerkship experiences, much of which is available in a judicial clerkship manual that gets distributed to every interested first-year student.

“OCS has done a fabulous job of staying in touch with alumni,” Hutchinson said. “There’s this bank of responses from people who have clerked. [OCS has asked] ‘What was your clerkship like? What was the attire for your interview? How long did it last? Who did you see? What were the working conditions? What were you assigned to do? What were the hours?’ These are great resources.”

Meehan still remembers how alumni seemed to “come out of the woodwork” when she was preparing to interview with Scalia.

“They helped me think about how to prepare for the interview and even asked me mock questions,” said Meehan, now an attorney at Bartlit Beck. “The alumni network at the Law School was incredibly helpful.”

Her first experience, clerking for Pryor in Birmingham, ended up giving her memorable—and incredibly valuable—experiences.

“I remember very vividly my first case with Judge Pryor
and seeing him outsmart me in every way,” Meehan said. “It’s humbling to begin with to walk into a judge’s chambers every day for work, but then handing them work product—that’s all the more humbling.”

Scalia would meticulously “book” the opinions his clerks had drafted, rereading original citations and going over the work word for word, Meehan said. “He really wanted to get it right,” she said. “Being able to sit there right next to him and watch him mull over prior Supreme Court decisions was really eye opening.”

For many clerks, their judges become lifelong mentors; Meehan is still in touch with both Pryor and Thomas. “I tend not to make career decisions without consulting them,” she said.

**A Front-Row Seat to History**

The year Barnett clerked for White, he witnessed a young ACLU attorney named Ruth Bader Ginsburg deliver her inaugural Supreme Court oral argument in [*Frontiero v. Richardson*](https://www.uscourts.gov/files/file/2019/09/07/20190907_i86653.pdf). (Stone, who was clerking for Brennan, drafted the Court’s plurality opinion in that case for his boss.) Barnett also dined with Justice Thurgood Marshall, saw famed constitutional lawyer Charles Alan Wright argue a case, and joined his coclerks in basketball games against White, a renowned athlete, on the Court’s in-house court—games so intense that Barnett ended his year having broken both an ankle and a hand. Barnett experienced the grandeur of the High Court on many occasions; he once watched a lawyer exit the Courtroom by backing out and “bowing every three steps.”

This, of course, was the term the Court decided [*Roe v. Wade*](https://www.uscourts.gov/files/file/2019/09/07/20190907_i86653.pdf)—although the ruling didn’t feel like the political lightning rod it would eventually become. “I knew it was momentous, but did I think we’d still be arguing about it in 2019?” Barnett said. “I don’t think I did.”

The issue wasn’t as controversial in 1973 as it is now, Stone said. Still, as law clerks, Stone and Barnett had front-row seats as the justices wrestled with the historic decision.

“Brennan, I think, was feeling conflicted about abortion, being the Court’s only Catholic—but he put that aside and recognized that his responsibility to justice was to examine the question not from the perspective of a Catholic, but from the perspective of a justice on the Supreme Court,” Stone said. “I was very admiring of Brennan’s awareness of this and his understanding of the importance of. . . addressing the question neutrally.”

Barnett vividly remembers seeing Justice Harry Blackmun bent over a desk in a corner of the Supreme Court library, writing the majority opinion. Similarly, Stone remembers seeing Blackmun late at night poring over the thousands of letters the Supreme Court received after they handed down the 7–2 decision in January 1973.

Stone’s boss, Brennan, had played a critical role in the majority opinion. Barnett’s boss, White, dissented.

“He wrote that one himself,” Barnett said of White’s dissent, which hinged on the belief that the Court had no basis for deciding between the competing values of pregnant women and unborn children. “He didn’t want to put it on any of us.”

It was a heady year, one that would resonate with Stone as he built a career as one of the nation’s foremost experts on civil liberties and with Barnett as he built a successful and diverse practice that has included representing Barack Obama, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and other top government figures as they transitioned into the private sector.

“I learned how the judicial process works from the inside, which is invaluable,” Barnett said. “I also learned the importance of research. I learned to write better. I learned advocacy skills that have stood me well for all these years. But most important were the amazing personal relationships that you make that last for a lifetime.”

But a clerkship doesn’t have to be at the highest levels to provide an excellent experience. Much of the emphasis when counseling aspiring law clerks is on finding the right fit. Hutchinson made a point of meeting with interested students one-on-one—and that practice continues today.

“What I tried to explain to students interested in clerkships is you have to tailor what your talents are and what your ambitions are with what a clerkship might do for you,” Hutchinson said. “So somebody who wants to go back to central Texas because she loves the Hill Country should think about a Texas Supreme Court clerkship. It’s that sort of tailoring that gets students to see a broader array of possibilities that are fully consistent with their own ambitions.”

Although this wasn’t always the case, clerkships on lower courts now are an important step for students seeking to clerk on the US Supreme Court. The clerkship experience also is valuable for students entering careers in law firms, public interest, or any other area of the profession.

“So much of law school is about learning how judges decide cases,” Masur said. “What better way to gain that knowledge than to work closely with a judge? Whether a student’s destination is public interest or a large law firm, transactional practice or litigation, I can hardly think of a more valuable way to spend a year after graduation.”
Abbie Willard doesn’t believe that careers need to follow road maps.

“The question that used to be popular—‘What do you see yourself doing in five years or 10 years?’—is a terrible question,” said Willard, who retired this summer after 16 years as the Law School’s associate dean for career services and policy initiatives. “You have no way to know that. And if you think you know, you ignore the most fascinating and interesting opportunities that might present themselves.”

Willard knows this from experience: she built an entire career by taking advantage of every bump, twist, and turn she encountered, often parlaying roadblocks into springboards.

In her 20s, Willard had planned to teach college-level poetry. She earned a PhD in English at the University of Illinois—just as the market for English professors was declining. She and her classmates had to compete with a glut of contenders for the same rare spots. But rather than worry solely about herself, Willard—the head of the graduate student organization—took on her first career services challenge, successfully lobbying the administration for more support for job seekers.

When she formally began her work in career services at the University of Georgia School of Law, she initially envisioned another challenge: she thought she’d have trouble transitioning from academic to academic administrator.

“But the adjustment turned out to be easy because I found I enjoyed managing a broad range of staff with different ideas,” she said.

Willard then moved to Georgetown University Law Center, where she worked for 21 years. When she encountered the legal market downturn in 1981, she responded as she would in future downturns: by helping
students and alums create new paths by “narrowing in on their strengths and making them stretch,” said Marcia Pennington Shannon, who worked with Willard for 10 years at Georgetown.

“Abbie’s philosophy was that we could not know what was ahead for people, but that we give them the confidence to keep going,” said Shannon, who now heads Georgetown Law’s Office of Career Strategy.

As Willard continued to draw her own map—and counsel law students to do the same—she built a reputation as a national leader in legal career services.

By the time she arrived at the University of Chicago Law School in 2003, Willard had already served as president of the National Association for Law Placement (NALP), chaired NALP’s Research and Education Foundation, and helped coordinate an unprecedented national longitudinal study of lawyer careers called After the JD, which tracked for 12 years the careers of a cohort of lawyers admitted to the bar in 2000. Willard is a major reason that law schools began using research data to understand law placement, said NALP Executive Director James Leipold, who has known Willard for years. But he credits her with more than that.

“Abbie’s impact in the law placement arena goes far beyond research initiatives about lawyer careers. Her tenure with NALP coincided with the professionalization of career services,” Leipold said. “She helped shape the profession by contributing on every level.”

During her 16 years at the Law School, she helped create what Dean Thomas J. Miles, the Clifton R. Musser Professor of Law and Economics, calls “the finest career services department in the country.”

“Under Abbie’s leadership we have seen exemplary employment rates, a substantial increase in public service hiring and support for public service careers, great growth in our clerkship hiring, and many other milestones,” he said. “Abbie deeply cares about each and every one of our students and works tirelessly to assist every single one in meeting their individual goals. Those who have never experienced a career services office other than ours may not know just how extraordinary it is. The combination of compassion and expertise Abbie brought to the Law School is rare and extraordinary.”

An Exceptional Legacy

At the Law School, Willard is known for having exerted her influence in subtle, appropriate, and persuasive ways. According to one Law School colleague, she is the opposite of a bully—she encourages, reassures, and is cool headed. Another said Willard sees big changes before they happen because she sits back and listens to take in the broad picture. Former students say she displayed conviction and transparency.

Over the last 12 years, as Lisa A. Brown, ’95, moved from practicing lawyer to law firm management roles, Willard’s guidance was pivotal because of her wisdom, perceptiveness, and deep sense of empathy.

“Abbie is a gifted mentor because of her unvarnished candor and willingness to not just talk through hard issues but offer her view of what the ‘right’ result was,” Brown said. “So few people are willing to do the latter.”

Many with whom Willard worked say she was instrumental to their professional growth, including her successor Lois Casaleggi (see story, p. 26), who applied to work at the Law School in 2004 in part because of Willard’s reputation as a career services all-star.

“When a position came open in the Law School, I wasn’t looking, but I knew I had to apply,” Casaleggi said. “It was an enormous opportunity to work with, and be led by, Abbie Willard.”

Casaleggi said that the economic downturn of 2008 was one of the biggest challenges she has confronted since working in career services. Some law firms deferred offers and some students lost jobs. According to Casaleggi, the Law School weathered the downturn because Willard was nimble and taught her staff to adapt. They put a comprehensive strategy in place, reaching out to each student to assess the level of impact and offer guidance, and connecting with law firms to get a sense for their needs and plans. They started a deferred students’ listserv and built a communications plan that included regular emails to students with advice about navigating their deferral period.

“We talked about using this time to build legal skills by volunteering, and stressed the importance of preparing for the bar exam,” Casaleggi said. “We encouraged them to stay in touch with the firms during the deferral period, and counseled them on how to approach that communication. We offered information on student loan issues, on finding public interest work, and emphasized the importance of networking. Abbie heard a call to action, and she responded by targeting resources to best serve our students.”

Under Willard’s leadership, the Law School’s career services office has focused on expanding students’ access to

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many different legal employment paths, including judicial clerkships, firms, public service, academia, and business. It has also focused on preparing students for other changes in the marketplace.

“Employer demands today are different because client demands are different. At the same time, many different generations are all working at once. There are bound to be clashes,” Casaleggi said. “But instead of being daunted, Abbie looks at multigenerational differences as a way to learn how to effectively communicate with students.”

Besides being nimble, a practice Willard adopted in the career services office was to work with students one-on-one. Students are not assigned a particular counselor and instead self-select. Willard believes in finding an organic fit. She extends this idea to staff.

“Abbie’s philosophy is if [staff] are growing and developing and satisfied, this will transfer to students,” Casaleggi said.

For example, Willard encouraged Casaleggi to get certified in administering the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) test. The MBTI measures on which side a person leans in four areas: Extraversion vs. Introversion, Sensing vs. Intuition, Thinking vs. Feeling, and Judging vs. Perceiving, and identifies a person’s strengths.

“Abbie and I are very different, I am ISTJ (Introversion Sensing Thinking Judging), and Abbie is INFP (Introversion Intuition Feeling Perceiving),” Casaleggi said. “Abbie’s ‘P’ is a thing to behold. She is comfortable with ambiguity and very flexible and does not have to rush to judgment. She isn’t laissez-faire, but she doesn’t often push an agenda or timetable. I have learned a lot from that element of her.”

Casaleggi explained that after learning to administer the MBTI to students, career services staff were able to understand the students better and then use the students’ cues to counsel accordingly.

“Abbie’s impact at this school and in career services cannot be overstated,” Casaleggi said. “She is a giant in the field, but everyone she works with is included and asked to contribute. She is so good at what she does.”

Director of Career Services Paul Woo, who also retired this summer (see story, p. 25), puts it another way.

“Abbie knows how to find that balance point of letting go and untethering while at the same time communicating that she always has your back,” Woo said. “She can laser in on things and tell you what you need to hear. She also never overreacts.”

Susan Staab, the director of judicial clerkship outreach and support, said Willard’s impact is not easy to describe.

“Abbie has a way of looking at things differently than others. When the 2008 recession happened, instead of waiting to see what firms would do, she just picked up the phone and asked directly about what they wanted,” Staab said. “If something isn’t working, Abbie finds a way to fix it.”

Willard is an expert needlepointer and stitcher, which demands extreme precision. According to Staab, Willard’s work is beautiful, but the kind of precision the art demands is the opposite of Willard’s workplace demeanor.

“Abbie isn’t rigid,” Staab said. “She listens and will change course after hearing what others have to say. She is always asking and having us ask, ‘How will this develop the students or the institution?’ Everything she does is through the lens of how it will help others.”

As Willard puts it, “If you contribute nothing else to an environment, it should be to support others, to bring them along, to mentor them, and to help them play to their own strengths.”

