A Dream Deferred, Advanced, and Remembered
Earl Dickerson, class of 1920, fought for economic and racial justice, argued successfully before the US Supreme Court, and secured a long list of “firsts.” On the centennial of his graduation, the Law School celebrates—and reintroduces—his legacy. By Becky Beaupre Gillespie.

The Boldness of the Bigelow Fellowship
The Law School’s 73-year-old legal writing program is a demanding and all-encompassing experience that is an effective launching pad for future scholars. By Claire Parins.

“Ultimate Flexibility”
The Law School and Booth add an accelerated JD/MBA to the business and law offerings. By Robin I. Mordfin.

Promise and Possibility
Students in the new Immigrants’ Rights Clinic confront human vulnerability and build skills in a changing area of law. By Becky Beaupre Gillespie.

The Cartoonists’ Guide to Law
The D’Angelo Law Library’s new collection of illustrated legal codes offers insight into statutes and society. By Becky Beaupre Gillespie.

Message from the Dean

Faculty News
The Trust Revolution: How the Digitization of Trust Will Revolutionize Business and Governmentality by Todd Henderson and Talien Chen

Alumni News
Books Published by Alumni in 2019

Development News
Adam Chilton’s Work on Global Competition Laws

Class Notes
Milan D. Smith Jr., ’69
Peter Altabef, ’83
Lisa Noller, ’95
Rahwa Ghebre-Ab, ’09
David Pi, ’13

Reunion 2020 Schedule
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Extraordinary people long have been a part of the Law School’s history. Their excellence and intellectual grit are evident not just in the accolades and leadership positions they accumulate, but also in their willingness to confront complex problems, take up varied roles and responsibilities, rigorously challenge even firmly held beliefs, and push forward in the face of enormous challenge. This year, the Law School celebrates one such person, Earl B. Dickerson, who in 1920 became the first African American to earn a JD from the University of Chicago—and whose decades-long career as a lawyer, businessman, and civil rights leader helped shape the city of Chicago.

Mr. Dickerson, who died in 1986 at age 95, argued successfully before the US Supreme Court in *Hansberry v. Lee*, the case that eliminated a racially restrictive covenant in part of Woodlawn and set the stage for the end of restrictive covenants nationwide. He helped build the Supreme Life Insurance Company of America as its general counsel and, later, as its president. He was the first African American president of the National Lawyers Guild, served on the NAACP’s national board for three decades, and was a member of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Fair Employment Practices Committee. In this issue of the *Record*, we explore Mr. Dickerson’s impressive legacy and astonishingly varied career, which also will be the subject of a two-day conference at the Law School on April 17 and 18. This spectacular event, planned by three members of our faculty, Richard McAdams, William Hubbard, and Sharon Fairley, will anchor a yearlong Dickerson Centennial that will include independent student research projects, exhibits, and other special events. You can find additional details on the Law School’s website.

As I begin my second term as dean, our focus is on investing in our stellar faculty, supporting our outstanding students, and providing a transformative legal education. You can read about some of these efforts in the coming pages. We introduce Clinical Professor Nicole Hallett, who joined us in January to launch our new Immigrants’ Rights Clinic, which is already off to tremendous start. We look at a fascinating new 1L orientation program that blends science and the lessons of improvisational comedy to help students communicate across differences—a skill essential to engaging in productive civil discourse. We also explore how the Bigelow Fellowship Program became a premier training ground for legal scholars and showcase the D’Angelo Law Library’s delightful new collection of illustrated legal codes.

I am deeply proud of the many ways in which the Law School serves as a wellspring of extraordinary people and ideas. I look forward to continuing to see this excellence in action through the work of our students, faculty, and alumni in the years to come, just as we draw inspiration from the enduring contributions of those who came before us, especially Mr. Dickerson. I hope to see many of you at Reunion in May and at the Earl B. Dickerson Centennial Conference later this month.

Warmly,

Thomas J. Miles
A DREAM DEFERRED, ADVANCED, and REMEMBERED

By Becky Beaupre Gillespie
There’s a black-and-white photograph—an iconic image of Martin Luther King Jr. proclaiming “I Have a Dream” on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial—that tells an apt story about Earl Burrus Dickerson, the first African American to earn a JD from the University of Chicago.

Taken at just the right angle, the image places Dickerson within a whisper of the spotlight, a position he occupied regularly over decades of legal practice, business leadership, and public service. He isn’t the focal point; instead, he’s several bodies from the podium at the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, listening to King’s dream with the careful attention of a man deeply involved in both the vision and the labor sustaining it. His proximity to King hints at his stature: by 1963, Dickerson was a member of the national board of the NAACP, the president of an increasingly successful Black-owned life insurance company that had expanded economic opportunities for African Americans, and a trailblazing lawyer with both a famous Supreme Court win and several barrier-breaking milestones to his credit.

He’d served on the Chicago City Council, as an assistant Illinois attorney general, and on Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Fair Employment Practices Committee. He had been the first Black president of the National Lawyers Guild, a president of the Chicago Urban League, and a president of the National Bar Association.

What the photo doesn’t say is this: Dickerson’s contributions to fair housing, fair employment, and racial justice were already intricately woven into the story of Chicago—his adopted home—and his influence on the city, the American civil rights movement, and the legal...
profession would be felt for decades. And despite this, 57 years later, his legacy would be a bit like the Dickerson seen in the photo, standing at the edge of history he’d helped create, barely recognizable to the majority of Americans.

“There are a lot of figures who both affect the course of history and capture the spirit of an age but are not always visible when we recite our history,” Professor William Hubbard said one day last winter in the lead-up to a two-day April conference (see box, p. 11) designed, in part, to nudge Dickerson’s legacy from the shadows. “In Earl Dickerson’s case, it could have been bias, or neglect, or that people’s attention was focused, for a variety of reasons, on more familiar names. He did a lot of work in the ’30s and ’40s, which was a time when America collectively was preoccupied with other things—recovery from the Depression, then World War II—and it may be that circumstances weren’t particularly favorable to him being celebrated by history.”

It was December, and Hubbard had been thinking a lot about Dickerson, who died in 1986 at age 95. The centennial of Dickerson’s 1920 Law School graduation was approaching, and plans were forming to celebrate it; Hubbard had been working for months with Deputy Dean Richard McAdams and Professor from Practice Sharon Fairley, as well as a small group of students and

About the March on Washington Photo

The photograph of Earl B. Dickerson listening to Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech was taken by a Johnson Publishing Company photographer on August 28, 1963, and appears in The Day They Marched, a book released by Johnson Publishing that same year. The company, the Chicago-based former owner of Ebony and Jet magazines, filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy last year. In July, the J. Paul Getty Trust, the Ford Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation purchased their archives for $30 million. They plan to donate the collection, which includes millions of photos and thousands of hours of audio and video recordings, to the Smithsonian’s Museum of African American History and Culture and the Getty Research Institute. At press time, the recently acquired collection was unavailable but was believed to contain this photo.

But there’s more to the story behind our search for its origins—one that includes an 88-year-old civil rights activist from New Jersey, a San Francisco publicist who helped organize buses for the March on Washington, a Canadian political blogger, a Dickerson grandson, and a Dickerson protégé.

When Dickerson’s grandson Steve Brown shared the photo with us, he knew only that a family member had found it online. We turned to Google, and a reverse image search revealed three people with ties to it. The first was Arnold E. Brown (no relation to Steve), a civil rights activist who didn’t know Dickerson well but stood near him during King’s speech. He appears in the photo and has a framed copy of it hanging in his Bergen County, New Jersey, home. His copy is visible in photos that appeared in his local newspaper two years ago, when he was honored for his work preserving the history of African Americans in northern New Jersey. Brown, we learned, is a past president of his local chapters of the NAACP and the Urban League and was the first African American from Bergen County elected to the state’s General Assembly. Brown said someone gave him the March on Washington photo in the 1960s, and many years later, US Congressman John Lewis—
staff. It wasn’t a simple undertaking: for someone lacking in widespread name recognition, there was an enormous amount to say about Earl Dickerson. His memory looms large in certain circles, among those with connections to him and some who are continuing his work. When he was alive, US presidents and Chicago mayors and revered civil rights activists knew and respected him; one of Harold Washington’s first acts as Chicago mayor was to declare May 1, 1983, to be Earl B. Dickerson Day.

“When we think about the history of our city, Earl Dickerson was actually front and center on a lot of the important issues,” said Fairley, a former federal prosecutor and criminal justice reform advocate.

Fairley, ’06, knew Dickerson’s name as a law student—most likely, she thinks, because she was a member of the Law School’s chapter of the Black Law Students Association, which is named for him. At the Law School, the bones of Dickerson’s story are familiar: he was a grandson of enslaved people who earned his JD here in 1920—a year after the 1919 race riots and almost three and a half decades before Brown v. Board of Education—and he argued Hansberry v. Lee, the 1940 Supreme Court case that opened up housing for African Americans in part of Chicago’s Woodlawn neighborhood and set the stage for the end of racially restrictive covenants nationwide. Dickerson’s photograph hangs in the Law School’s classroom wing, alongside photos of other Law School pioneers, like Nelson Willis, 1918, the first African American to earn an LLB (see story, p. 12), and Sophonisba Breckinridge, 1904, the first female graduate. In addition to the Earl B. Dickerson BLSA chapter, the Law School has an Earl B. Dickerson postgraduate fellowship, which is awarded each year to a promising legal scholar, and an Earl B. Dickerson student scholarship, which is given annually to a student...

President John F. Kennedy with Dickerson
who displays a commitment to social justice. Dickerson is discussed occasionally in class: when students study Hansberry in Civil Procedure II (the case hinged on a procedural issue) or when a professor assigns his writing, as McAdams has done in Elements of the Law with Dickerson’s chapter in the NAACP’s 1947 United Nations human rights petition, “An Appeal to the World,” which was edited by W. E. B. Du Bois.

It seemed to Hubbard, McAdams, and Fairley that the anniversary of Dickerson’s graduation presented an opportunity to shine a brighter light on Dickerson. The Law School and the broader Chicago community could consider the scope of his legacy together—his connection to Chicago’s South Side, the ways in which he combined business and law to advance civil rights, the bold vision that sometimes thwarted his political ambitions—and honor the man sometimes known as the “dean of Chicago’s Black lawyers.”