The Changing Legal Marketplace

The legal profession and law schools have experienced major shifts in the past three decades—and that has meant
that career counselors need to adjust, often by encouraging students to pursue the skills the profession demands. Market downturns in the early 1990s and late 2000s led to a growing demand for real-world skills and wellness programming—many of which the Law School also has met through experiential course offerings and orientation programs like the Kapnick Leadership Development Initiative.

“Prior to the downturns, you could be the brightest person in the room and you’d get a job,” Willard said. After every downturn, it became clear that you couldn’t just be the brightest person in the back office. Firms wanted students with social skills. Law schools were challenged to provide classes about interactional skills that they didn’t need to teach in the past.”

What’s more, senior law firm attorneys often lack the time to train younger associates because they are so focused on their own profit margins, which puts additional pressure on students to show that they are acquiring the skills in law school or on their own. As these changes took hold, instead of lamenting the shift, Willard adapted, digging in to find ways to help both firms and students.

Nearly 10 years ago when Brown was working at Schiff Hardin LLP, the firm developed an innovative approach to law student interviewing that was more intensive and rigorous for candidates and the firm, but allowed the firm to better get to know the students as individuals.

The firm’s recruiting team presented the new approach to key feeder law schools, and the Law School—Willard in particular—was unique in its response.

“Abbie provided candid and constructively critical feedback on our proposed approach and—most importantly—concrete, specific suggestions for how to make it a better system for students and the firm,” Brown said. “And after we put the new system in place, she was unique in providing us with students’ feedback (anonymous, of course)—both positive and negative.”

According to Brown, Willard continued to help the firm shape and refine its interview process and maintain its strong reputation at the Law School.

“Abbie is open-minded and flexible in her thinking. She’s
a great problem solver. She’s creative and pragmatic—and, in my experience, few people are both,” Brown said.

Willard likes to take the pulse of things, be it the evolving legal landscape, responding to declines in entry-level clerkships, or cuts in public interest job funding. Leipold described Willard as an industry analyst who always studied the larger forces at play.

“For her whole career, Abbie asked, ‘What will the students do, and how can we prepare them for a changing job market?’” Leipold said.

Willard says the kinds of jobs now available for students are more diverse than they were 20 years ago, and that is a good thing. While the Law School’s most popular path for Law School graduates is still law firms, business has become more popular.

“Law school has primarily fed very large, very traditional law firms, but some of that is changing,” Willard said, noting that the Law School now offers joint degrees, as well as the certificate-granting Doctoroff Business Leadership Program.

“Some of our students who go to traditional law firms tell us that what they’re really interested in is start-up work.”

For her part, Willard said when choosing and training staff to help students navigate the opportunities and find their career paths, she never wanted to recreate a certain model or to bring in people with the same perspectives and approaches.

“Careers are organic and take on a life of their own, and you have to be open to that,” she said. “Otherwise, you’re going to miss the more exciting opportunities. I’ve tried to use that in my counseling with law students. I’ve tried to use it in my managing of staff. I’ve used it in raising my own children.”

Willard’s own map continues to be one she draws as she goes along. She says she will miss the students, faculty, her team, and the rhythm of an academic year.

She does not exactly know where retirement will lead her, but she has a house in Arizona where she loves to hike, five assertive granddaughters she wants to get to know better, and two major writing projects, one a historical novel based on her father’s experience in World War II.

As she described what might come next, she smiled. The path is, as always, a fascinating opportunity.
Paul Woo, Director of Career Services, Retires after 39 Years

By Becky Beaupre Gillespie

For years, Paul Woo had a sign outside his door in the Law School’s Office of Career Services: “Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose, sometimes it rains.”

It was a baseball reference, of course, and Woo has long appreciated its wisdom. But he sees the phrase as more of a beginning, the practice swing for a bigger point.

“What really matters is: what do you do next?” Woo said one afternoon last spring, not long before he retired from the Law School as a director of career services, capping off a nearly four-decade career in which he counseled hundreds of job-seeking Chicago Law students. “What decisions do you make? What actions do you take?”

Woo’s voice was soft and reflective as he spoke. During his time at the Law School, he was known for his technological savvy—he led the charge in bringing new computer systems to career services—as well as his steady and gentle demeanor and ability to listen and to respond with compassion and insight.

“Through Paul’s many years at the Law School, his counseling served to increase his personal ‘following’ as more and more Law School students and alumni sought his wisdom and sensitivity in considering their career decisions,” said Abbie Willard, who recently retired as the associate dean for career services.

Woo’s “pastoral nature served as a wonderful complement to our team,” added new Associate Dean for Career Services Lois Casaleggi, a member of the department since 2004. “Students knew they could always find a ready ear and a calm presence in his office.”

Woo sought to connect with students as individuals, often emphasizing the personal nature of decision-making.

“Everybody makes their choices, and the point is to make a choice, to act. You don’t need to overthink, you just need to distill it down to the things that matter to you.”

As an undergraduate at Purdue University in the 1970s, Woo studied history before going on to earn a master’s degree in history at UChicago and a master’s degree in theology at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

In 1980, shortly before finishing his theology degree, he joined the Law School’s staff as the placement assistant in a three-person career services office run by Placement Director Herbert Fried, ’32. That first year, on-campus interviewing (OCI), which took place in October, still required a fair amount of manual organization, Woo said.

“I’d spend all night typing up interview schedules,” he said. “We had big bins in front of the Courtroom, and students could sign up for their own [interview] times, and they’d put two copies of their resume in the bin. We had to push all that paper and type it up and proofread it.”

Fried asked Woo to figure out how evolving computer technology could be used to improve the process, and Woo leapt eagerly into the fray, learning and testing new systems.

“I didn’t know much about databases when I started,” Woo said, “But I fell in love with the stuff. I liked the challenge.”

Soon it became an area of expertise, and as technology continued to transform legal career services, Woo stayed up to date, working to maximize the efficiency of both OCI and the department as a whole.

“Paul’s longevity in this field brought a depth of knowledge to his work, and his embrace of technology meant that the Law School was on the cutting edge of advancements in career services systems,” Casaleggi said.

Woo intends to fill his retirement with new challenges and adventures. He’s played guitar for 50 years, and he plans to devote more time to music. He also hopes to spend time fishing, traveling (Paris and Shanghai are at the top of the list), and writing about his parents’ family histories and experiences as immigrants.

“Life, after all, presents many opportunities to travel new routes and learn new things, he said.

He reflected on that as he made his final morning walk from his Hyde Park apartment to the Law School last spring, a trek he’d made for nearly four decades—sometimes in sun, sometimes in snow, and sometimes in rain.

“My future mornings won’t be moored to that simple act anymore,” he said. “But there are new sidewalks and destinations to be happily had.”
Lois Casaleggi has seen a bit of change. Since she joined the Law School’s Office of Career Services 15 years ago, the department’s staff has nearly doubled. They have weathered a market crash. And they’ve seen shifts in students’ job preferences, too: although the majority still join law firms after graduation, increasing numbers pursue public interest work or enter judicial clerkships—and the office has flexed to meet that demand.

“It was a very different market when I arrived,” said Casaleggi, who became the new associate dean for career services when Abbie Willard retired this summer. (See story on Willard, p. 20.) “And I’m proud of how our office has responded to the changes.”

Casaleggi led the charge in collecting and analyzing the Law School’s career data, an effort that created both a window into big-picture market trends and a storehouse of information that students and alumni can access when exploring potential jobs. She has helped thousands of students figure out which legal career fits their talents and passions, often adjusting her own communication style to ensure that she’s “meeting them where they are.” She has been active at a national level, too, serving on numerous committees for the National Association for Law Placement and spending two years on the organization’s board of directors.

“We have been so grateful for Lois’s expertise and extraordinary service to our students and our community over the past 15 years,” said Dean Thomas J. Miles, the Clifton R. Musser Professor of Law and Economics. “She has been a crucial partner to faculty in developing our programs for both clerkship and academic hiring, and she has been a valued career counselor for many students, bringing to bear her encyclopedic knowledge of the legal job market. She will be outstanding in her new role.”

When Casaleggi arrived at the Law School, she was drawn, in part, to what she called an “all-star team” that included people like Willard, retiring Career Services Director Paul Woo, and Lisa Abrams, now a private consultant.
“These are three legends in the career services industry,” Casaleggi said. “Everybody knew who they were. And I had this chance to work with them, to come in and be a sponge and learn from them.”

This spring, Casaleggi chatted with Director of Content Becky Beaupre Gillespie about the value of one-on-one career counseling, her goals for the coming year, and why she’s devoted an entire bookshelf at home to Harper Lee’s To Kill a Mockingbird.

Gillespie: You were a psychology major as an undergraduate at the University of Illinois, then went to law school, and then practiced law for seven years before entering the career services field. Tell me a bit about your early academic interests.

Casaleggi: Law was something I hit upon in grade school. It struck me as something that would allow me to be intellectual and analytical, but also in service to others. When I got to college, I needed a major, and I chose engineering. My dad was an engineer, and he always said that lawyers are problem solvers and engineers are problem solvers. But the engineering curriculum was rigid, and I quickly realized that if I moved into the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, I could explore lots of different things: psychology, sociology, political science. Psychology really spoke to me.

Gillespie: Counseling future lawyers—that seems like a nearly perfect blend of your degrees.

Casaleggi: It is, and that was part of my pitch when I was trying to break into the field. I’d had a great time practicing law, and I’d been fortunate to work in firms with lawyers who gave junior attorneys tons of responsibility. But I hit a point where [I thought], I don’t think I want to do this forever. So I did what I now would tell a student in those same shoes to do: think about what motivates you in a job, what you’re good at, what you like doing, and what really makes you tick. One of the things I’d discovered in my seven years of practice was that I enjoyed training and mentoring students and junior associates. I’d worked with the summer associate program and the law clerk program, and I’d been part of the hiring committee. All of it fit: I was good at it, and it motivated me.

Gillespie: I know you’re a fan of the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator—you’ve become an expert in using an understanding of personality traits in career counseling. So, first, of the 16 Myers-Briggs types, which are you?

Casaleggi: I’m an ISTJ, which stands for Introversion Sensing Thinking Judging. The two middle letters in particular influence many things: communication, decision-making, motivation. The fact that I am an ST—a sensing thinker—means, most simply, that I like details and I’m oriented toward logic and rules, which fits very well with the practice of law. Among lawyers, Ts are overrepresented—both STs, like me, and NTs [intuitive thinkers]. Career services, on the other hand, tends to draw more people who are Fs rather than Ts. F is known as feeling, and it represents a preference toward values-based and people-based decision-making. I care about those things, but I’m most driven by logic, efficiency, data, and information.

Gillespie: How do you incorporate Myers-Briggs when you’re counseling students?

Casaleggi: We don’t necessarily know the “type” of the person across the table—and that’s okay because we’re not using it in that way. What we do know is that these types and preferences exist, and they affect how people best receive information. Because many lawyers are either NTs or STs, my go-to way of doing things works for many law students. But sometimes it doesn’t, and I’ve learned over the years how to quickly tell that I’m not speaking that student’s language. I won’t know if the student is an NF [an intuitive feeler, the opposite of a sensing thinker], but my first shift will be to pull back on the details and the process and to focus more on the big picture and the people. I don’t offer different advice—the content is the same—but I communicate and connect in a different way. And this is important: I can have the greatest content in the world, but if I don’t deliver it in a way that the other person can hear, then I’m not effective.

Gillespie: Speaking of your love for detail, you’ve led the effort to collect, manage, and analyze legal career data at the Law School. Tell me a bit about this project.
Casaleggi: Law schools have been asked in recent years to report increasing amounts of information and increasing detail about that information—and it’s no surprise that this has become an area of specialization for me. It hits my sweet spot, allowing me to put my strongest preferences to work. I’ve also wholeheartedly embraced the trend because I see the need for it. For instance, if a student comes in and says she’s really interested in working in Boston, we have this treasure trove of information—alums who summered in Boston or currently work in Boston. It also enables us to take a step back and look at the bigger picture: where our students go, what they do, which employers are coming to our on-campus interview program, which employers students are interested in seeing—and not just which types of employers and practice areas, but which cities. Data allows us to provide students with valuable information, adjust to changes in the market, and tweak our own processes.

Gillespie: What are the core values that you bring to this work and to your new role?

Casaleggi: We have embraced, and are driven by, an individual approach to career services. Our goal is to help students find the right fit. We have students who go to large law firms, students who pursue public service, students who clerk. These are all great things to do with your law degree, and it is important to find which thing, or combination of things, is right for each individual. We want to make sure students have what they need to make informed decisions. I also value transparency: I like to know what the expectations are, and I like the people around me to know what the expectations are. I’m very direct—that’s part of my leadership style.

Gillespie: What are your goals for your first year as associate dean for career services?

Casaleggi: The first is to make sure that students have a seamless experience. We have a number of new team members joining the office, and I want to be sure students do not feel bumps in the road—and I don’t think they will. I’d also like to do even more with data analytics. There are always cycles in the market, which means there will be another economic downturn at some point. Data can help us think about that. What will it look like? What types of jobs do our students want, and which of those might contract in a downturn? What have we seen in prior downturns? What do
we anticipate seeing in the next downturn? That, in addition to our experience and knowledge of the market, is where data can really inform our thinking and help us prepare.

**Gillespie:** In the past 15 years at the Law School, what has made you the proudest?

**Casaleggi:** Our individual approach and willingness to be open and to reevaluate. It’s what allowed us to navigate the market crash 10 years ago. We were pretty nimble and able to do some innovative things quickly. For instance, law firms were deferring associates, so we started a deferred associates listserv. Everyone was still working one-on-one with counselors, but we also could get information out to groups of people quickly and easily. In any year, our one-on-one approach puts us several steps ahead of the starting line: we know what’s going on with people, we know their successes, we know their struggles, and we know what they want.

**Gillespie:** What’s your favorite Law School tradition?

**Casaleggi:** I love the hooding ceremony at graduation. It’s so special and the setting is magical, there in Rockefeller Chapel.

**Gillespie:** I know you’re a big fan of the theater. What are some of your favorite shows?

**Casaleggi:** Well, like many people, *Hamilton* just blew me away—it was amazing. As a kid, I loved *Jesus Christ Superstar*. The first show I ever saw on Broadway was 42nd Street—I still have on vinyl the soundtrack of that Broadway cast. I’ve seen many productions of *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, which has just been astounding. Every time I see it, there’s something new. I also was really affected by the play *Disgraced*.

**Gillespie:** Do you have a favorite book?

**Casaleggi:** I’m a stereotypical lawyer—I can’t live without *To Kill a Mockingbird*. In my library at home, I have a *To Kill a Mockingbird* shelf. I probably have six or seven versions—I have it in French, I have it in Italian. I have books about the book. I have books about [the author] Harper Lee, too.

**Gillespie:** You and I share a reverence for the TV series *The West Wing*. If you could be anybody in President Jed Bartlet’s White House, who would you be?

**Casaleggi:** Leo McGarry. I love Leo. And that chief of staff role—as much as I’m a detail person, I’m also a big-picture person. One of my leadership strengths is being able to do both of those things at a high level. I like details—and the details stick with me—but I also love being able to step back and say, *Yes, here’s the obvious impact, but let’s think several steps down the road. What are the longer term consequences? Who needs to be involved in this decision? What do we need to think about to make this decision?*

**Gillespie:** What else do you enjoy doing outside work?

**Casaleggi:** My son plays baseball, and it’s one of my favorite sports. It’s so fun to go out to the ballfield with him. He and I also take a mother/son trip to New York every year—we see shows, spend tons of time in Central Park, and explore the city. He’ll be 12 next fall, and this has become a great tradition of ours.

**Gillespie:** What haven’t we discussed that you would like people to know?

**Casaleggi:** Just how great it is to work at an institution like this. I have found for myself what I want our students to have, too—the right fit and something that is truly satisfying.
During her first two years on campus, Jamie Luguri, ’19, noticed that although others shared her interest in psychology and law, no one seemed to be approaching it as a trained psychologist. That changed when Roseanna Sommers joined the Law School in 2018 as a Harry A. Bigelow Teaching Fellow and a lecturer in law.

“From the beginning, I’ve been interested in using the techniques, methods, and insights from psychology to study the law, to critique the law, to understand the law, and hopefully one day improve law and policy,” explained Sommers, who had been a classmate of Luguri’s in the doctoral program at Yale University, where both women earned PhDs in psychology and Sommers simultaneously earned a JD.

When the two women reconnected in Chicago at the beginning of Luguri’s 3L year, they decided to channel their mutual excitement into a new venture: the Law School’s Psychology and Law Studies Lab (PALS Lab), an interdisciplinary workshop for students and faculty from the Law School and across the Midway. Luguri already was developing her own psychology-and-law research, including an experiment to better understand how people evaluate different modes of constitutional reasoning, a project she undertook as part of the Law School’s yearlong Canonical Ideas in American Legal Thought seminar. The PALS Lab was an intellectually energizing next step—and a chance to draw on the Law School’s rich culture of interdisciplinarity, rigorous critique, and collegiality.

“The faculty here are all amazingly supportive,” said Luguri, a Kirkland & Ellis Scholar who said she found encouragement for a number of projects.

The PALS Lab is one in a growing number of opportunities for students to develop and present their own
research under the guidance of faculty and in conversation with their peers—a process that trains them to think like scholars, creative lawyers, and engaged citizens.

Last year, a student working toward his doctorate in juridical science revived the Junior Scholars Colloquium as a forum for JSD candidates and Law School fellows to share their work with colleagues on a wide array of legal issues. In December, a second-year JD student pursuing research on “the right to be forgotten” received the second annual Ernst Freund Prize in Law and Philosophy, a research fellowship established by Professor Martha C. Nussbaum to encourage JD students at the Law School and PhD students in the Department of Philosophy to engage in law and philosophy scholarship. And last spring, the student-run Chicago Journal of International Law (CJIL) chose to feature original scholarship by student members of the journal when it hosted its first symposium.

“There’s been a real a groundswell [in these opportunities] in recent years,” said Professor William Hubbard, who participated in the CJIL symposium and collaborated on the Junior Scholars Colloquium. “And we’ll continue to find ways to welcome student interest in academia. The creative exercise of developing one’s own take on a question—beyond summarizing the law—is useful for lawyers, the best of whom know how to be creative in their approach to problem solving.”

Extracurricular support for student research, of course, isn’t new—for years, Law School faculty have pulled back the curtain on workshop culture and nurtured students’ interest in independent research. A series of “mini-WIPs” held several years ago gave students a chance to critique faculty scholarship much in the way professors do at weekly “work in progress” lunches. Nussbaum, the Ernst Freund...
promising way for students to cultivate their own ideas and perspectives, unencumbered by the needs of a client.

“Being a lawyer often means subscribing to a particular outcome because that’s what your client needs,” Huq said. “It’s useful to have a chance to focus your inquiry where what you care about is the right answer with respect to the law. Lawyers have a particular responsibility to ask such questions, given their central role in American public culture.”

Nussbaum, too, has long emphasized the value in such work. Academic writing—and critical feedback from instructors—can help law students develop essential skills, including “a capacity for reflection and deliberation, and a curiosity about the complexities of life,” Nussbaum wrote in a 2003 University of Chicago Law Review article, “Cultivating Humanity in Legal Education.” In 2013, she and Lecturer in Law Charles Wolf, ’75, a retired Chicago lawyer, wrote an op-ed in Bloomberg that emphasized cross-disciplinary study as critical for legal education.

Nussbaum and Wolf, who were arguing against the idea of two-year law degrees, pointed to the legacy of Ernst Freund, the chief architect of the University of Chicago Law School’s cross-disciplinary approach to legal education. Freund saw the value of cross-disciplinarity not just for the legal profession but for society.

“Lawyers, Nussbaum and Wolf wrote, ‘need to understand how society works if they aspire to be independent thoughtful leaders of their chosen profession, rather than passive followers of custom.’”

INVESTING IN THE NOW AND THE NEXT

Faith Laken, ’20, the most recent recipient of the Ernst Freund Prize in Law and Philosophy, which Nussbaum created with a portion of her 2016 Kyoto Prize, saw a chance to engage in this type of critical evaluation of the law when she applied for the fellowship in 2018. Her project focuses on the legal and philosophical underpinnings for establishing a right to be forgotten, an emerging practice in which people ask search engines to essentially bury undesirable online mentions by removing certain URLs from search results.

“T’im interested in academia, and I knew it would be a great experience to develop a paper like this,” Laken said.

Each Freund Prize recipient takes at least one and often two courses in their nonprimary discipline as they develop their project. Laken used both an independent study with Ben Laurence, lecturer in human rights in the University of Chicago’s Department of Philosophy, and the Law School’s yearlong Canonical Ideas in American Legal Thought seminar to advance her study. She is supervised
by both Nussbaum and Eric Posner, the Kirkland and Ellis Distinguished Service Professor of Law, and she will work with them to finalize a draft with the goal of publishing in an academic journal.

The fellowship allowed her to dig deep into an idea that intrigues her, and Laken is grateful for the high level of investment from faculty.

"The creative exercise of developing one’s own take on a question—beyond summarizing the law—is useful for lawyers," says Professor William Hubbard, shown commenting on a student presentation.

"The Freund Prize provided me with an ideal opportunity to work on a significant, long-term research project to explore several themes for future published research," said Coles, who was a Rubenstein Scholar and member of the University of Chicago Law Review. "It also provided a firm foundation from which to launch my doctoral studies and informed my personal statements when I applied to PhD programs."

REACHING ACROSS DISCIPLINES

For Luguri and Sommers, creating a truly interdisciplinary workshop was essential. They intentionally structured the PALS Lab to look more like a psychology lab than a traditional law workshop. The difference, Luguri explained, is in the timing.

"In law, you usually have a paper, and people read it before they come," she said. "You present for a little bit and then people ask you questions, which is useful if you’ve already got something written. In psych research, often you need the most feedback at the beginning of your project, before you even run something or after you run one study and you need to figure out what to do with it next." Half- or quarter-baked ideas are welcome, she adds.

From the beginning, Luguri and Sommers sought to reach both across the Midway and up the floors of the Law School.

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"It’s been very rewarding to read new pieces of scholarship, then discuss my ideas with faculty who take my insights seriously," she said. "The fellowship has definitely been one of my favorite parts of law school.”

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During its inaugural year, PALS participants included students and faculty from the Booth School of Business as well as from the Law School. Looking ahead, Luguri hopes that JD student involvement will continue to grow, too.

“People often have really great questions, even if they don’t have training in psychology,” she said.

Presenters come to PALS Lab at various stages in their careers. Several law faculty members and Booth PhD candidates and postdocs have shared their work over the course of the year, as did Meirav Furth-Matzkin, the John M. Olin Fellow in Law and Economics. Sommers presented her work on the psychology of consent, a project that linked both her dissertation and more recent research undertaken while here at the Law School. In April, she and a coauthor published an op-ed in the New York Times on the subject.

Luguri presented to the PALS Lab twice last academic year. During fall quarter, she sought to brainstorm next steps for her research on public perception of constitutional reasoning, the paper she initially developed in the Canonical Ideas class. During winter quarter, she and Lior Strahilevitz, the Sidney Austin Professor of Law, presented a joint project on the effectiveness of dark patterns, the ways in which digital platforms design interfaces to nudge certain behavior.

“Feedback can really shape the rest of a project,” Sommers said, and that was true for the study by Luguri and Strahilevitz. Their presentation to the PALS Lab group came before they ran their study, and input from the group ultimately informed how they decided to structure it. In turn, their data collection effort informed a May 2019 report issued by the Privacy and Data Protection Subcommittee of the Booth School’s Stigler Center Committee for the Study of Digital Platforms.

MAKING SPACE FOR JUNIOR SCHOLARS

Filippo Lancieri, a JSD candidate with a master’s degree in economics and experience as an antitrust lawyer in Brazil, was also motivated to create avenues for young scholars when he set out last year to revamp an informal colloquium started by an earlier generation of JSD candidates.

Lancieri found in Hubbard a faculty collaborator who was willing to help him rethink the colloquium, which in past years met only when a student wanted to present. They drew inspiration from Chicago’s “quintessential” workshop culture, including the law and economics workshop and the Work in Progress (WIP) weekly lunches that feature faculty scholarship.

“This approach is really, really valuable,” Lancieri said. “If you want to set up a school that is committed to scholarship and good academia, workshops are definitely something you want. They raise the bar for all the scholars around.”

The Junior Scholars Colloquium (JSC) now meets every two weeks during lunch, and fellows and JSD candidates sign up in advance to present. Faculty presence is intentionally kept to a minimum so junior scholars can present early work without feeling some of the pressure that may come from having experienced faculty in the room. Hubbard does attend, as has Richard Badger, who recently retired as associate dean for graduate programs (see story, p. 2), and Aican Nguyen, the director of the Law School’s international programs, which funds the JSC and runs the International Immersion Program.

Lancieri is pleased that the discussion generated within the JSC largely replicates the breadth of questions generated in faculty workshops. It’s a reflection, he said, of the diverse and far-reaching interests of the JSD students and fellows who attend.

“Participants have very different areas of expertise,” he said. “So presenters are asked questions from different points of view. Those normally challenge their assumptions and help improve their work.”

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Like the Junior Scholars Colloquium, the Chicago Journal of International Law’s inaugural symposium also took inspiration from Chicago’s strong workshop culture. The symposium, held in March, featured three presentations
of original research by second-year JD candidates; a keynote address by Diane Wood, chief judge of the US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit; and a lunch lecture by Adam Chilton, professor of law and Walter Mander Research Scholar. The student presentations were followed by questions and comments from an audience that included a dozen faculty and 30 students, staff, and members of the public.