The two-day multidisciplinary event, they ultimately decided, would anchor a comprehensive Dickerson centennial—a yearlong tribute that would include a winter quarter class on the civil rights movement, funding for independent student research projects, displays of Dickerson photographs and speeches, and a variety of other lectures and events throughout 2020. Together, these pieces would offer not only a look back at history but a chance to reflect on the present.

“Earl Dickerson’s story is about persistence and tenacity, about not accepting the status quo—and his example is an opportunity to understand how leaders really make change in the world using the law,” Fairley said.

The organizers decided to begin the conference with a day of academic presentations by professors of law, political science, and history, each examining different aspects of Dickerson’s life from his formative years to his work in business, government, and the civil rights movement. The second day, portions of which would be held in the auditorium, would focus on his enduring influence, featuring panel discussions on cause lawyering and fair housing, as well as remembrances from those who knew him, including his grandchildren and UChicago Distinguished Visiting Fellow and former White House advisor Valerie Jarrett, a South Side native who grew up calling Dickerson “Uncle Earl.”

The day would culminate in two theatrical readings, led by Ron O. J. Parson, director and resident artist at the UChicago-affiliated Court Theater. There would be

As a student at the University of Illinois, Dickerson helped charter the Beta chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, an historically African American collegiate fraternity. In 1919, Dickerson helped found the organization’s first alumni group, the Chicago Alumni Chapter. Later, he served as the fraternity’s grand polemarch, or national president.
out. Supreme Liberty (as it was then called) lent the money, Hansberry bought the property and moved in, and the Woodlawn Property Owners Association predictably fought the sale. The case ultimately landed before the US Supreme Court, and Dickerson, representing Supreme Liberty, argued it. The Court’s ruling set the stage for the 1948 landmark case *Shelley v. Kraemer*, which put an end to restrictive covenants.

“It was impressive,” McAdams said. “A lot of lawyers work their whole careers and would love to have one case in front of the Supreme Court and would love to win that case.”

McAdams shook his head slightly.

“It’s just that it wasn’t the only thing he did,” he said. “Several things Dickerson did were equally amazing.”

Dickerson was a man who pushed forward, even in the face of overwhelming challenge.

By various accounts, he was elegant, meticulous, and resilient but with a fiery edge and a vision so bold that he was sometimes labeled difficult. His quarrels, however, were often ideological rather than personal, the journalist Robert J. Blakely wrote in the 2006 book *Earl B. Dickerson: A Voice for Freedom and Equality*, a biography that began as an oral history project for the Hyde Park

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Dickerson’s Law School matriculation cards, an attorney registration card, and a Supreme Life business card
Historical Society and was published more than a decade after the author’s death and two decades after Dickerson’s. “He had a cultivated capacity . . . to be immune to the poisons of resentment,” wrote Blakely, whose research included 38 taped interviews with Dickerson, as well as interviews with 39 others.

Dickerson’s outrage was trained, instead, on the pervasive racial injustice he’d experienced and witnessed both in the South and, later, in Chicago—and this fueled his work. Born in Canton, Mississippi, in 1891, Dickerson fled to Chicago in 1907, his mother paying railroad porters to help him stow away. “No rule of law protected us from the avarice, cruelty, and hatred of whites,” he wrote to Law School Dean Gerhard Casper nearly 80 years later, recounting his childhood in Canton.

Dickerson worked his way through high school (at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools and later at the now-defunct Evanston Academy) and college, studying for a year at Northwestern and ultimately earning a bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His academic success convinced him that law school was a viable option—and the best way to fight for equal opportunity, justice, and freedom.

And so, in 1915, he started at the University of Chicago Law School, leaving during his second year to serve as an officer in the US Army during World War I and returning in the spring of 1919. Months later, racial tensions on Chicago’s South Side blossomed into violence, leaving 38 people dead. “That fall, when he walked from his apartment to the school, he carried his service revolver under his jacket because of the risks he faced on the way,” McAdams said. “I think about that, him walking all those blocks just after the riots.”

So does Adam Hassanein, ’21, one of the students on the centennial committee. “Imagine getting an education in a segregated city where crowds of people don’t want you there, and where people are dying in race riots, and still you make the journey down to law school every day,” said Hassanein, the vice president of BLSA.

Dickerson excelled at the Law School, so much so that he was among nine students that Dean James Parker Hall recommended to three major Chicago law firms. All three firms offered Dickerson “courteous interviews”—and then rejected him, Dickerson recounted in the 1985 letter to Casper, which explained both Dickerson’s dedication to the law and his decision to endow a scholarship at the Law School. “They were all ‘terribly sorry,’ but they all concluded that their ‘clientele would not approve of their employing a black attorney,’” Dickerson wrote. “Some of the [others] who were recommended—all white—were employed. Several became very wealthy and expressed their indebtedness to the University of Chicago Law School by gifts and endowments. My indebtedness to the University of Chicago Law School, while less than theirs in tangible ways, is probably greater than theirs in intangible ways of inspiration and preparation for the high causes to which I committed myself.”

Those high causes were many. Dickerson was among the first African Americans to join the Chicago Bar Association, and he worked to open the Illinois Bar Association up to Black lawyers. He led the Black-organized National Bar Association and Black-organized Cook County Bar Association and became the first African American to lead an integrated national bar association when he became the president of the National Lawyers Guild in 1951. (During this time, he defended the Guild against McCarthyism, waging a successful protest against the US attorney general’s contention that it was a subversive organization.) He was active in the NAACP, both in Chicago and nationally, and served on the national board for three decades. In 1926 was appointed as chair of the Chicago chapter’s Legal Redress Committee, where he led fights against restrictive covenants (including in the Hansberry case), police brutality, and other inequities. Dickerson even helped establish the Burr Oak Cemetery, the African American cemetery in which he is now buried.

He also worked in government and politics, serving as assistant corporation counsel for the city of Chicago, assistant Illinois attorney general, and beginning in 1939, as the Chicago City Council’s first Democratic Black alderman. Representing Chicago’s Second Ward (then located on the South Side), he succeeded in increasing funding for Black schools, convincing the Chicago mayor to appoint the first African American to the Chicago Board of Education, and forcing Chicago’s bus system to eliminate discriminatory hiring practices.
But he faced a variety of challenges in his government roles. He failed to win reelection to the city council in 1943 and lost three bids for US Congress in the 1940s. In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him to the first Fair Employment Practices Committee, and Dickerson chaired public hearings that revealed discrimination in government and defense contracting.

But despite his accomplishments on the committee, when Roosevelt formed a second FEPC in 1943, he didn’t reappoint Dickerson.

“Dickerson was active and influential in so many areas, but those efforts were often blocked or undermined by others who were more powerful,” Hubbard said.

But these were not his only avenues of change. Dickerson was driven by the idea that economic opportunity was a key to racial equality—and business offered him perhaps his strongest tool.

After the three law firm rejections in 1920, Dickerson had opened his own law firm—but he also had taken a job as general counsel of what was then named the Liberty Life Insurance Company. The company—which changed its named to Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Company and then Supreme Life Insurance Company of America—grew into one of the largest Black-owned insurance companies in the nation. Dickerson spent much of his career there, becoming president and CEO in 1955 and overseeing several profitable mergers. Supreme Life’s social mission aligned with Dickerson’s belief in the essential role of economic opportunity; the company was a source of both jobs and loans for the Black community.

“Earl’s greatest accomplishment—and it was a phenomenal one—was the building of Supreme Life,” Paul Berger, the organizer of the Hyde Park Savings and Loan Association, told Blakely in a 1983 interview. “He recognized early that for the achievement by blacks, or anybody, of any degree of real freedom, they had to have some degree of economic freedom.”

Of course, for all of his decades of work at Supreme Life, there was one loan in particular that stood out, and it went to a man named Carl Hansberry.

Dickerson’s role in *Hansberry v. Lee* was, in many ways, an early example of what we now call corporate social responsibility, says Hubbard, who teaches the case in his Civil Procedure II class.

“He didn’t see a strict separation between his role as an activist or his role as a lawyer or his role as a businessperson,” he said.
Dickerson knew the Woodlawn Property Owners Association would try to block Carl Hansberry from buying the property at 6140 South Rhodes Avenue, which is about a 15-minute walk from the Law School’s current location. The property was covered by a racially restrictive covenant that had been enforced in an earlier case, Burke v. Kleiman. Supreme Liberty’s other officers worried about being sued and losing money, but Dickerson “eventually persuaded the company that the risk was consistent with its social goals and, in addition, that the chances of winning the suit were good,” Blakely wrote in the Dickerson biography.

The property owners association reacted as expected after Hansberry moved in and filed suit for an injunction—and a judge ordered Hansberry out. Dickerson, the general counsel of Supreme Liberty and the chair of the Chicago NAACP’s Legal Redress Committee, represented Supreme Liberty and a company officer who had also purchased property in the area. Three other Law School graduates were also members of the legal team defending against the suit: Truman K. Gibson Jr., ’35; Irvin C. Mollison, ’23; and Loring B. Moore, ’23. C. Francis Stradford—the father of Jewel Stradford Lafontant, ’46, the Law School’s first Black female graduate—represented Hansberry.

When the case arrived at the Supreme Court, Dickerson delivered the oral argument.

The legal team’s strategy—arguing the case primarily on what seemed like a technicality—is one that intrigues Hubbard. The lower courts had allowed the covenant to stand on the grounds that it was res judicata (already decided) by Burke v. Kleiman, an Illinois state court judgment that held that the covenant was valid because it had been signed by 95 percent of landowners in the neighborhood. But Dickerson convinced the Court that Burke v. Kleiman did not bind the parties to the current case, because their interests had not been “adequately represented” in the earlier case. Thus, Burke v. Kleiman did not control, and the validity of the covenant remained an open question. Dickerson then showed that the covenant wasn’t enforceable even under its own terms, because it hadn’t been properly ratified by the property owners association. Although the covenant required signatures from owners of 95 percent of the land in the neighborhood, in fact the true percentage was far lower.

The question of whether the covenant itself was constitutional was a secondary issue.

“There can be deep divisions among activists about strategy—whether to be incrementalist or whether to be bold, and that sort of played out in Hansberry,” Hubbard said. “With his activism, Dickerson tended to fall on the side of being bolder and more aggressive, but here the narrower strategy was the winning strategy. In 1940, the Supreme Court did not seem ready to make a sweeping statement about the constitutionality of racially restrictive covenants. It would be another eight years before the Court struck down racially restrictive covenants as unconstitutional.”

Despite the narrow ruling, the Hansberry case made a section of Woodlawn available to African Americans. It offered the first real victory against restrictive covenants, though the flight to open the rest of the South Side—
outside of the “Black Belt” area to which African Americans were limited—would remain a difficult one. (It should be noted that Dickerson and his family pushed out of the Black Belt themselves, and in 1949 became the first African Americans to live in Hyde Park since before World War I.) Dickerson’s willingness to take a risk in advocating for the Hansberry loan—and his commitment to the company’s social mission—offer enduring lessons about leadership and change, Fairley said.

“Activism isn’t necessarily about getting out on the street and protesting and raising signs. You can be a corporate lawyer and be an activist at the same time,” she said. “We can all be activists in the context of the work we do or the lives we live. Earl Dickerson is a perfect example of that.”

Early in 2020, 80 years after the Hansberry decision, Hassanein found himself thinking about Dickerson’s style of activism. A few months earlier, he’d met with one of Dickerson’s grandsons, who had shown him the photo of Dickerson on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1963, listening to King’s “I Have a Dream” speech. The grandson, Steve Brown, hadn’t known Dickerson had attended the March on Washington until well after Dickerson’s death; his grandfather had never mentioned it to him. (See sidebar, p. 4).

Hassanein, of course, had seen images from that day, but he’d never seen—or looked for—Earl Dickerson before.

“You expand [the angle] out and you see Earl Dickerson, who’s just five, maybe 10, feet away from King,” Hassanein said.

It was a reminder, he added, that even if he wasn’t always visible, Dickerson was right there and “involved in so many things.”

That breadth of effort—and the tirelessness that accompanied it—were, perhaps, his defining traits.

“No man I have ever known has been as consistent as Mr. Dickerson in fighting for truth, equality, and fair play,” Jet/Ebony publisher John H. Johnson, chairman of the Supreme Life Insurance Co., said in Dickerson’s obituary in Jet magazine in 1986. “He has done it with dignity, with integrity, and with style and elegance.”

In the foreword to the Blakely biography, John Hope Franklin, a prominent African American history professor who taught at UChicago in the mid-1960s, wrote about Dickerson’s advocacy, charm, and ability to garner respect.

“I would put him right up there with the great people we think about such as Thurgood Marshall and others who functioned within the courts at federal levels,” Franklin wrote. “Earl’s activities were focused on Chicago. His impact on Chicago was immense.”

Hassanein thinks about the “pervasive strength” that must have fueled Dickerson’s relentless drive, and he hopes that the Law School’s centennial celebration will “breathe new life” into Dickerson’s legacy.

“He was instrumental in so many different events in history and the civil rights movement and governing and in the legal profession,” Hassanein said.

Dickerson, he concluded, “was someone who got the work done as opposed to saying, ‘Look what I’ve done.’ He just had that drive and that passion and that desire to make change. I think it’s such a compelling story of resilience—and one that carried through his entire career.”

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Dickerson at Supreme Life in 1971

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EARL B. DICKERSON CENTENNIAL CONFERENCE

When: Friday, April 17, 2020, 8:45 am to 5 pm (Room V) and Saturday, April 18, 11 am to 6 pm (Auditorium and Green Lounge)

Where: The University of Chicago Law School, 1111 East 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637

To register and view schedule: https://www.law.uchicago.edu/dickersoncentennial
As a member of the committee formed to commemorate the centennial of Earl Dickerson’s 1920 graduation, Adam Hassanein, ’21, spent much of his 1L spring break digging into the life and legacy of the midcentury legal giant who long had been known—correctly—as the first African American to earn a JD from the University of Chicago. It was a distinction so celebrated that, in recent decades, Dickerson had come to be known as the first African American to earn any type of degree from the Law School.

There hadn’t been any reason to question that broader understanding: the Juris Doctor, which eventually became the national standard as the first postgraduate law degree, has always been the most common degree at the Law School; the Law School, in fact, was the first in the nation to offer it. But last spring, something caught Hassanein’s eye as he sifted through old composites, hoping to gain insight on Dickerson and his classmates.

“I wanted to see what the Law School actually looked like in 1920,” said Hassanein, the vice president of the Law School’s Black Law Students Association. “I tried to figure out what they did with their lives. But when I got to the Class of 1918, I saw a face that stuck out, so I did more research.”

That face belonged to Nelson Morton Willis of Bogue Chitto, Mississippi—a Black contemporary of Dickerson’s who had earned a Bachelor of Laws, or LLB, in 1918, making him the Law School’s first African American graduate. (The two men entered the Law School a year apart and graduated two years apart; Dickerson’s education was interrupted by his service in World War I.) Willis had gone on to become a noted lawyer and civil rights advocate, serving as president of the Cook County Bar Association and the Chicago chapter of the NAACP and helping to shape American civil rights law through several significant cases.

The discovery was a surprise: Willis’s place in Law School history had faded with time, while Dickerson—whose fame outside Hyde Park also undersells his contributions—had become a well-recognized figure to decades of Law School students. Many studied his role in the US Supreme Court case *Hansberry v. Lee* or were aware that he’d established an endowment fund at the Law School. Whatever the reason—*Hansberry*, Dickerson’s Law School involvement, or simply that “first Black JD” eventually became “first Black graduate” after the school stopped offering LLBs—the Law School moved quickly to correct the record.

“We are so grateful to Adam for bringing this important finding to our attention,” said Dean Thomas J. Miles, the Clifton R. Musser Professor of Law and Economics. “Thanks to his sharp eye and thorough investigation, Mr. Willis has been restored to our collective memory. His pioneering career is an inspiration to all students.”

In October, the Law School dedicated an official photograph of Willis inside the Law School’s classroom hallway. Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul, joined by Miles, Hassanein, and Deputy Dean Richard McAdams, told members of the Law School community that he hoped they would view Willis’s legacy as a “road map” for their own personal histories.

“It’s important to recognize firsts,” Raoul said. “Because firsts knock down the door and show you what’s possible for others who follow.”

Willis was born on June 6, 1889, in Raymond, Mississippi, the son of a rural schoolteacher. Willis ran away from home when he was 14 and worked his way through what is now Tougaloo College, a historically Black liberal arts college near Jackson. After graduating from Tougaloo—on whose board Willis would serve for decades—he arrived at the University of Chicago in September 1914, just a dozen years after the Law School’s founding. Willis supported himself at the Law School with odd jobs and by working as a railroad porter.

His graduation came just 22 years after the US Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of racial segregation in public accommodations in *Plessy v. Ferguson* and 36 years before the Court’s first decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, Miles noted at the dedication ceremony.

“To have chosen to dedicate himself to a career in law, [Willis] must have had tremendous faith and hope in law and the legal system,” Miles said.
Willis moved to Lake County, Michigan, in 1957, where he was subsequently appointed to serve a two-year term as the county’s prosecuting attorney. Willis died in Michigan in May 1967.

Hassanein worked alongside Sheri Lewis, director of the D’Angelo Law Library, and Law School librarian Bill Schwesig to research Willis’s career. Hassanein, for his part, is glad that Willis is being recognized and remembered. “To go through the troubles that [Willis] did to get an education is really remarkable,” Hassanein said. “I’m thankful for the Law School’s response.”

Willis’s photograph can be found outside Room V, alongside those of Dickerson; Sophonisba Breckinridge, 1904 (the Law School’s first female graduate); Jewel Lafontant, ’46 (the Law School’s first African American woman JD graduate); and Lafontant’s husband John W. Rogers Sr., ’48, a member of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II.

At the unveiling, Miles said he hopes the Willis photograph will remind students what the legal system can accomplish—and what they can achieve with their Law School education. Quoting historian and former University professor John Hope Franklin, Miles underscored the importance of Willis’s story and the day’s events. “Good history,” Miles said, “is a good foundation for a better present and future.”

After graduating from the Law School, Willis began his career in Louisville, Kentucky. He returned to Illinois in 1931, practicing in Chicago and Danville. Willis’s clients included minority railway workers and falsely accused criminal defendants.

In a closely watched test case with national implications, Willis represented an African American woman who was prohibited from trying on a hat at a department store in Lincoln, Illinois. At trial and on appeal, Willis successfully defended the constitutionality of an Illinois civil rights amendment that had been the first in the nation to make department stores subject to a civil rights law.

As president of the Cook County Bar Association, Willis—working alongside Dickerson, who was president of the National Bar Association at the time—spearheaded initiatives seeking the election of African American judges in Cook County and systemic reform of the judiciary. During his tenure as president of the Chicago chapter of the NAACP, Willis litigated the segregation of public schools in Illinois and served—again, with Dickerson—on the chapter’s Legal Redress Committee. Willis also worked alongside future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall during the representation of Chicago NAACP attorneys (including future federal judge George Leighton) who had been charged with inciting the 1951 Cicero race riot.

Willis’s photograph can be found outside Room V, alongside those of Dickerson; Sophonisba Breckinridge, 1904 (the Law School’s first female graduate); Jewel Lafontant, ’46 (the Law School’s first African American woman JD graduate); and Lafontant’s husband John W. Rogers Sr., ’48, a member of the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II.

At the unveiling, Miles said he hopes the Willis photograph will remind students what the legal system can accomplish—and what they can achieve with their Law School education. Quoting historian and former University professor John Hope Franklin, Miles underscored the importance of Willis’s story and the day’s events. “Good history,” Miles said, “is a good foundation for a better present and future.”