Our hope is that we are not only equipping students with the skills for academic careers, but providing them spaces where they can be mentored and see themselves at the front of the classroom someday,” said Laurel Hattix, ’19, the 2018–2019 editor in chief of the Chicago Journal of International Law.

That was music to Hubbard’s ears. As a student at the Law School, Hubbard, ’00, attended the law and economics workshop, where he interacted with faculty such as William Landes and Richard Posner, and found it “very inspiring” to be exposed to faculty research. Now, Hubbard is eager to find ways to introduce students to the Law School’s workshop culture early in their law school career.

“A lot of students when they attend a workshop are surprised and intrigued by the nature of the interactions among the faculty,” he said. “When students see their professors’ work getting torn apart by their colleagues in a friendly way, it’s an encouraging and eye-opening experience and can make academic life feel a bit less out of reach.”

Organizers of the Junior Scholars Colloquium have high hopes for its future. Lancieri plans to expand current outreach efforts to JD students and possibly host a conference for JSD students. He also recognizes that existing opportunities for JD students—such as the long-running Legal Scholarship Workshop taught by Lisa Bernstein, the Wilson-Dickinson Professor of Law—are “ultra-valuable”; his aim is for the JSC to provide additional depth for students interested in academia.

“With the colloquium, part of the process is that people with similar interests can start writing and researching together. This would be the ideal next step,” he said. “It takes time, but we’re also talking with the school about how to build up a legacy. We hope [JSC] goes on and becomes institutionalized and valuable for everyone.”

Roseanna Sommers hopes that the PALS Lab will be a place where JD students can be inspired to explore their interests. “If there is a psychological component to a question a student may have pursued in a seminar paper or through clinical work that may be illuminated by data, we want to empower them to go collect that data,” she said. “This could be a place where they can seek feedback on how to do it.”

That spirit of encouragement tracks Luguri’s overall impression of the institutional support for student research. She remembers Deputy Dean Richard McAdams, the Bernard D. Meltzer Professor of Law, reaching out to her after a class on city policing and encouraging her to develop her reaction papers into a theoretical paper.

Without that kind of nudge, “maybe some people would feel like they don’t have anything to contribute to academia,” Luguri said. “But all the professors here really try to make students feel like they have something valuable to contribute.”

Professor Tom Ginsburg participates during the first annual Chicago Journal of International Law symposium, which featured student scholarship.

JSD candidate Krithika Ashok (left) talks with Professor William Hubbard after presenting her work at the Junior Scholars Colloquium.
Thank you, Dean Miles, for that kind introduction. Thank you, as well, to the faculty and administrators here today. I, and every one of the graduates, owe you a huge debt of gratitude for all that you have done for this school.

Class of 2019. Congratulations! You’ve done it!

Over the past three years, you’ve read hundreds of cases over what must have seemed like millions of hours. You’ve experienced the terror and the thrill of the cold call. And you’ve come out the other side even more impressive, more confident, and more sleep-deprived than you ever could have imagined.

So let today be a day for celebration. And while you’re celebrating, so are the people who helped make this moment possible.

The friends who studied with you. The family members who picked up those late-night, I-don’t-know-if-I-can-do-this phone calls and reassured you: yes, you can do this.

The professors who guided you, who explained the rule against perpetuities. And explained it again. And explained it again. They’re a big part of why you’re here today. Keep in touch with them, because those professors could be a big part of whatever you do next. They certainly were in my case.

When I was at this law school, three professors—Geof Stone, Larry Kramer, and the late Paul Bator—helped secure me a clerkship with a man who was then Chief Judge of the First Circuit, a clerkship that defined the whole arc of my career. It turned out this judge had a huge impact, not just on me, but on our country: Stephen Breyer.

I also want to thank two other very important people: my parents. They weren’t able to attend my UChicago graduation. So it means a lot to me that they are here today, along with my husband of 26 years, Duke.

My parents showed me at an early age what it meant to fight for something bigger than myself.
When I was eight, my parents founded the Natural Resources Defense Council, and I watched as they grew it from four volunteers in our living room to one of the most impactful environmental organizations in the world.

When I sat where you are now sitting, I could never have predicted how profoundly my career would be—and still is— influenced by the example they set and the sacrifices they made.

You too have made many sacrifices to get here today. The University of Chicago has developed some of the most brilliant legal minds of the past and the present. Lawyers who have achieved great success, who have shown the law can have a profound impact on the world.

You are part of that community now.

And you’ve earned your place in it. No one handed it to you. You’ve also earned yourself an exciting challenge: what are you going to do with this degree, with this amazing education you’ve been privileged to receive here?

Your degree only means something if you use it to do something . . . To help those around you, to fight injustice, to heal our planet.

So, how do you do that? How do you build a career at the intersection of what you love and what the world needs? That’s what I’d like to talk to you about today.

The paths laid out in front of you are numerous and familiar. You’ve been working toward them ever since you set foot on this campus.

But whatever path you choose—whether you work at a law firm or a nonprofit . . . or in government or academia—I urge you to make sure that every step you take outside these gates is an intentional one.

This is the first of two things I want to share with you today.

Always move forward—but always make sure you’re moving in the right direction for the right reasons. Now, the right direction isn’t always apparent. If it was, no one would ever make a misstep or take a wrong turn or feel confused. But that’s all part of the journey.

Wherever you go, make sure it’s not because it’s expected of you, but because it holds meaning for you, and meaning beyond you . . . that it contributes to something larger and makes our world a better place.

I say this because it’s hard to do. It’s hard to be intentional about each step you take. It’s hard to advance through your career deliberately. It’s hard—but it’s worth it.

My own path has not been a straight line. After clerking for then-Chief Judge Breyer, I worked at the Department of Justice . . . then had the unexpected opportunity of a lifetime to clerk for Supreme Court Justice O’Connor.

From her I learned that I could work harder—so much harder— than I ever thought possible. She showed me that commitment is only a virtue when it is balanced with compassion—compassion for the people you work alongside and compassion for the people your work will impact.

She brought a deep sense of responsibility and was always aware of the profound consequences her decision making had on the world. And she supported me, as a young woman in the law, in a way that I can never fully repay.

Every day, I try to do the same for others. To build teams.
we evolve. Reorienting yourself is rarely easy, and it doesn’t all happen in a single moment. It’s a lifelong process. And realizing this was uncomfortable. Because if my job at the firm was no longer what I wanted, I wasn’t sure what was.

To lend support. To inspire them to make a difference. The law is inherently adversarial; lawyers thrive on competition. But I’ll tell you this: you’re going to accomplish so much more when you work as a team; when you bring people together for a common purpose.

Like many of you will do, the first team I joined, after the clerkship, was a law firm. The work was thrilling. I felt like I was growing and learning.

I had the chance to work on high-stakes cases for high-powered clients. And I had the chance to help shape the firm’s culture—to push our teams to become more diverse, more inclusive, and more supportive.

After eight years at the firm, doing work that I loved, supporting and being supported by colleagues I cared about, I was fortunate enough to make partner.

And I thought: this is it. This is what I’ve worked for; this is where I was meant to be.

And it was.

Until it wasn’t.

Sometimes, what was once the right direction isn’t any longer. Because life isn’t static. We change and we learn and
Then I had an opportunity for a very different kind of job. Honeywell, a multinational industrial company, was looking for a new general counsel. It wasn’t what you would call a cushy job. The company was in dire straits. The general counsel position was described to me as “running into a burning building.”

Which, by the way, is usually the opposite direction from where you want to go.

Not surprisingly, my colleagues at the law firm thought I was insane to consider it.

Having worked so hard to make partner, why on earth would I leave? And leave for... this?

But something about it just felt right.

I wanted to do something new. Something difficult. To take a job where I might just fail. I wanted to see if I could do my best work in that challenging environment. To see whether I could make a difference.

It wasn’t part of my original plan. But suddenly it seemed like it ought to be.

And this is the second thing that I want to share with you today. I began by asking you to be intentional. But I’m also asking you to do the opposite. To open yourself to serendipity. To the surprising, even crazy opportunities that life presents you.

I know this sounds like a contradiction. But it really is possible to do both.
You’ve got to be intentional about what matters to you most—your goals, your values. For me, that meant feeling like I was doing my best work . . . contributing to something larger than myself . . . creating something that would last . . . and leaving the world a better place than I found it.

These were my prerequisites.

But over time, I became more open to how and where I would achieve them.

When I joined Honeywell, the company’s record on the environment was so bad politicians returned its campaign donations. Of all the things in my career, one of the things I’m most proud of is the profound changes we made to the company’s culture and its legacy. Honeywell is now widely recognized as an environmental leader.

And by taking a chance, I got to play a role in that.

Serendipity then led to another opportunity—really, the opportunity of a lifetime. That’s the job I have now, as general counsel and senior vice president at Apple.

Apple, for me, seems like the place my path was leading all along.

It is the place where all the threads of my career draw together.

You are entering a world that is more complex than it’s ever been. But I believe the problems we all face are solvable.

But they are only solvable if we commit to solving them. That’s hard work, it’s necessary work, and there’s no one more qualified to tackle it than you.

You have all the tools at your disposal and the power of the law on your side.

Apple has shown the world that a company can be a force for good. Apple has done that in the products we create, the way we make them, and the people whose lives they touch.

We’re not afraid to use the law for good—to call for tougher regulations to protect our customers’ data, to stand up to governments when we believe fundamental human rights are at stake, and to fight to change the laws when we believe they are unjust.

We are using the law to create a legacy we can be proud of.

We are showing the world that true success means leaving the world better than you found it.

It means running on entirely renewable energy, closing the loop on materials we source, pioneering new research for the greatest health challenges we face. It means standing up for groups that are facing discrimination, always being open to everyone, and it means using every tool we have, including the law, to fight for good in our world.

This is where I was always meant to be. But I never would have arrived here had I not learned to balance serendipity and intentionality. If I hadn’t been willing to drive forward with purpose, while also being willing to deviate from the path.

So, that’s the charge I’d like to leave you with.

Stay agile and stay open. Life will offer you some unexpected opportunities. Take them seriously. Consider whether they will allow you to grow—and allow you to give.

Ask yourself, always: “Is this how I can best help the world?”

Even if you don’t know the answer, keep asking.

Graduates, you have the power to shape the future. The power to change the world for the better. The law is one of the most powerful forces in our society. Marshal it for good. The world needs you to make a difference—to protect the planet we share and the people on it.

And I can’t wait to see what you will use that power to do.

Thank you and congratulations!
Thank you, Dean Miles, for that generous introduction. I am honored to be here today and to offer you congratulations on behalf of the faculty of the University of Chicago Law School. Welcome to the profession. Welcome also to the family and friends here today, who have helped to make this day possible.

Graduation speeches are supposed to be nonpolitical yet inspirational, summarizing a life lesson in seven minutes. I wrote one, focusing on the career choices you will face over the next 30 to 40 years. It was nonpolitical and attempted to be inspirational. But I woke up this morning and I couldn’t do it. As important as career choices are, it isn’t what I want to talk about.

Instead, this morning I scribbled some notes about what I really want to say. And it is not nonpolitical, or inoffensive to all, so I apologize in advance. I can see Dean Miles shifting nervously in his seat.

This is what I want to say: the world needs you. It needs great lawyers like never before. I’m 55 years old. I’ve lived through the Cold War, the civil rights movement, Watergate, the Bork and Thomas confirmation hearings, Bush versus Gore, 9/11, the Great Recession. I’ve never felt as scared as I do now. Maybe it’s an illusion, that the current moment always seems worse than the past because we know we made it through the past but we don’t know about the future. But I don’t think that’s it. Today feels different. I wake up every day a little bit terrified.

Like no time in my life, the world needs people like you. I’ve never been more proud to be a law professor than today, because my job is to help create the young lawyers, you, that our country and the world need.

Why does the world need you? You’ll have your own list and mine is surely incomplete. And you’ll likely disagree with some of this.

My biggest concern is democracy itself. I’ve never before thought that the basic structure of our democracy is under threat, but I do now. A core principle of representative democracy is that people can elect representatives of
their choosing. We’ve often failed to live up to that, including disenfranchisement of vast swaths of our population. But it feels like now we are at risk of barely even giving democracy lip service. Gerrymandering has reached extreme levels, and some politicians defend it by saying, openly and without shame, that their goal is to disenfranchise people of the opposing political party. Taking away people’s votes because of their beliefs is utterly contrary to our basic principles.

Elected officials attack the core institutions of our democracy, such as elections, lengths of time in office, the power of their successors, and the basic functionings and competencies of important agencies. Foreign adversaries are doing so as well. Democracy requires faith in the process, in the outcomes of elections, and in the fair administration of justice. It requires a functioning government which can perform its duties, regardless of your views on which duties it should be performing.