At the October dedication of the Nelson Willis photograph, Dean Thomas J. Miles (second from left) talks with Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul as Adam Hassanein, ’21, (left) and Deputy Dean Richard McAdams look on.
From the time she stepped on campus as a new Harry A. Bigelow Teaching Fellow in 1999, Lee Fennell could tell that the University of Chicago Law School operated at a particularly high level of intensity. She had applied for academic jobs before her fellowship, but it was Fennell’s immersion into the Law School’s intellectual life that hammered home the key to great scholarship: cross-pollination and expansive, even unconventional, thinking. It was the boost she needed to break through. “At Chicago, people from different areas and methodologies really listen to each other and try to understand each other’s work—to a greater degree than I’ve seen at other schools,” said Fennell, who has taught at half a dozen law schools as a visitor or faculty member. “The entire [Bigelow] experience was transformative. It put me in a position where I was able to get a tenure-track job, which I could never have done without the fellowship.”

Fennell, who joined the Law School’s faculty in 2007 and is now the Max Pam Professor of Law, is one of hundreds of alumni of the Law School’s Bigelow Fellowship, a 73-year-old program that began as a tutorial system for 1Ls and is now also widely recognized as a premier training ground for legal scholars.

The two-year fellowship is a demanding and all-encompassing experience, one in which budding academics immerse themselves in Law School culture,
The Bigelow program, named for former Dean Harry A. Bigelow, draws its power from two Law School traditions, both of which have been baked into the program’s mission from its inception in 1947. Although the program itself has evolved—the number of fellows has varied over the years, and up until the late 1990s the program was typically one year rather than two—it has always reflected the school’s emphasis on interdisciplinary inquiry and its commitment to being “a teacher of teachers.”

These dual values, along with its decades-long history, have set the Bigelow Fellowship apart from similar programs at other schools, creating a structure that has not only endured but has adapted naturally to changes in legal academia.

In the late 1990s, when faculty-hiring committees began to place increasing value on interdisciplinary work, the Law School and its Bigelow program were already poised to meet the market demand. The noted law and political science professor Ernst Freund had argued for a cross-disciplinary approach during the school’s earliest days—and the Bigelow program had long attracted scholars drawn to that style of inquiry.

“It has always been interdisciplinary at Chicago, but now it’s interdisciplinary everywhere,” said Douglas Baird, the Harry A. Bigelow Distinguished Service Professor, a former dean of the Law School, and a codirector of the Bigelow program.

As interdisciplinarity took hold at law schools across the country, hiring committees also began seeking candidates with more than top grades and clerkships; they wanted to see published work as well.

“It was common [more than 20 years ago] for people to start as assistant professors without having published,” said Baird, who was hired at the Law School in 1980 immediately after a clerkship on the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. “The attitude was ‘We’ll see what happens and how they develop as academics.’ New professors did not usually start with a fully formed agenda.” Now, Baird said, “the expectations of the tenure-track academic basically require candidates to have immersed themselves in the maelstrom of legal academic thought.”

It was an easy shift for the Bigelow program: faculty welcomed the contributions of the fellows and actively sought to expand opportunities for scholarly engagement between professors and the Bigelows. When the Law School gradually expanded the fellowship to two years in the late 1990s, it did so in part because “we wanted the opportunity to be with [the Bigelow fellows] as scholars,” said Professor Randal Picker, who served as deputy dean shortly before the shift.

Interdisciplinary Work and Committed Teachers

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often developing tight bonds with one another as they cultivate the skills necessary to succeed at the highest levels of teaching and scholarship. Bigelow fellows lead legal research and writing classes, imparting critical workplace skills to their 1L students while also learning from masters of legal academia. The fellows research and write academic papers and attend the same workshops as other faculty, discovering what it means to have their work challenged and rigorously debated. And they create a network of feedback and support: a former Bigelow who now teaches at Columbia Law School says the community that emerged among the fellows she served with in the early 2000s was a key part of the experience—one built around supporting stellar scholarship and nurturing professional relationships, many of which continue today.

The program is an effective launching pad: Since at least 1999, every Bigelow fellow has received at least one tenure-track offer. Bigelow alumni can be found on the faculty in some of the best law schools across the country. They are top legal experts in a wide array of areas including administrative law, culture and the law, law and economics, and property law, and they have risen to become law school deans and leaders in business and government. Some have pursued PhDs in other areas.

“The University of Chicago Law School is the most intense academic environment in any American law school. People are engaged, inquisitive, and hard at work,” said Professor Adam Chilton, a recent codirector of the Bigelow program. “I can’t think of a better investment of time than the Bigelow Fellowship before going on the market.”
Among Bigelows who have served in recent years, about half had PhDs when they entered the program, said Chilton, who joined the faculty in 2014 after serving as a Bigelow fellow. Chilton codirected the Bigelow program from 2016 to 2019 and holds both a JD and a PhD in political science from Harvard.

“Typical applicants have well-designed research profiles, know the methods that they will use, and [know] their perspective on the subjects they are studying,” he said.

Although advanced degrees beyond JDs are not required, all six of the current Bigelow fellows—Travis Crum, Cree Jones, Erin Miller, Elizabeth Reese, Ryan Sakoda, and Roseanna Sommers—have one. Four hold PhDs—two in economics, one in politics/political theory, and one in psychology. Two have held federal appellate clerkships, including one on the US Supreme Court; one has worked at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; and another has been a bioethicist who provided guidance to doctors, patients, nurses, and researchers.

Strong Bigelow candidates also embrace the Law School’s emphasis on teaching excellence, Baird and Chilton said. “An important characteristic of teaching at the Law School, whether you’re on the tenured faculty track or starting out as a Bigelow, is understanding that the Law School is a place where teachers and teaching really, really matter,” Baird said. “Writing effective legal prose matters, of course, but if you don’t have an interest in teaching, if you don’t affirmatively look forward to teaching, or if you regard it as just a chore, you’re in the wrong line of work.”

**Mentors and Mentees**

The Bigelow program was originally set up to teach all 1Ls legal research and writing; previously, that training had been reserved for students on Law Review. Bigelow teachers, who led groups no larger than six students, hailed from law schools that included Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Northwestern, and Cornell. A unique feature of the program’s early years was that some of its teachers were from schools in Great Britain and other common-law countries, including the University of Cambridge, the London School of Economics, Oxford, and the University of Melbourne.

Today, teaching strong legal writing and stellar research skills is still the program’s primary goal. Led by the Bigelow fellows, students learn in their first quarter about legal analysis and preparing memoranda. They dive
deep into legal research in the winter quarter with added guidance from the Law School’s librarians, and in the spring and final quarter, they apply what they learned in the first two quarters by writing appellate briefs and presenting oral arguments.

“The expectation is that fellows are more approachable mentors than the doctrinal faculty and should be available to give advice on things like studying for exams, applying for summer jobs, and navigating the rest of law school,” Chilton said.

Bigelows, of course, experience both sides of mentorship, giving and receiving.

Elizabeth Francis Emens—a Bigelow from 2003 to 2005 who is now a tenured professor at Columbia Law School—said she learned important lessons from the Law School faculty.

“One memory that stands out was watching David Strauss teach. He was clearly kind and generous and not trying to make anyone uncomfortable—certainly far from the humiliation model of The Paper Chase,” Emens said. “But he also had techniques that kept the room completely engaged. He waited until the end of a question to say the name of the person he would call on. Everyone waited, feeling the question could come to them. Everyone was included and kept on the edge of their seats. I still employ this technique and think of David.”

Her cohort of fellows did much to support and prepare each other for contributing to the larger faculty conversation.

“I felt tremendous camaraderie and friendship with the other fellows. One thing we did to feel more like teachers and engage in intellectual life was to meet the night before every WIP to discuss papers,” said Emens, referring to the Chicago faculty’s weekly Work in Progress lunch. “We bounced ideas off each other and engaged in lively discussions to get a sense of whether our ideas were worth asking in the main faculty session. These weekly sessions helped build community among us as scholars. Some of us still keep in touch.”

How much the fellows teach ebbs and flows over the course of their two-year appointment. The vast majority of their teaching time happens when the three main assignments are due and fellows give feedback and grade assignments. In the spring of their second year, Bigelows are given the opportunity to teach a seminar on a topic of their choosing and are trained and mentored by senior faculty in teaching in other ways.
We review the fellows and talk to them about anything that comes out of those evaluations,” Chilton said. “We also meet with them to talk about content, what they should be covering, and how to cover it. Some fellows give lunch talks for student groups and play larger roles as student mentors. Others help organize conferences and are part of outside organizations.”

The program is not easy. Applicants are told there is a trade-off coming to Chicago, Chilton has said: You will do more teaching and more work—but you will get more in return in terms of developing your scholarship and your academic career.

“It’s part of what makes the program so compelling,” Chilton said.

The Different Paths to Academia

After law school, Fennell tried on different hats while traversing what she called “a complicated path.” She worked in a law firm, primarily focusing on government contracts, and later practiced at the State and Local Legal Center writing amicus briefs for cases pending in the US Supreme Court. She also received an MFA in fiction writing, which gave her a chance to teach for the first time. For a short time, while also working as a staff attorney at the Virginia School Boards Association, she was a scholar in residence at the University of Virginia. The experience reconnected her to scholarship and to the possibility of pursuing a career in teaching law.

Fennell, who served as a Bigelow fellow from 1999 to 2001, joined the Law School faculty in 2007 after teaching at the University of Texas School of Law and the University of Illinois College of Law. She has also been a visiting professor at Yale Law School, NYU School of Law, and the University of Virginia School of Law. Fennell said her career in law teaching was possible because of what she learned as a Bigelow, an experience she pursued after a former professor, Warren Schwartz, encouraged her to apply.

Chicago’s culture stood out for Fennell when she first arrived. Professors went into workshops ready to sharpen each other’s papers by confronting ideas head on and identifying weaknesses in the arguments.

“People were around and engaged all the time. We had a lot of workshops, and everyone attending had read the papers, which I now know is not the case everywhere,” said Fennell, recalling how ideas tended to spill into the hallways and flow across doctrinal and methodological...
boundaries. “People were interested in hearing my questions and would talk to me at length about my ideas.”

Nancy Staudt, the dean of the Washington University in St. Louis Law School, had a similar experience. Staudt was a Bigelow from 1992 to 1993 when the program was still just a year long. Like Fennell, Staudt did not apply for the fellowship right out of law school and came to the program after practicing in a firm. She later decided she wanted to do more than practice corporate law, and the Bigelow Fellowship was an attractive option.

“I loved the academic mission, the faculty, Hyde Park, and everything about the Law School and the team,” said Staudt, who focuses on tax and empirical legal studies, among other issues, and holds a PhD from UChicago’s Harris School of Public Policy.

Staudt landed a tenure-track job at the SUNY Buffalo School of Law immediately after her Bigelow year and went on to teach at Northwestern, Washington University, Vanderbilt, Stanford, and the University of Southern California, among other schools. She says her Bigelow year not only prepared her for those roles but also contributed to her success as the director of a nonprofit and, later, as a law school dean.

“Every decision I make as dean, be it alumni development, whether the library should be online or in paper, or hiring, I think about the academic mission and how to advance it,” she said.
Academic mission was something that was continually emphasized when she was a Bigelow.

“The workshops, being part of the scholarly environment at the Law School inspired me,” Staudt said. “You just wanted to work every day and think about great ideas and publish and have an impact.”

These days, the program is geared toward two types of fellows: those who have practiced law, as Fennell and Staudt did, and those who come from PhD programs, as Adam Chilton did, said Bigelow Codirector John Rappaport, an assistant professor of law and Ludwig and Hilde Wolf Research Scholar.

Rappaport fell into the former category: he became a Bigelow in 2013 after clerking for the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the US Supreme Court and practicing for a number of years in the federal public defender’s office and as a litigator at Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP.

Baird and Rappaport both said the timetable for the job market is one of the biggest challenges fellows face. Depending on the type of candidate—one with writing experience and the other from practice—there are slightly different challenges.

“The typical challenge for fellows with PhDs is learning to sound like a legal academic,” Rappaport said. “They come in and they write papers that sound like they’re written by an economist or a sociologist. That’s fine if that’s the discipline you’re going toward, but we help them speak to audiences of law professors.”

For the fellows who are coming out of practice, the issue is how to write scholarship rather than advocacy. Writing scholarship, for these fellows, can feel like a new art form. Layered on top of this is the fact that their fellowship—which includes lesson planning, intensive one-on-ones with students, and their own research and writing—is happening on a timeline.

Another challenge, according to Rappaport, is managing feedback well. Fellows get a lot of feedback and have to learn how to hear it, incorporate it, and benefit from it.

“I think I was very bad at [getting feedback] at the beginning,” he said. “I got feedback from one person and overhauled my entire paper to do everything that person said. And then I got feedback from a second person, and 50 percent of it pushed in the other direction, and I had to overhaul my paper again.”
Rappaport said that over time he learned that it was not productive to revamp his research completely after every critique. He now usually solicits feedback from several people at once, reads all the feedback together, and looks for common themes before editing.

“Learning to process that kind of feedback and use it to actually improve your work is a skill in itself,” he said.

Despite the clerkships, years of practice experience, and stellar academic record he brought with him, Rappaport discovered that he still had room to learn and grow during his Bigelow Fellowship—and he did.

“A lot of what happens during the two fellowship years is the result of direct mentorship and people giving feedback on paper ideas and drafts,” Rappaport said. “But a lot of it is also acculturation.”

One of the great things about the program, according to Rappaport, is that the Law School is not especially hierarchical, and the fellows are invited to participate in just about everything. As a fellow, one has an opportunity to observe workshops and job talks and to practice asking questions and engaging as a professor would.

“Chicago has a reputation for rigor, and I think it’s deserved,” he said. “By the time I was done being mentored here, most of the questions I got when I was presenting out on the market at other schools seemed easy. I was prepared. I was very, very well prepared.”
LISTENING ACROSS DIFFERENCES

How a New University of Chicago Workshop Pushes Law Students to Practice ‘Hearing One Another’

By Claire Stamler-Goody
Sitting across from a classmate on the second day of Law School orientation, Kenny Chiaghana, '22, noticed something new. He and the other student—a stranger before that day—had been paired for the final exercise of Hearing One Another, a University of Chicago program that made its Law School debut this year.

What Chiaghana noticed was that his partner went out of his way to play down certain accomplishments, sometimes adding entire sentences and caveats. People often told Chiaghana that he did the same thing—but until that point, he hadn’t fully understood what they meant.

“Coming to the realization that I can learn something about myself by listening to others was very, very surprising,” Chiaghana said. “That you can be self-reflective even when you’re listening was a big takeaway for me.”

Moments like this are part of the idea behind Hearing One Another, an interactive workshop that combines behavioral science and improvisational exercises to help individuals communicate across differences and improve their listening skills. At the beginning of the workshop, knowing only its name, Chiaghana had been skeptical. But it wasn’t long before the walls came down and the negativity began to fall away. By the time the two-hour workshop ended, Chiaghana was surprised by how much he had learned about his classmates, and how much closer he felt to them as a result.

“I still remember almost everything [about the exchange with my partner],” Chiaghana said. “Because I really, really listened to this stranger, I got this deeper human bonding with a lot less time. It’s very inspiring.”

ROOTED IN RESEARCH AND IMPROV

It was Dean of Students Charles Todd who decided to bring the innovative program south of the Midway when he joined the Law School in 2018. As deputy dean of students in the College, he worked closely on new student orientation, and he’d seen the positive impact Hearing One Another had had on undergraduates.

New law students, he figured, would benefit, too.

“I think that law students, just like anyone else, need to be reminded that listening is a skill,” Todd said. “As professional students who are getting their first professional network, it’s incredibly important that they form deep connections with their peers. And I think the skills that they reflect on and think about in this program can help them develop a network that will stay with them for many years to come.”
The three-part Hearing One Another workshop is the same regardless of audience, with participants divided into sections led by seasoned facilitators from across the University. At the Law School, students move through the exercises with their “Bigelow” section—the group with which they take legal research and writing classes—and are joined by a member of the Law School faculty.

Professor William Hubbard, chair of the Law School’s diversity committee and a participant in this year’s workshop, appreciated that Hearing One Another’s exercises are based in evidence from psychology and behavioral science research. The workshop, he said, achieved two crucial orientation objectives.

“One is just to build a rapport among the students—to break the ice and get comfortable, and to make friends,” said Hubbard, who graduated from the Law School in 2000.

“The other thing, which is trickier because there are so many ways to do it, and you can’t do them all in a week, is to build those skills in emotional intelligence that are so important to lawyering. It isn’t always the emphasis of what we do in the classroom, but it is so important to being a lawyer.”

A subset of the Second Science Project’s programs falls into the UChicago Inclusion Workshop series, including...
Hearing One Another. This series focuses on cultivating insights and interpersonal skills central to understanding one another across differences, and thus creating a more inclusive campus climate. Robin Graham, the associate director of student affairs and programs and the interim director of diversity and inclusion, said Hearing One Another highlights two key Law School values: freedom of expression and diversity and inclusion.

“It’s important that students are comfortable expressing their views and opinions, no matter the context,” Graham said. “But it’s equally important that they feel heard, and that they make that extra effort to listen and understand one another. Hearing One Another does an excellent job of helping them do just that.”

Another goal, Todd added, is to help students see their classmates as individuals and to emphasize the rich complexity of the Law School community.

“I want students to recognize that they are part of an incredibly diverse class of individuals who all bring something to the table,” he said. “Whether those individuals look like them, believe like them, think like them, live like them, or not. Getting to spend three years with that incredible diversity is a great privilege. I hope that they all recognize how special that is, and that they take getting to know this new community very seriously.”

SEEING BENEATH THE SURFACE

After Hearing One Another’s first exercise—an icebreaker and introduction to improv—students formed a circle and took turns offering statements about themselves, sharing details about their likes and dislikes, backgrounds, beliefs, and more. The information didn’t need to be deeply revelatory or profound to be effective, though students were encouraged to share increasingly personal statements over the course of the exercise. The goal was to help participants “individuate,” or to see each other as complex individuals rather than predictable stereotypes.

The exercise was based on 2003 research led by social psychologist William Swann Jr., who divided a cohort of incoming MBA students into small study groups and asked them to fill out three surveys. The first, administered before the groups met, asked participants to describe their own views and abilities. The second, administered shortly after the groups met, asked participants to describe their impressions of one another. The third also asked participants to describe each other—this time at the end of the semester. Researchers found that the more included they felt in the group—and the better they did at getting to know each other over the long term and working together as a team.

This made sense to Caitlan Sussman, ’22, who said the exercise underscored the danger in making assumptions about classmates when meeting them for the first time.

“You should never assume anything about anyone. You don’t know what’s going on in their lives. You don’t know how they’ve been raised and you don’t know what their beliefs are,” Sussman said. “We’re such a diverse class and we’ve all been through so many different things, but there’s a lot we actually have in common as well.”

During the exercise, Hubbard realized that expressing his own beliefs could help others open up about theirs.

“Part of effective communication is sharing things about yourself,” said Hubbard, who had the students he met in the workshop in his fall quarter Civil Procedure class. “It’s good to try to be a little more open when you’re getting to know people, and to get to know them on more than a superficial level. That was a really useful takeaway.”

The exercise led Chiaghana to see his classmates more fully as they shared pieces of themselves. For instance, a quiet demeanor didn’t mean a person was unapproachable or unfriendly, he said.

“[People would] share things about themselves, and I would think, ‘Oh, that’s why this person’s like this, they’re not trying to be rude,’” Chiaghana said. “‘They’re not trying to exclude me for any reason. This is just who this person is.”
DIFFERENT WAYS OF LISTENING

For the last exercise, students divided into pairs and took turns speaking from prompts while their partners practiced different listening styles.

This exercise was rooted in a 1982 study by Robert E. Kraut and his colleagues that examined different listening approaches by asking participants to watch a movie they had never seen before. Days later, the subjects returned to summarize the movie for two different listeners—one who had been assigned to listen silently and one who had listened actively, interrupting with as many comments and questions as they liked.

Those who offered feedback, the researchers found, tended to retain more information and better understand the speaker’s experience.

That was true in the Hearing One Another exercise—but only in certain situations. Some students noted that providing consistent feedback during a conversation could distract both the speaker and the listener.