Democracy also requires a robust press and a belief in a common set of facts. When people feel free to deny events that have unquestionably happened, democracy is at risk. And in our particular democratic structure, checks and balances between the branches is a core principle. It is also at risk. I could go on.

These risks, and others, are not just additive. They multiply, each one making the others worse. I hope our institutions are strong. They will need to be. They are under tremendous pressure.

Democracy is not a given. It won’t last unless it is defended, and lawyers are key to defending it. Class of 2019: Democracy needs you.

The second item that I wake up worrying about is climate change. I work on climate change in my scholarship, so I think about it all the time. It is hard to think about climate change all the time without becoming kind of crazy, focusing day in and day out on looming doom.

It might not turn out so bad, but at its worst, it is an existential threat. It is not so easy to stop the threat because doing so requires transforming our economy and requires the cooperation of all the nations in the world.
But I don’t understand why, I can’t understand why, in the face of such a threat, we aren’t doing everything we can even if it will be hard. The data are clear: there is little time to act if we are to avoid the worst harms. And the issue has become depressingly political, an issue where you signal your political tribe by denying the laws of physics, notwithstanding the consequences.

Climate change is less lawyer-focused than democracy is. To stop climate change, we need new technologies and a better scientific understanding. Solving climate change involves stuff: pipes and wires and batteries and structures. But solving climate change will also require lawyers: we need laws, treaties, and international cooperation; IP protection for new technologies; taxes, regulations, incentives, and so forth, all the domain of lawyers. Class of 2019: The earth needs you.

The final thing that keeps me up is how we treat one another, which is partly the domain of discrimination law, but it also includes policing, education, migration, and overall civility towards one another and to groups.
I have a transgender and gay son. I’ve learned a huge amount from him since he came out some years ago. I wake up happy every day that he lives in today’s world. He is happily married and lives in a loving and supportive community, something that he could not have done just a decade ago. But now, I sometimes wake up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat worried about him. What if he travels to the wrong place or meets someone who hates who he is? What if our laws change? Progress that I thought we had made no longer seems permanent.

The same worries extend to people with many different characteristics. I have a cycling friend who lived in Ferguson, MO, many years ago. He describes being stopped by the police because he was driving the speed limit. Why, he was told, was he driving the speed limit, unless he was hiding something? Many of you know these issues firsthand, far better than I do. Many of you live them every day.

Lawyers are central to these issues. Class of 2019: People need you.

My list is incomplete. And my list reflects my perspective on events. You may have a different top three or disagree with my views. But regardless of the details, my message stands. The world needs you, it needs great lawyers, like never before.

How can you meet these demands? Some of you may have a cause you want to devote your life to, but most of you probably do not. I did not when I graduated. Aren’t you allowed to just be a lawyer or whatever you want to be, to pursue happiness and success like everyone else?
Yes, you are. Let me turn briefly back to my original talk. I was going to feature three graduates of the class of 1989, because I graduated from law school in 1989, and because 1989 is a nice round 30 years ago. They were Lori Lightfoot, the first black woman mayor of Chicago, the first openly gay mayor of Chicago, and the first outsider mayor of Chicago in 100 years. We are proud that she is our graduate. She is an incredible role model.

Sheila Nix. Nix worked on numerous presidential campaigns, as chief of staff to Senators John Kerry and Bill Nelson, in Springfield as deputy governor of Illinois, and at senior levels for nonprofits, including working with Bono on poverty in Africa and working on voting rights in the US.

And finally Sharon Zezima: a Bay Area tech lawyer who, as general counsel, took a number of companies public, and who founded a group designed to help accomplished women connect with each other.

I don’t know any of these remarkable women personally, but reading their biographies, I do not get the sense that they graduated law school with a cause. They all started in Big Law. Two were partners. But over the course of the 30 years since they graduated, they all found ways to contribute. They became great lawyers and took advantage of the opportunities open to them because they were great. Each has used her skills to help make the world a better place.

Class of 2019: Follow their paths. The world needs you. Congratulations on your achievements. It is time to commence.
Rethinking How We Bundle and Divide

By Robin I. Mordfin

Time, like so many other facets of modern life, can be lumped together—or it can be divvied up. Although each day is a lump of 24 hours that cannot be reused or elongated, the minutes and hours can be allocated to different activities in nearly limitless ways. A professor writing a book, for instance, might find that she is most effective if she sets aside several hours a week—or several hours a day—to write, rather than trying to accomplish the entire project in a series of marathon sessions or in scattered 10-minute bursts. But assembling the cooperation of all of her temporal selves—and arranging the rest of her life to preserve those time blocks—may be quite another matter.

Land, jobs, goods, services, and countless other commodities can be sliced or lumped, too—and in each case, how we choose to group or divide these resources matters, Professor Lee Fennell argues in a new book, Slices and Lumps: Division and Aggregation in Law and Life (University of Chicago Press). It’s a concept, she says, that can improve our approach to urbanization, conservation, the sharing economy, legal doctrines, and even personal struggles with time, money, health, and work.

“Configuring well is extraordinarily valuable but often elusive. Assembly and division problems crop up in nearly every aspect of life, yet the importance of configuration is underappreciated,” said Fennell, the Max Pam Professor of Law. “New technologies make it easier than ever to bring people and ideas together and to slice up jobs, homes, cars, and other goods in ways that were previously impossible. Yet core challenges remain: getting people to agree to a novel configuration and deciding how to split up the surplus from the new arrangement.”

In Slices and Lumps, Fennell argues that dividing and aggregating are really two sides of the same coin. Lumpy goods, she notes, lose value if they are broken up. Consider bridges (how can one cross a river on half a bridge?), conservation of habitats (animals need a certain amount of contiguous space and resources in order to survive), and electoral college votes in winner-take-all states. But other goods become more valuable when divided, such as a large parcel of land that is more valuable when subdivided into smaller building lots. Both types of challenges—carving out useful slices and assembling useful lumps—require cooperation among those who have control over the resource in question.

Throughout the book, Fennell questions conventional thinking, emphasizing the need to account for innovations that segment or bundle goods and services in new ways. For instance, a generation ago most Americans were wedded to the notion that one had to own the whole car, and pay the whole insurance bill, if one wanted access to an automobile. Today, people share cars through applications like Zipcar and companies like Metromile, which charges for insurance only by each mile driven. In high-priced urban areas, housing is changing, too. Assumptions about square-footage minimums have begun to break down with the rise of microunits suited to single-person households—a trend whose success depends in part on how housing fits together with surrounding urban amenities like parks that offer additional shareable space.

Looking at resources and their uses in a slices-and-lumps fashion, Fennell contends, can help governments, markets, and households understand the choices that confront them and illuminate alternatives. We need not take lumps as we find them, but can instead ask whether a better configuration exists, and how we might innovate toward it. And such innovation is indeed underway in many sectors.

“But it is essential to consider what other changes these new configurations bring with them,” she added. “For example, new ways of slicing up homes or jobs may also do away with beneficial legal protections or social arrangements.”

Thus, Fennell advocates for an emphasis on configuration entrepreneurship, one that prioritizes improving the aggregation and division of goods, services, and other items in both the public and private sector. Treating the art and science of configuration as a crucial area of research enables us to see how lumping and slicing problems in different arenas share a common structure, raise related concerns, and may be amenable to similar solutions.

“Developing such a field of inquiry,” she said, “could lead to better policy, better laws, and better approaches to problem solving in many areas of public and private life.”
Ryan Doerfler Joins the Faculty
By Becky Beaupre Gillespie

Ryan Doerfler, a scholar whose work on statutory and constitutional interpretation grew from an interdisciplinary focus on law, epistemology, and the philosophy of language, joined the Law School’s faculty this summer as a professor of law. Doerfler served as a Harry A. Bigelow Teaching Fellow between 2014 and 2016 and as the Walter V. Schaefer Visiting Assistant Professor of Law during Winter Quarter 2019.

“This is a really wonderful community, and it is exciting to come back and rejoin that group,” said Doerfler, who spent three years as an assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School after his Bigelow Fellowship. “The atmosphere at the Law School is distinctive and amazing. It’s such an interactive, engaged faculty climate.”

Dean Thomas J. Miles, the Clifton R. Musser Professor of Law and Economics, called Doerfler a “brilliant scholar” whose work “underscores the immense value of interdisciplinary inquiry.”

“We are excited by Ryan’s scholarly work, which addresses important questions about statutory language and meaning, as well as by the exemplary teaching he displayed as a Bigelow Fellow,” Miles said. “We are absolutely delighted to welcome him back to the Law School.”

Doerfler, who majored in philosophy as an undergraduate at Wake Forest University, earned a PhD in philosophy in 2011 and a JD in 2013, both from Harvard. After law school, he clerked for the Honorable Sandra L. Lynch for the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit and has been a visiting law professor at both Columbia and Harvard. His recent scholarly work includes, “Can a Statute Have More Than One Meaning?” (New York University Law Review, 2019), which examines whether statutory language can mean different things in different cases, and “High-Stakes Interpretation,” (Michigan Law Review, 2018), which explores why courts often interpret text differently when deciding high-stakes cases.

“Ryan’s research and teaching add significantly to our strengths in public law and interdisciplinary work,” said Alison LaCroix, the Robert Newton Reid Professor of Law and the chair of the lateral appointments committee. “His work is esteemed by leading scholars in the fields of legislation and statutory interpretation, as well as by legal philosophers. At a relatively early stage in his career, Ryan has already become a significant voice at the center of debates over statutory meaning and analysis, engaging with questions and methods that are of particular interest to the current Supreme Court.”

Doerfler’s interest in the intersection of philosophy and law emerged early in law school, when he took a course titled Legislation and Regulation. As a doctoral student, he had focused on applying the philosophy of language to normative discourse about ethics, art, and other topics. But as he considered the meaning of various statutes and regulations, he found himself applying his linguistic thinking and, ultimately, exploring the impact that different methods of statutory interpretation have on judicial decision-making.

“A lot of the questions that we were being asked in that course just struck me as the applied philosophy of language,” Doerfler said. “I saw this obvious connection between the work I’d been doing on these more abstract, theoretical issues and these [more concrete] questions in the law.”

Doerfler, who is currently working on a paper that proposes a new framework for evaluating doctrines that assign significance to the “clarity” of a statutory text, says these areas of inquiry are of particular relevance as courts pay increasing attention to the intended meaning of the Constitution and other laws.

“The issues surrounding statutory interpretation are a topic of wide debate, especially on the Court,” Doerfler said. “I think right now we’re at an interesting point. Exactly how the law of statutory interpretation is going to develop is really up for grabs.”

Doerfler, who teaches administrative law and legislation, says he enjoys being in the classroom, adding that statutory interpretation has “immediate practical utility for law students.”

“If you work in litigation—as a lot of our students do—a lot of what you do is going to involve either interpretation of statutes or interpretation of regulations,” he said. “These are direct skills that apply across a wide range of subject-matter areas.”
2018-2019 Fundraising Highlights
Thank you to the 3,964 alumni, friends, and students who made gifts to the Law School during the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

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*This figure includes both outright gifts and multi-year pledges committed during fiscal year 2019.

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www.law.uchicago.edu/givenow

Inquiry & Impact Campaign
The University of Chicago Campaign: Inquiry and Impact is set to close at the end of this calendar year. We have achieved tremendous success, raising over $240 million so far in support of the Law School. We look forward to closing the campaign strong in its final months.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR REMARKABLE SUPPORT AND ENGAGEMENT AT ALL LEVELS.
Visit campaign.uchicago.edu to join the campaign before it ends!
Giving Day 2019

April 9–10, 2019, marked the University of Chicago’s fifth annual Giving Day: a 24-hour show of support for the University’s alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends to come together as a community to demonstrate the power of collective philanthropy.

Over the course of the day, the Law School raised a record-breaking $194,458 from 289 gifts. This milestone is a tremendous testament to our wonderful community of alumni and friends, and we could not have done it without you.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to our challengers, Nancy Lieberman, ’79, and the LLM partners at the Homburger law firm in Zurich (Peter Widmer, ’68, Franz Hoffet, ’88, René Bösch, ’91, Daniel Daeniker, ’96, Claudio Bazzani, ’06, and Benjamin Leisinger, ’12).

Because of Nancy’s challenge match of $25,000 and the Zurich partners’ challenge match of $20,000, we have multiplied the impact of each gift. This is truly remarkable and a great help in our efforts to move the Law School forward.

Giving Day Stats

Many thanks for amplifying the impact of Giving Day. Your efforts to engage and drive our vibrant community were essential to our success!

- **289** gifts made to the Law School
- **$194,458** dollars raised
- **34** states
- **15** countries
- **4** continents represented
Reunion Weekend 2019

As the Graduating Students Class Gift met 25% participation, Dean of Students, Charles Todd, met a face full of whipped cream as one of the students’ participation challenges.

Students from the Class of 2019 had the opportunity to challenge Professor Baude and Professor Hubbard in a game of Super Mario Bros. for meeting a participation challenge for the Graduating Students Class Gift.
New Members of the Law School Council

Since 1962, the University of Chicago Law School Council has supported senior leadership, offering unique perspectives on law, legal education, and today’s ever-changing work environment, as well as sharing insight on important issues in legal education and the many challenges and opportunities confronting a contemporary law school.

Law School Council members bring a diverse set of talents and strengths to the Law School, contributing both individually and as a whole in many significant ways. Through their work, they help achieve the Law School’s core mission: to train well-rounded, critical, and socially conscious thinkers and doers. We thank them for their many contributions and welcome the newest cohort of members.

Visit vc.uchicago.edu to learn more about Advisory Councils at the University of Chicago.

Law Firm Challenge

2019 LAW FIRM CHALLENGE WINNERS

Congratulations to these five firms for securing your place in first, and thank you so much to all those who participated!

GROUP 1 (40 OR MORE ALUMNI)
Sidley Austin LLP

GROUP 2 (21-39 ALUMNI)
Bartlit Beck LLP *

GROUP 3 (11-20 ALUMNI)
Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz *

GROUP 4 (10 OR FEWER ALUMNI)
Fox, Swibel, Levin & Carroll LLP *
Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson *

THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL FIRMS HAD AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS OF ALUMNI MAKE A GIFT TO THE LAW SCHOOL:
Crowell & Moring LLP
Dechert LLP
Neal Gerber & Eisenberg

* Firms with 100 percent alumni participation.

Thank you to the 58 firms that participated this year!

Looking to enroll your firm in Law Firm Challenge 2020, inquire about becoming a Firm Representative, or want more information? Please contact Jamie Hillner in the Office of External Affairs at jhillner@uchicago.edu or 773.702.2694.
1949
Elsdon L. Maynard
December 7, 2018
Maynard attended the Lab School before enrolling in the V-12 Navy College Training Program. He began his career at the Harris Trust & Savings Bank in Chicago and later worked at the First Trust & Savings Bank in Kankakee, Illinois. An avid golfer and genealogist, Maynard lived in Kankakee.

Carol M. Stadler
November 20, 2018

1950
S. Richard Fine
April 4, 2019
Fine was a resident of Chicago.

Maxwell P. Keith
April 6, 2019
Keith enrolled in Stanford University at age 15 and served in the US Navy during World War II. He specialized in plaintiff’s antitrust law and argued a number of cases successfully before the US Supreme Court, including Radovich v. National Football League, Continental Ore v. Union Carbide, Simpson v. Union Oil, and Klor’s v. Broadway-Hale Stores. Keith lived in San Francisco, California.

1951
John J. Enright
January 7, 2019
Enright was a 1945 graduate of Saint Ignatius College Prep and lived in the Chicago area.

1952
Leon L. Levion
April 18, 2019
Levion served in the US Army in Japan. He worked at the firm of Graham, Graham, Gottlieb & Johnston in Zanesville, Ohio, before opening his own firm and operating it for 49 years until his retirement. He served as city solicitor for a number of nearby communities and was active in local and national Democratic politics; Levion was also a member of many service organizations, held leadership roles with the Muskingum County Bar Association, and was a founding member of his synagogue.

Walter Roth
January 19, 2019
Roth emigrated to the US from Germany in 1938 and graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle. In addition to his long legal career, he served as president of the Chicago Jewish Historical Society for more than two decades and wrote six books about Chicago Jewish history. Roth was active in many Jewish and civic organizations, including the American Jewish Congress, Congregation Rodfei Zedeck, Akiba-Schechter Jewish Day School, and the Selfhelp Home.

1952
David V. Kahn
May 28, 2019
Kahn served as a captain and judge advocate in the US Air Force. He practiced law for four decades, eventually becoming senior partner at the Chicago firm of Altheimer & Gray. He also served as president of the American Jewish Congress, where he founded the David V. Kahn Center for Religious Liberties.

1954
Alan Rosenblat
December 15, 2018
A US Navy veteran, Rosenblat was an assistant general counsel at the US Securities and Exchange Commission, where he received the Chairman’s Excellence award. He later became counsel to the Chicago firm of Dechert LLP. He was an accomplished professional photographer and was still taking photographs well into his 80s.

1955
Bernard J. Nussbaum
February 23, 2019
Nussbaum, known as “Bud,” served in the US Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps before joining Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal in Chicago, where he practiced for 60 years as a specialist in antitrust and trade regulation, securities law, and contract disputes. He was active in the American Arbitration Association and was appointed to the Committee on Civility of the US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit; he was also a longtime delegate to the assembly of the Illinois State Bar Association.

1956
Mercer Cook
January 5, 2019
Cook was a graduate of Amherst College and studied at the Sorbonne on a Fulbright scholarship. He spent much of his career in public service, working for the Cook County Legal Assistance Foundation and the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office, where he held the position of deputy state’s attorney. Cook helped to found the National Black Prosecutors Association and loved to read and golf.
Zave H. Gussin  
January 11, 2019  
Gussin earned his bachelor’s degree at the University and served in the US Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps in Washington, DC. He practiced law in Chicago for almost 60 years, first in the partnership of Nathenson & Gussin and then as a solo practitioner. Gussin was the longtime volunteer chairman of the zoning and planning commission of Lincolnwood, Illinois, and participated in a weekly Talmud class for decades.

1957  
Charles P. Connor  
February 10, 2019  
Connor served in the US Army during the Korean War and practiced law at Gray, Thomas, Wallace & O’Brien in Joliet, Illinois. He served as a judge in Will County, Illinois, eventually becoming chief judge of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit. A longtime resident of Joliet, he was the city’s mayor from 1987 to 1991. Connor was a founding member of the Will County Irish American Society and was active in the Joliet Area Historical Society.

Herbert W. Park  
November 18, 2018  
Park was awarded a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for his service in the US Army in Korea. He began his career in New York City at the firm now known as Debevoise & Plimpton, and later moved with his family to Portland, Oregon, where he was a vice president at Evans Products Co. and owned the restaurant L’Auberge. Park was an accomplished musician, writer, and player of bridge, chess, tennis, and golf.

1958  
Robert C. Gobelman  
June 4, 2019  
Gobelman was a veteran of both the US Navy and the US Army Reserve; after his service, he earned a bachelor’s degree at Wittenberg University before enrolling in the Law School. He lived and practiced general civil litigation in Jacksonville, Florida, where he served as the first chairman of the city’s zoning board and on the board of the Duval County Legal Aid Association. Gobelman’s volunteer work also included serving on the boards of the Florida Defense Lawyers Association and other legal groups.

John A. Ritsher  
December 11, 2018  
Born in Beirut, Lebanon, Ritsher was a medic in Paris during the Korean War. He was a senior partner at the Boston firm of Ropes & Gray, representing nuclear power plants across New England. He served on the board of selectmen in Lincoln, Massachusetts, and enjoyed playing tennis and crafting hand-turned wooden bowls. He served on the board of South Shore Habitat for Humanity and volunteered to read the newspaper to people with visual impairments. Ritsher lived in Norwell, Massachusetts.

1959  
Maurice H. Oppenheim  
February 26, 2019  
Oppenheim served in the US Army before attending the Law School. He was Los Angeles County’s deputy district attorney for more than 30 years and served on the California Joint Legislative Committee for Revision of the Penal Code. He lived in Roseville, California.

1960  
Ronald B. Hemstad  
June 15, 2019  
A US Air Force veteran, Hemstad practiced at the Minneapolis firm of Faegre & Benson for 35 years. In his spare time, he played the piano and sang in the Minneapolis Norwegian Glee Club, served as president of the alumni association of St. Olaf College, and was a fan of the Minnesota Vikings and Minnesota Twins.

1963  
Thomas W. Conklin  
January 1, 2019  
Conklin was a lieutenant in the US Navy Judge Advocate General’s Corps during the Vietnam War. He practiced law at a number of Chicago firms, working primarily as a defense attorney and trial lawyer. He was also a certified arborist, nurseryman, and master consulting rosarian who grew roses at his Walnut Hill Farm and was president of the local affiliate of the American Rose Society. Conklin lived in Lawrence, Michigan.
In Memoriam

1964

Josef D. Cooper  
November 25, 2018

While an undergraduate at Oberlin College, Cooper cofounded the Progressive Student League, which later merged with other groups into Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). He began his legal career as a staff attorney for the Coordinating Committee for Multiple Litigation for the United States District Courts and later spent many years in private practice in Chicago and San Francisco, specializing in complex business and class action litigation. At the time of his death, he was senior partner at Cooper & Kirkham.

Douglas M. Costle  
January 13, 2019

Costle worked for the Civil Rights Division of the US Justice Department and later helped create the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He served as EPA director during the Carter administration and led the development of the Superfund program for cleaning up hazardous waste sites. Later, Costle was an executive at a company that developed environmental testing methods and was dean of the independent Vermont Law School, where he helped build its program in environmental law. He lived in McLean, Virginia.

1966

Alberto Mazzoni  
May 2019

Mazzoni was educated in Pisa and Chicago and was fluent in five languages. Early in his career, he worked in Paris at Cohen-Meyohas, and later in New York at White & Case. He taught at the Catholic University of Milan and the University of Macau in China, and was a partner at Mazzoni Regoli Law Firm. Mazzoni lived in Milan, most recently serving a second term as president of UNIDROIT.

1967

Richard L. Bowler  
April 17, 2019

After earning his JD, Bowler earned a degree from the University’s Graduate Library School and worked at the Law School library, first as a reference librarian, then as director. He later worked at the University of New Mexico Law School library and provided independent legal research services for New Mexico attorneys. After his retirement, Bowler cataloged a large collection of theological books for Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Richard J. Goetsch  
January 19, 2019

Goetsch was managing counsel for the corporation now known as BP, where he practiced antitrust and commercial law in Cleveland and Chicago. He was a lifelong lover of classical and folk music and also enjoyed travel, theater, museums, and reading.

1968

Thomas M. Landye  
May 8, 2019

In addition to his JD, Landye held a master’s degree in economics from the University. He practiced law in his hometown of Portland, Oregon, for five decades, focusing on corporate law at the firm now known as Landye Bennett Blumstein. He represented a diverse array of public and private entities and was particularly proud of his work for Alaska Native corporations. Landye loved to play tennis and golf.

1970

James W. Paul  
May 28, 2018

Paul was general counsel of Clifford Chance US LLP, where he oversaw risk management initiatives in the Americas and directed litigation and dispute resolution in which the firm was involved. Before taking on the general counsel role, Paul specialized in commercial litigation, mergers and acquisitions, and other areas. He served on a number of professional committees for the New York City bar and was a frequent speaker on law firm management and legal ethics.

1973

Daniel Mark Winograd  
March 20, 2019

Winograd spent most of his career in Colorado, his home state, where he practiced law and served for 22 years as a magistrate for the Fourth Judicial District. In retirement, he was a dedicated Legal Aid volunteer.

1974

Warren John Archer  
February 18, 2018

Archer was an Eagle Scout with a deep commitment to social justice who spent most of his career as an attorney in the Pittsburgh area. He served as a deacon and elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh and on the board of the South Hills Interfaith Movement. He was also a Democratic committeeman and election judge.

Barry Howard  
March 2019

Howard began his career at the Dechert firm in Philadelphia; he later joined Equus Capital Partners as executive vice president, chief operating officer, and principal. He served as real estate adviser to the University of Pennsylvania Endowment, was a member of the standing committee at Thomas Jefferson University, and was on the board of SLEC Ventures, the for-profit arm of the University City Science Center. He also served on the board of Roman Catholic High School.
1975
Bonnie A. Barber
June 23, 2019
Barber lived in Chicago and worked at Northern Trust for many years. She was an active member of the Chicago Bar Association and the Illinois Bar Association; in her spare time, she was an avid sailor and patron of the arts.

Dennis M. Robb
May 12, 2018
Robb clerked for Judge Wilbur Pell of the US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, and was regional counsel for the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission. He also taught in high schools and at Marquette University. Robb lived in Skokie, Illinois.

1976
Leland M. Jones
February 15, 2019
Jones began his legal career at Fennemore, Craig, von Ammon & Udall in Phoenix, Arizona, where he specialized in banking, real estate, and corporate bankruptcies; he eventually became a partner in the firm. Later, he focused on technology and venture capital at Jennings, Strouss & Salmon, and also worked with the Arizona Technology Incubator. Jones loved backpacking and bicycling near his home in Phoenix.

1979
Emile Karafiol
January 16, 2019
Karafiol’s family fled Poland before World War II; he earned a PhD in in European history from Cornell University and until 1977 taught history to undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Chicago. After earning his JD, he changed careers and joined the Chicago firm of Kirkland & Ellis, where he specialized in representing institutional venture capital and private-equity investors. Karafiol initiated a project in the early 2000s to have each of the more than 100,000 gravestones in the Warsaw Jewish Cemetery digitally photographed and indexed for a searchable database.