Faculty participant Sarah Konsky, a clinical professor, said the exercise made her think more about how different listening styles might fit different situations.

“I think many of us in our session walked away with the idea that, for different kinds of conversations, it’s good to have different listening approaches,” said Konsky, who is the director of the Jenner & Block Supreme Court and Appellate Clinic. “Sometimes you do want to be very passive and just let the other person share what they need to share. Other times it’s better to be engaged in the conversation, affirming what they’re saying or disagreeing.”

For one of the prompts, speakers had to discuss
something they found stressful while listeners took in the information passively. This part of the exercise, Chiaghana said, helped him consider how he comes across when expressing frustration or negativity.

“I started to realize that when you’re talking about something that you find stressful or uncomfortable, you can very easily start taking it out on the person,” he said. “Whereas if the person had been nodding at me, I might not have noticed that I was passing off so much negative energy. It definitely made me realize that you need to actively consider how other people are hearing you, not just how you’re hearing yourself.”

The exercise encouraged Sussman to pay more attention to how, and how often, she would listen to her classmates. “In a place like law school, we might be so busy listening to a professor that when classes end, we switch off a little bit,” Sussman said. “I think it’s really important in a class full of all these amazing talented people to make time for a small conversation with them and listen to what they have to say. Simply listening to someone can make them feel so supported.”

For Todd, it was important that students learned these skills in an active workshop rather than in a lecture setting. The hands-on exercises, he said, also helped incoming first-year students lower their boundaries and get to know one another from the beginning of orientation. “Like any skill, [listening] is something that you can practice and that you can get better at,” Todd said. “It is something that you engage in different ways, in different contexts. I think that’s a very useful reminder for all of us, not just for students.”

Months after participating in Hearing One Another, Chiaghana reflected on the experience—the workshop, he said, was crucial in setting the tone for orientation as well as the first year at the Law School. “If we hadn’t done those exercises, we might have known a lot less about each other. We could have had our walls up a lot longer,” Chiaghana said in January, four months after participating in the program. “The more you see people as individuals, the more you start to realize that you shouldn’t stereotype people based on how they look, or on certain demeanors. The more you start to see people as individuals, the more you start to see that we’re actually not very different at all.”
Beginning this fall, the Law School and the Booth School of Business will offer prospective students the opportunity to earn a JD/MBA in just three years, accelerating the increasingly attractive dual-degree program through an immersive, integrated curriculum that gives students access to the resources of both schools and prepares them for careers in law, business, or both. “This is an extraordinary opportunity for students to study with some of the world’s most distinguished scholars in law and business and to benefit from the outstanding interdisciplinary resources of two eminent University of Chicago institutions,” said Law School Dean Thomas J. Miles, the Clifton R. Musser Professor of Law and Economics. “JD/MBAs are in rising demand as the fields of law and business become increasingly intertwined. The Law School has, for decades, worked with and supported students who wish to pursue both a Juris Doctor and a Master of Business Administration, and now we are tremendously excited to offer that joint degree in three years.”

In the last two decades, the legal market has shifted: Lawyers pursue careers in a variety of professions—ascending to the top rungs of corporate leadership,
launching innovative start-ups, and advising global clients who face increasingly complex issues. The Law School has responded by offering a variety of opportunities for students to include business classes in their coursework. The Doctoroff Business Leadership Program, launched in 2013, brings top Booth professors into the Law School to teach business courses that are specifically designed for law students. Those accepted to the program earn a certificate after completing five Doctoroff classes and participating in mentorship and internship programs, and they graduate in three years with a broader and more nuanced understanding of the relationship between the two disciplines. The Doctoroff classes are open to any student at the Law School, and they count toward JD/MBA requirements.

A four-year JD/MBA program, which the Law School and Chicago Booth will continue to offer, enables students to pursue a more specialized study of law and business. That longer program allows for more classes and a third summer internship.

But the new JD/MBA program reaches an important third market: students who want both degrees but don’t want to wait four years to launch—or continue—their careers.

“We want to provide ultimate flexibility by giving our students the ability to study business and law in the way that meets their individual needs,” said Ann Perry, the Law School’s associate dean for admissions. “We’ve essentially built three different houses from the same core components—we’ve just arranged them to fulfill different goals. A student who primarily wants a JD but seeks an enhanced understanding of business, finance, and marketing can apply to Doctoroff. A student who wants to delve particularly deeply into business and law can apply to the four-year program. And a student who wants a joint degree and is willing to embrace the compressed schedule can apply for an accelerated JD/MBA.”

**The Best of Both Schools**

Accelerated JD/MBA students will have access to the resources of both institutions throughout their programs. They will be able to enroll in Law School clinics and participate in student organizations, committees, and other activities at both schools. Both schools will provide students with advisors who will help them refine plans, curricula, and career goals.

“This is just another example of the interdisciplinary tradition that is the University of Chicago,” said Douglas G. Baird, the Harry A. Bigelow Distinguished Service Professor and the faculty director of the Doctoroff program. “The students in the three-year program will benefit from the synergy between the schools. By being involved in both they will have unparalleled opportunities for networking and connecting.”

Just as in the four-year program, students will spend the
students will still have the opportunity to complete nearly any of Booth’s concentrations. To complete the degree in three years while retaining flexibility to take more electives, students may choose to complete two summer classes at Booth. The business school offers evening classes at its downtown Gleacher Center every summer, which allows students to work at internship programs at law firms in and around Chicago while completing degree work.

Streamlined Admissions
Candidates for the three-year program will complete one application, available on the Booth website, and must be accepted by both schools, as well as by the Doctoroff Business Leadership Program. Those who do not meet criteria for both schools can indicate that they would also like to be considered for admission to just one program. The number of students attending the Law School will not expand because of

the joint program; the 15 to 20 students accepted each year will be calculated as part of the usual Law School acceptance numbers. Current first-year law students are eligible to apply for the new program—and some have signaled interest—but the majority of future students will begin as joint-degree candidates.

During the admissions process, each school will apply its own requirements. In addition to the expectation that students will have stellar grades and test scores, Booth students—whose average age is 28, four years higher than at the Law School—are expected to have a few years of business or entrepreneurial experience. While the Law School generally recruits students on college and university campuses, the accelerated JD/MBA program will also offer presentations at hedge funds and other businesses where young innovators work.

The different criteria and broader recruiting will make for a richer cohort, giving the students exposure to classmates with a variety of past experiences and future plans.

“The new JD/MBA program, in addition to being more useful for students, will also be incredibly beneficial to the business school by bringing this high-caliber population into our classrooms and thus enriching the experience for their peers and our faculty,” said Booth Dean Madhav Rajan, the George Pratt Shultz Professor of Accounting.

Just as with the four-year JD/MBA, graduates of the new program are expected to fall evenly into two tracks: those who pursue business careers in which law is helpful and those who practice law in a business setting. Previous graduates of the four-year JD/MBA program have gone on to work in the financial sector, in corporate legal departments, and as entrepreneurs. Those who join law firms benefit from business knowledge and acumen, especially in executive and managerial positions.

“The accelerated JD/MBA program is a win for both the Law School and Booth, and most importantly for our students,” Miles said. “This partnership truly represents our shared commitment for creating exemplary future leaders.”

Accelerated JD/MBA students will have access to the resources of both schools, including clinics, student organizations, committees, and advisors.
PROMISE AND POSSIBILITY

Students in the New Immigrants’ Rights Clinic Confront Human Vulnerability and Build Skills in a Changing Area of Law

By Becky Beaupre Gillespie
When Victor Cedeño, ’21, heard last fall that the Law School was set to launch a new Immigrants’ Rights Clinic—a combination of litigation and policy work led by a rising star in the field—he knew he wanted in.

He didn’t yet know the director, Nicole Hallett, a Yale Law School graduate and former Skadden Fellow who founded two clinics at the University of Buffalo School of Law before joining UChicago’s clinical legal faculty in January 2020. But he did remember what it felt like to be 12 years old, living in a new country, wondering whether he’d ever learn to speak English.

“I know what it’s like to not yet have your status settled, to feel as though your fate is in other people’s hands,” said Cedeño, who immigrated to the United States from the Dominican Republic with his mom at age 12. “At the beginning, it can feel like things will never be different. Iowa was very welcoming, but speaking English seemed like such a distant possibility at first—I wondered if I’d ever be fluent.”

Cedeño, who is one of eight students in the clinic’s inaugural cohort, was drawn to immigration work and its challenges—changing policies, jurisdictional conflicts, and the critical need to build trust with clients who may be traumatized or afraid—and he wanted to hone his legal skills in an area that held personal interest. After all, Cedeño understood the vulnerability his immigrant clients might feel, navigating complicated issues surrounded by the unfamiliar: a new culture, a new legal system, a new language.

But he also understood the promise and possibility, the futures those clients might not fully imagine—and that he might help secure. After all, alongside the memories of his own uneasy transition were the bright spots that followed: the first time he ordered on his own—in English—at an Iowa McDonald’s, the eighth-grade civics class that sparked his love for the American legal system, the day he took the oath of allegiance to become a United States citizen in 2009. And then: college graduation. A master’s degree in public policy from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, where he focused on immigration policy. His first assignment as a summer law firm associate in 2019—a pro bono case involving guardianship of an unaccompanied immigrant minor.

“Things revved into gear quickly after the Immigrants’ Rights Clinic met for the first time in early January; by the end of the second week, several students were already traveling for a case. No one seemed to blink at the fast pace, the students diving in as they were assigned in small groups to three projects: an asylum case involving a mother and daughter who had fled gang violence in Guatemala, a first-in-the-nation challenge to
immigration detention authority under the USA PATRIOT Act, and a Section 1983 civil rights lawsuit against three state troopers for unlawfully arresting an immigrant and cooperating with federal authorities to deport him.

“You actually have to understand to an even greater degree what’s happening in order to explain it to someone else who knows even less than you,” Hallett said. “But having to make those connections with somebody actually leads to a deeper base of knowledge.”

“The students are fantastic,” Hallett said one afternoon, letting a visitor into her office shortly after she and a student wrapped up a conference call regarding one of the cases. “They are so engaged and excited about the work that we’re doing. They also seem like they really care about the clients and the issues that we’re working on. I couldn’t be happier.”