1982
James Howard Snowden
March 26, 2019
Snowden practiced law briefly as an associate at Keefe, Snowden, Gorman & Brennan before joining the faculty of Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio, as a professor of English literature. In 2002, he returned to his hometown of Quincy, Illinois, to join his father in the firm of Snowden and Snowden. He was a devoted fan of the Chicago Cubs and other Chicago sports teams.

1989
Brigitta Gulya Pari
February 7, 2019
After practicing tax law at Dewey Ballantine, Pari served for more than seven years as tax counsel to the Senate Finance Committee. After leaving Capitol Hill, Pari focused on charitable work, serving on the boards of several charitable organizations. Most recently, she was the founder and executive director of SMASH (Sports, Math and Scientific Hypothesis), a nonprofit focusing on inspiring children kindergarten through eighth grade to learn about science and math through creative projects focusing on how various sports relate to science and math.

1992
Brigitte Haar
March 27, 2019
Haar taught in the Department of Law at Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany, where she specialized in international research and teaching and served as chair of civil law; German, European and international business law; law and finance; and comparative law. She was also the university’s vice president of internationalization and was well known for mentoring female students. Haar had been a visiting scholar at Yale Law School and a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia law schools.

2002
Steven Paul Macaluso
May 25, 2019
Macaluso began his legal career at the Chicago firm of Pattishall, McAuliffe, Newbury, Hilliard & Geraldson. He later held senior in-house roles with a variety of companies, including Walgreen Co., Williams Interactive, and WMS Gaming, and founded his own firm, GMI Legal, specializing in legal services for the gaming, marketing, and interactive industries. Macaluso played soccer as an undergraduate at Yale University and remained a lifelong soccer fan. He lived in Naperville, Illinois.

2003
Christopher Durcan
October 15, 2016
A commercial litigator, Durcan began his legal career in Chicago at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP and Butler Rubin Saltarelli & Boyd, LLP. At the time of his death, he was of counsel at the Carmen D. Caruso Law Firm. Previously, he had worked with consulting firms Ernst & Young and Hewitt Associates.

Claudius Paul
January 2019

2012
Edward T. Mansell
January 6, 2019
Mansell was a native of Lemont, Illinois, and earned his undergraduate degree at Michigan State University. He loved traveling and spending time at his family’s cottage; he was also a talented surfer and skier (on both snow and water) and loved boating.
Class Notes Section – REDACTED

for issues of privacy
First Amendment Scholar and Litigator Focuses on Fairness

David Goldberger, ’67, says that his father’s primary messages to him as he was growing up can be summarized in three words: “fairness, fairness, fairness.” “My father was a businessman, but his view of fairness was the same as mine as a lawyer—Everyone must be treated equally under the law,” Goldberger said.

After graduation, Goldberger joined the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois as staff counsel, and he became the Illinois organization’s legal and legislative director not long afterward. In 1977, when Nazi Party members were denied a permit to hold a march in Skokie (a predominantly Jewish community), Goldberger stood on the side of freedom of speech and equal treatment by the law, taking their First Amendment case all the way to the US Supreme Court and winning it there. Pitched controversy over that case reached local and national levels, and Goldberger received hate mail and phone calls to his office and home that included death threats.

“My experience at the Law School had strongly reinforced my understanding that the law is made up of neutral principles that should apply to everyone no matter how off-putting they are, and Skokie was an application of that understanding,” he recalled. “Living it in the real world forced me to face my adulthood. I wasn’t a student anymore.”

After moving to Columbus in the 1980s to teach at Ohio State’s law school, he continued his connection to the ACLU by serving on the Ohio affiliate’s board of directors, as its general counsel, and as a volunteer attorney. He was counsel or cocounsel for the winning side in three more major First Amendment cases at the Supreme Court, establishing the right of prison inmates to exercise their religious beliefs, the right to distribute anonymous campaign literature, and the right to a volunteer attorney. He was counsel or cocounsel for the winning side in three more major First Amendment cases at the Supreme Court, enabling inmates to exercise their religious beliefs, the right to distribute anonymous campaign literature, and the right to a volunteer attorney.

Bit’s fair to say that I was not very sympathetic to the specific political or social views of any of the plaintiffs in the Supreme Court cases I worked on,” he observed. “For example, the religious freedom case principally involved Satanists, inmates that prison officials believed were white supremacists, and some others with equally controversial beliefs. But they all were, in my view and the Court’s view, entitled to be treated equally, so long as they abided by Department of Corrections rules.” He also had a hand in establishing at the state level the right of gay couples to adopt children and the right of white couples to adopt African-American children.

He taught courses in constitutional law and the First Amendment until his retirement from Ohio State’s law school in 2009, and he also served for many years as the director of the school’s clinical programs. Since 2006 he has been part of an international team of 10 experts convened by the Warsaw-based Organization for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. They draft guidelines for policies and regulations applicable to peaceful assemblies, review the draft policies of countries, and contribute their expertise to capacity-building training for human rights defenders to improve their knowledge of standards on freedom of assembly and skills in monitoring and reporting on freedom of assembly issues.

For his impacts as a litigator, scholar, advisor, and leader, Goldberger was honored in 2017 as the third recipient of the ACLU’s Norman Dorsen Presidential Prize. “That recognition came out of the blue, and it could not have meant more to me,” he said. “Norman Dorsen was a stalwart leader of the ACLU who made incredible contributions to our civil liberties. To be honored in his name by an organization that I cherish is an indescribable source of satisfaction.”

“Typically, with the ACLU enabled me to work on civil liberties cases and issues that were beyond my wildest imaginings when I graduated from the Law School,” Goldberger observed. “My education at the Law School provided the skills and the understanding of legal principles I needed in order to try to make a difference. For all of that, I am most grateful.”

Arnold Schlanger: “I am enjoying retirement, traveling a bit (this year we were in Italy, Israel) and spending more time at our home in Wainscott, New York. Our youngest son Andrew got married last summer in the Netherlands to a human rights lawyer from The Hague, so we spent a fair amount of time with our new Dutch family and then were in Prague and Vienna. I have also enjoyed making a few lateral partner placements just to keep my hat in the legal placement business ring. My wife, Barbara, is writing another book, so she also is quite busy. And a lot of quality time with the grandchildren fills in the remaining time gaps. All is well, and life is good.”

Jim Broderick: “Jill and I purchased a new house in Tucson, Arizona, where we plan to move in early September. We
“A Heart Set on Judging” Becomes ND Ill’s First Female Chief

On July 1 of this year, Rebecca Pallmeyer, ’79, became the chief judge of the Northern District of Illinois. She is the first woman to serve as chief judge in the 200-year history of that court.

She credits her first job out of law school, when she clerked for Minnesota Supreme Court justice Rosalie E. Wahl, for inspiring her to want to become a judge. Wahl, she said, “was the model of what a judge should be: warm, decent, and compassionate; thorough and careful; and an extremely conscientious thinker and writer. She gave the same focused attention to every case that came before her.”

In the job she took after her clerkship, she worked in the litigation section of a Chicago law firm. “I was one of those people who had frequently been told ‘You must be going to law school, because you love arguing,’” and I suppose that was true of me, although what I really loved was the process of trying to get to the truth of things, which sometimes involved arguing,” she said. “There weren’t many women trial lawyers in those days, but the firm was supportive, I liked the work, and I learned a lot.”

Her heart was set on judging, though, and so she applied to the Illinois Human Rights Commission. “It was one of the very few judgements that you could apply for instead of hoping to be appointed, so I jumped on it and was fortunate enough to get the job,” she recalled. “I still remember my first day. Our offices were in the Thompson Center, which was both unfinished and always under construction, making our working conditions far less than ideal; the staff was overextended; nothing seemed right—except I felt as happy at work on that day as I could imagine being.”

Her professional happiness was complemented by personal happiness. She and her husband, Dan McAdams—whom she had met during her freshman year in college and married after her first year of law school—were settled in Chicago and beginning their family. He’s now a professor at Northwestern, and their two daughters have fulfilling careers, one as an intensive-care nurse and one as a college professor.

After six years at the Human Rights Commission, she applied for a Magistrate Judge position at the District Court, obtaining that position in 1991 in a competition with more than 125 other applicants. In 1998, she was confirmed to her District Court judgeship.

She said that the chief judge’s role as a public representative of the court is particularly important to her: “I’m glad to have the opportunity to reinforce the importance of the rule of law in our society, and I intend to take every opportunity to be sure that the hard, dedicated work done by the members of this court is understood and appreciated as a fundamental element of how our system of government works.”

Regarding the Law School, she said that she’s grateful for great learning experiences inside and outside the classroom and for “off-the-charts-intelligent” classmates, many of whom have become lifelong friends. “But I probably wouldn’t have been there at all except for the generous financial aid I received,” she acknowledged. “My parents were church employees who earned modest incomes; both worked hard to be sure my five siblings and I were able to go to college. The Law School tuition waiver was like a gift from God. It made it possible for me to attend this great law school and have the wonderful career I’ve enjoyed. My appreciation for that is boundless.”
Context and Career Thrive at the Intersection of Education and Law

*A Few Red Drops*, the 2018 book by Claire Hartfield, ’82, is a sweeping and detailed recounting of the weeklong race riots that shook Chicago in 1919 and the political, social, and economic events that led up to them and followed from them. It has won broad recognition, including the 2019 Coretta Scott King Book Award.

*A Few Red Drops* is aimed at young adults, and Hartfield said the inspiration to write it came to her during the 2014 events in Ferguson, Missouri, when Michael Brown was killed by a police officer. “I’ve been working in the education field in one way or another for more than 30 years now, and I have seen that while young people are very aware of what is going on in society, they view it through a narrow lens of their own experiences,” she said. “I wanted to try to add some historical context that might broaden their perspectives.”

Her interest in educational issues began early in her life, and when she was a senior at Yale she wrote a lengthy study of equality focused on three Supreme Court decisions: *Plessy v. Ferguson*, *Brown v. Board of Education*, and *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke*. Law school was a logical next step, and Chicago was where she wanted to be, in part because she had grown up in Hyde Park. “I knew that the UChicago Law faculty was brilliant, and the professors actually surpassed my expectations,” she said. “I also had some great clinical experiences, and I have found that the law and economics focus, which I hadn’t expected to be very applicable to my interests, has been really beneficial for how I think about things.”

A few years after graduation, her work at a law firm got her involved with the oversight of school desegregation plans in Chicago and Rockford. She took on part-time status at that firm when her first child was born and continued that until the birth of her third child, when she stopped working entirely for the five years until her daughter started school. “I could have continued on a part-time basis, but I wanted to be 100 percent present for those years with my daughter and my other growing children,” she said.

Deciding that for her next step she wanted to have a hands-on relationship with an education provider, she joined the newly formed Alain Locke Charter School in Chicago, guiding the process of setting in place its governance and compliance structures. She remained with the school in a variety of capacities as it achieved striking success, including being ranked first in Illinois in academic proficiency at serving predominantly low-income African-American students from kindergarten through eighth grade. She was one of the founders of Accelerate Institute, which helps principals and other school administrators develop leadership and change management skills.

She said that as she travels around the United States discussing her book with students and other groups, she is struck by many connections between the past and the present: “My grandmother lived through the 1919 riot and told me her stories from that experience and now here I am telling others about it, and many of the forces that created the riots are still operating in our country today. But I know from watching my own children, who are now young women, that there is talent and passion in the next generation for creating a better future.”

She observed that she was particularly affected by an encounter with a young student who considered the action that directly incited the riots—the death of a black teenager from a rock thrown by a white man as the teenager was peacefully drifting near a raft in Lake Michigan with his friends—and then said, “That boy could have been me.” The student’s comment, she said, “collapsed events of a hundred years ago right into the present. That understanding is at the heart of why I wrote *A Few Red Drops*."

_Doug Markham_ reports: “I believe our classmate Dan Micciche serves on the school board in Dallas, but you might want to confirm with him. I continue to defend medical malpractice cases, and travels this year include Taiwan, Barcelona, Normandy, and Iceland.”

_Stefaan Raes_, LLM, is presently a partner in European and Competition Law at the Brussels law firm Liedekerke Wolters Waelbroeck Kirkpatrick, after a career as a judge in the Belgian judiciary and as the head of the Belgian Competition Authority.

_Joel Weiss_ reports: “My younger son received his PhD from Stanford (my undergraduate alma mater) on June 16. He will start his teaching career as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics at Knox College in Illinois. My older son and his wife have supplied one super-adorable granddaughter, who turns 2 in August, with a second one on the way. I am looking forward to having all of them (both sons, daughters-in-law, granddaughter, and two dogs) visit in a couple of weeks! Very happy (notwithstanding the fact that I am still practicing because I have not gotten it perfect yet)! I hope all of my classmates are similarly enjoying our ‘golden’ years.”