Hallett, whose own law school clinic work inspired her love of teaching, designed the clinic to build a variety of skills—writing, client engagement, and possible appearances in court or community forums. In addition to the three small-group cases, all eight students were set to participate in a series of all-day legal clinics at the Jerome Combs Detention Center in Kankakee, Illinois, through a partnership with the National Immigrant Justice Center. In future quarters, policy work will be added to the mix.

Like many members of the clinical faculty, Hallett strives to hit a balance between fostering independence and offering guidance from her own well of experience: clinical teaching at three law schools, graduate work in refugee studies at Oxford, human rights work in South Korea, two judicial clerkships, and countless cases in the areas of immigration, employment, and labor law.

“Professor Hallett has been a phenomenal addition to our clinical faculty, bringing stellar credentials and a deep passion for teaching,” said Dean Thomas J. Miles, the Clifton R. Musser Professor of Law and Economics. “The Immigrants’ Rights Clinic is already off to a strong start,

Students listen to Hallett during the clinic’s second class. They had recently divided into small groups to work on three cases. All eight students would also participate in a series of all-day legal clinics at a detention center.
and we are delighted to see our students engaged and learning from Professor Hallett as she imparts skills critical to this important and growing field of legal practice.”

Early in the quarter, their first client-intake meetings still ahead, Hallett led her students through simulations aimed at introducing them to common challenges. She played the role of an asylum seeker—a fictional Central American immigrant named Natasha—throwing interpersonal curveballs as the students practiced their interviews. In one scenario, she talked too much, leading the conversation off course as the students worked to steer her back to her case.

In another, Hallett repeatedly questioned the students’ motives (“Why are you helping me if I’m not giving you money?”) and refused to discuss important details, her voice rising as the students tried to quell her discomfort.

“We know these are difficult things to talk about, but we’re here to help,” Rebecca Ritchie, ’20, said as she, Cedeño, and Victor Hollenberg, ’21, attempted to gather information and explain the legal process to Hallett’s character, all while creating a calm and trusting environment.

Cedeño tried sharing his own history at one point: “I also happen to be an immigrant,” he said, looking Hallett in the eye. “If it ever helps, I’m happy to talk about my own transition.”

Later, the group would reflect on the exercise: the students wishing they had struck a better balance between getting to know “Natasha” and gathering information about her claim, and Hallett encouraging their attempts at compassion and connection.

This, she said, is an important part of the work. “You don’t have to be a robot when you’re a lawyer,” she said. “You can relate as a human being.”

Hallett learned this in law school, as a student in the Yale immigration clinic that ultimately inspired her future career path. (“I knew I wanted to be a clinical professor from basically the moment that I knew the job existed,” Hallett has said.) Her first client was an asylum seeker from Kenya who had been a victim of female genital mutilation, and it was Hallett’s professor who taught her the skills she needed to navigate and build the relationship.

Her professor, she said, made her “the lawyer I am today” and also planted a seed. Clinical teaching offers the opportunity not only to shape a future generation of lawyers, but to witness some of their formative experiences.
particularly as they learn to build relationships with clients. “I will always remember how I felt when we won [that first case in law school]—there is something unique about that first experience,” Hallett said. “So many of the students will develop really close relationships with their first clients and then remember that for their whole career. I’m trying to get them to think about what kind of relationship they want to have with the client, and how they’ll set themselves up to pursue that successful relationship.”

Client relationships, she noted, are critical in any type of litigation—but they take on an added layer of importance in immigration law.

“Many of the people that we’re representing do come from backgrounds where they haven’t encountered lawyers before—this may be the first time they’re ever in court, and they may not understand how the system works, they may not speak the language,” Hallett said. “Being their lawyer is about more than just presenting their case in court. You are essentially their liaison to that entire system.”

That can be particularly difficult for students who are just learning the system themselves, she added.

“You actually have to understand to an even greater degree what’s happening in order to explain it to someone else who knows even less than you,” Hallett said. “But having to make those connections with somebody actually leads to a deeper base of knowledge.”

Hallett aims to expose students to a variety of experiences: developing claims and defenses; drafting complaints; engaging in motion practice and settlement discussions; appearing in federal, state, and administrative courts; and briefing and arguing appeals. In the policy and community education projects, students may develop and conduct community presentations, draft and advocate for legislation at the state and local levels, and provide support to immigrants’ rights organizations.

“I’m a firm believer that students are capable of so much more than they think,” Hallett said. “I treat my clinic students like junior attorneys. It can be uncomfortable at first to run their own cases, which they do with my support, but that’s what it’s like to be a lawyer.”

Ritchie, who entered law school with a growing interest in immigration and related issues, emerged from the first clinic class excited about the work and eager to learn from Hallett’s experience. Ritchie had pursued transactional work as a student in the Law School’s Corporate Lab; the Immigrant Rights’ Clinic offered a chance to gain
litigation experience and to delve into an area of law she had explored as an intern at the National Immigrant Justice Center and as a member of the International Refugee Assistance Project, which has a student organization chapter at the Law School.

Hallett (left) said she has wanted to be a clinical law professor from “the moment I knew the job existed.”

“The projects [Hallett] described sound challenging and fulfilling, and I think I’m going to learn a lot,” she said. “It will also be great to have a relationship with someone who has in-depth experience in immigration work and can answer questions about my career path going forward.”

Before joining the faculty at Buffalo in 2016, Hallett co-taught the Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic at Yale Law School and, before that, the Community Development and Economic Justice Clinic at NYU School of Law. Much of her research has focused on the intersection of immigration, labor, and employment law, and at Buffalo she founded and directed the Community Justice Clinic (CJC), which represented low-income residents of Buffalo on issues related to immigration, workers’ rights, civil rights, and housing. Early on, she identified a gap in representation in western New York: the needs of rural immigrants, many of them farmworkers, often weren’t met adequately by many of the city-focused programs in Buffalo. In addition to projects aimed at that population, the clinic was instrumental in helping form the nonprofit Justice for Migrant Families, Buffalo’s first organization devoted to supporting the area’s undocumented population. Hallett also founded the school’s “pop-up” US-Mexico Border Clinic, which took students to the southern border to represent asylum seekers.

In addition to her JD, Hallett earned a master’s degree in refugee studies at the University of Oxford, where she received the Gilbert Murray Trust Fellowship, which is awarded to a student pursuing United Nations–related research, and a bachelor’s degree from DePauw University, where she earned a full-tuition scholarship and a host of other awards.

After college graduation, she served as a Luce Scholar for the National Human Rights Commission of Korea in Seoul, where she worked as a human rights researcher and United Nations liaison.

“My time in South Korea was the first time that I had had the chance to work on refugee issues—and it was also the first time I’d lived as an immigrant in another country,” Hallett said. “It was a very challenging and very rewarding year, and I came back with strong interest in immigration and refugee law.”

Those interests continued to grow at Oxford and then at Yale Law School, where she signed up for the immigration clinic that inspired both her love of client representation and her interest in law school clinical work.

“I learned, really for the first time, that there was this amazing job called ‘clinical law professor’ that would allow me to engage intellectually with the ideas I was interested in while still keeping one foot in the world of practice,” Hallett said. “The icing on the cake was that I would get to teach, too.”

After graduation, Hallett clerked for Judge Mark R. Kravitz on the US District Court for the District of Connecticut and for Judge Rosemary S. Pooler on the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. As a Skadden Fellow beginning in 2010, she represented victims of human trafficking and labor exploitation at the Community Development Project of the Urban Justice Center in New York.

Hallett said she was drawn to the Law School in part by the overall strength and size of its clinical program. In her first weeks in Chicago, she said her new colleagues and other members of the community offered her “an extremely warm welcome.”

“Nicole has been a tremendous addition to the clinical program,” said Jeff Leslie, the director of clinical and experiential learning, a clinical professor of law, the Paul J. Tierney director of the Housing Initiative, and faculty director of curriculum.

“She an enthusiastic and effective advocate, a devoted teacher, and a strategic thinker with a deep understanding of both immigration law and clinical legal education,” he added. “We are excited to have her as a colleague and thrilled that our students will have the opportunity to learn from her.”
CODE PÉNAL

COMMENTAIRES IMAGÉS
DE
Joseph Lémard

Éditions Littéraires de France
Paris
The Cartoonists’ Guide to Law

The D’Angelo Law Library’s New Collection of Illustrated Legal Codes Offers Insight into Statutes and Society

By Becky Beaupre Gillespie

At first glance, the cartoon in the French law book on Lyonette Louis-Jacques’s desk in the D’Angelo Law Library seems almost funny, in a banana-peel-pratfall kind of way.

For starters, there’s actually a banana peel in the picture, two slippery slivers making their mischief beneath the foot of a well-dressed redhead. She’s knocking her elbow back protectively as she tumbles—skirt lifting, purse flying—into the man beside her. Like a domino, he’s pitching forward, his hands thrust outward and his chapeau tossed upward.

Comedy, right? Except the scene is meant to depict involontairement un homicide, which means that someone is about to die—and someone else is unintentionally at fault. It seems likely that the man is the one mortally doomed; his lurch has propelled him toward a third pedestrian—and directly into the sharp tip of a walking cane. Worse, the instrument has dislodged his eye, which is now impaled on its tip like a campfire marshmallow.

“It took me a while to realize that this guy’s cane was poking through this other guy’s eye,” Louis-Jacques, the D’Angelo Law Library’s foreign and international law librarian, said. “There’s so much going on here.”

So much, in fact, that the accident’s cause—and the proper distribution of blame—is unclear, which seems both puzzling and appropriate for a drawing that is accompanied by a French description of involuntary manslaughter and the accompanying criminal penalties.

This, of course, is part of the intrigue.

The book, published in Paris in about 1929, is an illustrated copy of the French criminal code by the early-20th-century cartoonist Joseph Hémard, who was popular at the time. And Louis-Jacques, who was drawn to the visual and humorous mode of interpreting law, had worked particularly hard to find it. It now resides in the D’Angelo’s new and growing collection of illustrated law books. The Code pénal, like other Hémard books that she’s acquired—including the Code civil, an illustrated French civil code published in 1925, and the Code général des impôts directs et taxes assimilées, a lengthy, illustrated French tax code published in 1944—is rife with nuance, social commentary, and a depiction of the law that transcends language and culture.