_1982_

CLASS CORRESPONDENT

_Michael Gerhardt_  
gerhardt@email.unc.edu

_Jonathan Baum_ has retired from 12 years of service on Evanston (IL) school boards, four on the elementary school.
Managing Partner Maintains Practice while Focusing on Inclusion

Earlier this year, Chicago-based Mary Wilson, ‘92, became the United States managing partner of Dentons, the world’s largest law firm, which has approximately 1,000 lawyers and professionals in the US. Her portfolio in her new position is expansive, including joining with the firm’s US CEO and its leadership team to further grow Dentons’ US presence, sustain excellent client service, expedite technological advances, and further the firm’s diversity and inclusion initiatives.

Wilson will continue the career she has built as an acclaimed authority in the financing and governance of tax-exempt organizations, where she has worked on billions of dollars of financings throughout the US. “I fully support the idea that firm leaders should maintain their practices, even though it sometimes makes things challenging,” she said. “It means that you are directly experiencing the issues that are crucial for sustaining a top-quality organization, not just hearing about those issues in meetings or reading about them in reports.”

She’s well prepared for her new role, having served for more than five years as the managing partner of Dentons’ Chicago office, been a member of the firm’s US board, and served as cochair of the firm’s associates development committee. She led the Chicago office’s move into new office space in 2015, an exercise that she says highlighted many of the changes she’s seen in the legal profession. “Law practice is a business and in many ways it’s a more demanding business every day, so we looked at everything from a holistic business perspective, which included managing costs while creating a superior environment for staff and clients,” she recounted. Among other things, all office spaces are the same size (Wilson’s own new office was considerably smaller than her previous one), corner offices were turned into collaborative spaces, and natural light was maximized even into interior spaces.

Wilson began her career with Gardner Carton & Douglas and joined Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal in 2005. Sonnenschein merged with UK-based Denton Wilde Sapte in 2010 to form SNR Denton, and as the firm continued its global growth it was renamed Dentons in 2013. “Our roots in Sonnenschein are significant,” she observed. “That firm was founded by Jewish lawyers who were excluded from many established firms, and there was a deep commitment to equitable treatment of everyone who worked there. We have worked hard, and continue to do so, to make sure that an ethos of diversity and inclusion prevails here.”

Attending a weekend program at the Law School for admitted women was part of the reason she chose UChicago. “I could tell that many of these women were people I wanted to get to know,” she recalled, “and I was right about that. What a great group!” She added, “Many of my classmates, women and men, have become long-term friends of mine, and I still find that they’re among my best mentors or advisors, because we’ve shared so many common experiences at the Law School and in our careers.” She also lauded her experience with the Bigelow Program, noting that its lessons in clear writing and knowing one’s audience have served her well throughout her career.

An active contributor to the life of the Law School, she cochaired her most recent class reunion, is a member of the Law School’s Women’s Leadership Network, and has participated in several panel discussions at the Law School about career advancement for women and the business of law firm management. “I will continue to give back to the Law School in as many ways as I can,” she said. “I consider that a small repayment for all the ways it has made my life better.”

My Spring 2019 Column was inadvertently left out of the last copy of the Law School Record. Although the Law School sent out an email to our classmates with the column, I have included the submissions here as well. . .

Where I am currently Chief Judge. As such, my primary duties involve dealing with government shutdowns. I’ve been getting outside of the First State as much as possible recently. As I write this I am in Barcelona for a conference, and I just finished four days teaching corporate restructuring principles to judges in Northern Cyprus under the auspices of the World Bank, which was an amazing and fulfilling experience. Next spring I will be teaching my biannual course on corporate restructuring at the Law School with Douglas Baird. It’s a lot of travel but well worth it. Douglas remains incredibly popular with the students and we always draw a good crowd.

Jim Squires writes: “After living in Norfolk, Virginia, for 27 years, Karen and I are moving to Atlanta this summer, where Norfolk Southern (Corporation, where he is Chairman, President, and CEO) is building its new headquarters. We are looking forward to high-rise living in Midtown, but will miss the friends we’ve made and the many attractions of life in Hampton Roads. I’m hoping to connect with Atlanta-based classmates and alums.”

Dan Young reports that he and wife Meredith “have become empty nesters. Our youngest and middle both graduated this year from high school and college. So Meredith and I, with dogs Ranger and Bear, moved to a condo in downtown Austin, and it is awesome.”
Chilean Judge Transformed by Study of Law and Economics

Rodrigo Delaveau, LLM ‘07, JSD ’13, has been appointed as a deputy justice of the Constitutional Court of Chile, that country’s highest judicial body. The youngest person ever to hold that position (which entails a public contest, a nomination by the Chilean president, and confirmation by two-thirds of the country’s Senate), he earned it through his distinctive combination of academic accomplishment, practical knowledge, and compelling legal thinking. “I can thank the Law School for making possible this wonderful opportunity, in so many ways,” he said.

His JSD dissertation, which examined the conditions that affect judicial review in different societies, was a valuable asset for his nomination and confirmation, he said, as were many of his other studies and his participation in offerings of the Coase-Sandor Institute for Law and Economics. He also remarked on the important transformation in his way of thinking that began when he first started his LLM studies in 2006: “Practically from my first day, I was learning how to really think about issues with a more open, wider view, a more holistic view—and I was learning to do that from many of the most brilliant thinkers in the world, not just legal scholars but thought leaders in so many disciplines.”

Although he had earned a law degree and an LLM degree in Chile before coming to Chicago, he had not been exposed to the Socratic method. “At first, being in class at UChicago was terrifying for me,” he recalled. “Then I recognized that this is the very way we have to think about the law: ask the question, ask the next question, and keep asking questions until you get to the heart of things.” As a professor at Chile’s leading law school (a role he is permitted to retain while he is a deputy justice), he has also introduced the Socratic method there.

His scholarly activities in Chile also provided a strong case for his appointment. He has taught at his current university since 2004 and has presented courses at several other Chilean law schools. At a leading Chilean center for judicial scholarship, he began as a researcher in 2003 and subsequently served as the director in a variety of program areas addressing legislative and constitutional matters. From 2016 to 2018, he led an interdisciplinary team that studied, reported on, and made recommendations related to the most effective functioning of the Chilean judicial system. He also was the lead editor from 2008 to 2012 of an annual compendium of commentaries on constitutional issues.

He comes from a long line of lawyers, which includes his late grandfather, his father, and his brother. “Luckily, we all practice in different fields of law, so our arguments when we get together are about politics, music, and sports, not legal matters,” he observed.

As much as he loves his native country, Chicago is deeply embedded in his heart. “My passion, commitment, and gratitude toward UChicago are beyond any rational parameter,” he said. “I think I will never live long enough to give back all that I have received.”

The Greenberg Seminars he attended were important to him not just for what he learned but for what the experience represented: “Here you are, sitting in the home of someone with a great mind, surrounded by brilliant classmates, discussing the biggest possible matters. That is the Law School to me in a nutshell—the combination of the most lofty intellectual pursuits with an intimate camaraderie that isn’t matched anywhere else. My heart leapt every time I walked into one of those Greenberg homes, and it still does flips even as I think about it now.”

Asked what might be next for him after his Court term, he described what he called his “white whale” aspiration—to be invited to the UChicago Law School as a visiting professor. “If that would someday happen—and intellectually owing so much to Chicago—I will feel that my debt is finally paid. My life as a legal scholar would be complete at last,” he said.

He and his wife went to Portugal for holidays this year, and they visited Ana Keri. They had a mini-reunion and shared Chicago memories.

Samantha Groffman sends news from the UK. She is still practicing from the same Chambers that she qualified at, and has been involved in the recruitment and training of pupils for the last couple of years. She is also spending a lot of time dealing with railways (both existing and one the government is seeking powers to build), which has certainly changed the way she experiences train journeys! She enjoys traveling with her husband and recently visited Diego Ferrada in Chile.

Daniel Schloesser is still living in New Jersey, one hour away from NYC. Baby Samuel started to crawl, which he reports is scary at times and unusual for him as new parent. He is still working in house at Ortho Clinical Diagnostics and enjoys it very much.
A Career in Video Game Law Leads to Play at Google

Nicholas Plassaras, ’14, joined Google this summer, where he is continuing the exhilarating work that he enjoyed during his five previous years as an associate at the Mountain View office of Fenwick & West.

His specialty is video game law. “I am incredibly fortunate that Fenwick supported me in developing a practice that I’m passionate about,” he said. “In many ways, I feel like the video game industry and I grew up at the same time. My issue-spotting and problem-solving skills when it comes to legal issues facing the video game industry are in large part due to my perspective as a lifelong gamer.” That perspective has served him well, he said, when it comes to facing complex legal questions in an industry that generated more than $130 billion in worldwide revenues in 2018.

During his first week at Fenwick, he reached out to a partner with a robust video game practice to express interest in working with her. They went on to establish a multidisciplinary practice group dedicated to the video game industry that made Fenwick a go-to firm for the industry for corporate, transactional, litigation, and strategic counseling matters. “Our clients recognized that because we were longtime gamers ourselves, we understood their products at an intuitive level and could provide the sort of 360-degree view and advice that they are looking for,” he said. “Most video game companies are deeply committed to the games they sell and the people who play them, so they were often pleasantly surprised to find outside counsel that care just as deeply.”

At Google, he’s part of the product counsel team for Google Play, which offers more than 750,000 game apps. “I’ll be dealing with the same kinds of practical and strategic issues as I did at Fenwick, but on a larger scale and with more direct influence,” he said. “In addition to the intellectual property matters that might be expected, there are a lot more things to address, including age-appropriateness, privacy, and various consumer protection issues.”

Plassaras has written extensively on the intricacies of video game law, including several articles on the intersection of intellectual property and video games, guidance on video game development, and reports detailing compliance requirements for age rating classifications in different countries. He expects to bring that experience to bear in his new role at Google tackling the variety of cutting-edge and complex issues facing today’s video game industry.

When he was exploring his law school options, Plassaras participated in the “Day in the Life” program at the Law School, during which he sat in on a Torts class taught by Saul Levmore. He recalled: “I remember being struck by how charismatic Professor Levmore was and how engaged his students were. I knew right then and there that UChicago was where I wanted to be. I’m happy to say my law school experience certainly lived up to my high expectations.”

He said he’s now motivated by the same spark he admired in his Law School professors: “I had so many professors who clearly loved what they were doing—passionate about their subject matter and pleased to be exploring and advancing it every day. I hoped I would find that for myself, but I never thought it would come together this quickly.” “Plus,” he added, “I think it’s safe to say that my entire family feels much better about all of the money we’ve invested in video games over the last 20 years.”

Nicholas Plassaras, ’14

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to beautiful beaches up and down the California coast. For me, the best part about surfing has never been the act of surfing itself. The best part of surfing is waking up at 5 a.m. on weekday mornings to paddle out before work (Ed would buy a croissant for me the night before an early-morning surf so that we could share a bite to eat during the dark car ride to the beach). It’s shirtless road trips in a beat-up car with no air conditioning, music-filled hours passing easily through the twists and turns of Highway 1 (Ed was always the DJ on our annual “Great American Surf Road Trip”).

It’s watching the sunset with your best friend from the Pacific Ocean (Ed always insisted on sunset surf sessions, no matter the conditions). It’s eating bags of Haribo candies, diner hamburgers, ice cream, donuts, and pastries for days on end (Ed’s love of sweets, especially on surf trips, was legendary). It’s knowing that Ed could have been anywhere, with any one of his many friends, doing any one of the many things that he loved, but he chose to carve out this special time, to surf, with me.

“The hardest part about Ed’s funeral weekend, for me, was seeing the stillness of his body in the casket. In this life, Ed was always moving. Ed was constant, frantic, boundless energy. Ed was shining, exuberant, infectious joy. Ed was beautiful chaos and fearless devotion. Ed never regretted the things he did because, for better or worse, he did everything with his whole heart. That is the way I’ll always remember Ed Mansell: driving through snowstorms, running through cities, jumping off bridges, paddling into intimidating surf,
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38 Undergraduate Majors
35 States Represented
18 Graduate Degrees
22 Languages Spoken

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10 musicians (violin, piano, guitar, oboe, trumpet, percussion, flute)
9 Eagle Scouts
5 AmeriCorps alumni
5 first mates/sailors
4 Teach for America alumni
3 award-winning poets
2 competitive fencers
2 CPAs
2 CEOs
2 rocket scientists (NASA, SpaceX)
1 Peace Corps alum
1 amateur astronomer
1 Rhodes Scholar
1 competitive fisherman
1 semi-professional soccer player
1 published historical fiction author
1 amateur home-brewer
1 Julius Caesar in Central Park’s Shakespeare in the Park
1 professional track & field athlete
1 Mt. Kilimanjaro climber
1 Pilates instructor
1 amateur pet photographer
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