“It’s a way of telling stories about the law and opening up people’s minds,” said Louis-Jacques, who became
interested in the genre when she saw a rare books display featuring some of Hémard’s work at a conference. “The illustrations are humorous, and sometimes they’re scandalous, and often they’re thought-provoking.”

“**These illustrations do more than show the code. ... they show an understanding of how complicated the law can be.**”

She loved the idea that the illustrations might start a conversation or pique a student’s interest in an area of law, and she was intrigued by their ability to express both the happenstance of the human condition and the complexity of law.

Take, for instance, the scene with the skewered eye. Assuming the tumbling man is the one to expire, who bears responsibility for his death? The woman, for clumsily pushing him into the cane? An unknown, or unseen, banana eater, for dropping the peel? The man with the cane, for brandishing his walking aid so recklessly?

“Look at this guy’s nose,” Louis-Jacques said, pointing to the cane bearer’s flushed face and reddened nose. “Is he drunk? Is that why he’s unaware? And look at the woman—who’s responsible if she dies?”

And what if the scene is meant to be understood in reverse, with the cane, rather than the peel, setting everything in motion? What if the cane has propelled the injured man backward, into the woman and toward the banana peel? And what if the man with the cane is actually drunk? What if he only appears to be drunk? What if they’re all drunk?

“These illustrations do more than show the code,” Louis-Jacques said. “They take it a bit further; they show an understanding of how complicated the law can be.”

Which is what makes them such a welcome addition to the library’s collection, D’Angelo Law Library Director Sheri Lewis said.
Art. 143. — Secret professionnel.

Art. 142. — Les reclamations relatives aux impôts et taxes visés aux titres Ier à IV et VI ci-dessus sont présentées, en matière de contributions directes.

Art. 143. — Si l’un des deux est mort, ou s’il est dans l’impossibilité de manifester sa volonté, le consentement du père suffit.

Art. 149. — Si le père et la mère sont morts, ou s’il est dans l’impossibilité de manifester leur consentement, le consentement du tiers est requis.

Art. 147. — Si le père et la mère sont morts, ou s’il est dans l’impossibilité de manifester leur consentement, le consentement du tiers est requis.
“Understanding the story behind a legal question is essential for interpreting and applying the law,” Lewis said. “While law books are filled with such stories, they very rarely include illustrations that depict the legal situations discussed. These rare books offer a unique and colorful way for a reader to connect with the law. We are delighted to have them in our collection.”

So far, the D’Angelo’s collection of cartoon-illustrated law books is small—there are only about a dozen—because finding them isn’t always easy.

“They aren’t always described in a way we can easily call up,” Louis-Jacques said. “They aren’t usually listed as ‘cartoon-illustrated law codes.’ There is the subheading ‘caricatures and cartoons’, but that is rarely added to law books in the library catalog unless expressly requested.”

Law books, she added, aren’t generally illustrated, so it’s easy to overlook the illustrations unless they are well integrated into the text, as the Hémard books are.

Right now, the collection is anchored by the Hémard volumes, although Louis-Jacques has also acquired a French traffic code, the Code de la route, and a French tax code, the Code des impôts, both published in the late 1950s and illustrated by Albert Dubout, as well as more recent volumes like Le nouveau code pénal illustré (The new illustrated penal code), which was illustrated by Francis Le Gunehec and published in 1996. There’s also a 1944 volume illustrated by Hémard and authored by the celebrated French writer Honoré de Balzac, titled the Code des gens honnêtes, ou l’art de ne pas être dupe des fripons (roughly translated as the Code of honest people, or the art of not being tricked by swindlers).

“That’s not a law code—it’s a behavior code aimed at gentlemen of the time,” Louis-Jacques said. “Balzac wrote it in 1845 and then Hémard illustrated it in 1944. There were only 800 copies made and the D’Angelo has one of them.”

There are many others Louis-Jacques hopes to acquire—an illustrated Brazilian penal code and an illustrated French tourism code among them—and she enjoys blending her language and research skills to hunt for the volumes, waiting to see if one ends up listed on a library sale or an estate auction.

Eventually, she hopes to create an exhibit that offers additional context for the volumes, including historical information about the illustrators and the time periods in which they were published. She’s curious whether Hémard’s own biases and prior experiences—and even his lack of legal training—might have influenced his interpretation of the law and his artistic choices.

The works, she notes, make the law accessible by appealing to universal themes. In the Code civil, there’s a cartoon depicting a woman trying hard to keep a man from running toward another woman; one doesn’t need to read French
to recognize the depiction of marital infidelity. In the
tax code book—the volume for which Hémard was most
famous—a worried-looking man runs from a judge.
“This is tax law in France, but there are the same sort
of issues and the same sort of attempts to avoid paying
taxes,” Louis-Jacques said with a laugh.
And then there’s simply the ability of the books to lure
one into thinking about the law.
Louis-Jacques held up a plain book and a copy of
the Code pénal, which features on its cover a colorful
cartoon of a man with an axe in his head pointing at a
man with a smoking gun who appears to be fleeing winged
creatures, one of whom is carrying the scales of justice.
“If I showed you both of these,” she said, displaying
both, “which one are you more likely to open?”

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**CODE CIVIL**

LIVRE PREMIER
DES PERSONNES

TITRES

V. Du mariage.
VI. Du divorce.
VII. De la paternité.
VIII. De l’adoption.
IX. De la puissance paternelle.
X. De la minorité.

ILLUSTRATIONS EN COULEURS DE
JOSEPH HÉMARD
RENÉ KIEFFER, RELIEUR-ÉDITEUR
18, RUE SÉGUER, PARIS

**CODE GÉNÉRAL DES IMPÔTS DIRECTS ET TAXES ASSIMILÉES**

ILLUSTRE PAR
JOSEPH HÉMARD

AUX DÉPENDES
DES ÉDITIONS LITTÉRAIRES ET ARTISTIQUES
ET DE LA LIBRAIRIE “LE TRIPTYQUE”
SITIÉS À PARIS
When Uber came on the scene, Professor Todd Henderson began to revise some of his thinking on cooperation and regulation. For starters, the popularity of the ride-hailing app seemed to contradict a prevailing narrative about the decline of trust in American society: Sure, people might be losing confidence in government and the media, but millions of times every day they were accepting rides from strangers who hadn’t been vetted by the government taxi commission. In fact, technology-assisted cooperation had skyrocketed in several areas of public life—people were trading value with Bitcoin, renting houses on Airbnb, and buying stuff from strangers on eBay and Craigslist.

“We are cooperating at levels that would have been unfathomable 50 years ago,” said Henderson, the Michael J. Marks Professor of Law. “We’re at the very genesis, I think, of a really big change.”

Trust, Henderson realized as he began talking to then-colleague Salen Churi, the Law School’s former Innovation Clinic director, wasn’t plummeting; it was at an all-time high. The market for creating it was merely shifting—in some arenas at least—from centralized institutions to the public at large, thanks to innovative platforms that used algorithms and digital networks to incentivize good behavior and offer consumers oversight, control, and even channels for resolving disputes.

It’s a development with enormous potential, Henderson and Churi argue in a new book, The Trust Revolution: How the Digitization of Trust Will Revolutionize Business and Government. It’s one that could unleash unprecedented human cooperation, reframe fundamental political debates about the role of government, and lead to a competitive global system of decentralized “microregulators” in which trust is created by the entity best suited to the job.

One feature of that change is something Henderson had never expected to favor: increased regulation. “Uber actually provides more regulation than the taxi commission,” Henderson said. And that’s what Uber and its competitors sell, he noted: It isn’t rides—drivers sell those—it’s the ability to trust the driver, thanks to systems for rating drivers, mapping rides, and resolving disputes.

“And I’m OK with that because I’m confident that the amount of regulation is actually linked to the demand for regulation,” he said. “As our society gets richer and more complex, people want more heavily regulated experiences. And this was the big conceptual shift for us: it’s not about there being too much regulation—if anything, there’s too much government regulation—it’s about who provides the regulation. And if we start thinking about regulation in that way, that changes our political debates, too.”

Throughout the book, Henderson, ’98, and Churi, ’11, the founder of a venture capital fund that invests in start-ups operating in heavily regulated industries, link trust and regulation, and they note the correlation between high levels of interpersonal trust and the wealth of a society. They also trace the history of trust markets—from medieval guilds to corporate brands to New Deal-era administrative agencies—to illustrate how the channels enabling people to cooperate outside of their.
family-and-friend networks have changed over time. For instance, consumers for years have relied on
government agencies to protect their interests: certifying the
safety of their milk and ibuprofen, licensing their lawyers and
beauticians, and regulating their banks and hotels. And those
mechanisms have had their place and value, Henderson said.
“We can rethink what our government does to provide trust
without attacking it for what it has done to get us to this
point,” he and Churi write. But “what worked at one point
in our history does not necessarily work at other points.”
Despite the ongoing and inevitable clash between
companies like Uber and the government entities with
which they compete, Henderson believes that traditional
regulators may ultimately struggle to keep pace.

“The faster things can move and proliferate, the harder
they are to regulate,” he and Churi write.

But that doesn’t mean there won’t be areas in which
government regulation is the best option—or that
governments shouldn’t be free to compete with
microregulators. They simply shouldn’t have the monopoly
on regulation, the authors argue, because Internet
platforms often are more flexible, efficient, and democratic.
Uber, after all, is just one option right now: if it isn’t
meeting needs, riders can switch to Lyft or return to the
government-regulated option and hail a yellow cab.

“People say the Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump
campaigns [are about giving] power to the people,” Henderson
said. “The real power to the people—it’s eBay, it’s Uber.”

New Project Offers Tools for Examining Global Competition Laws and Policy

Two leading scholars from the University of Chicago
Law School and Columbia Law School have released the
world’s most comprehensive collection of competition laws
and enforcement practices to date, providing researchers,
lawyers, journalists, and policymakers with new tools to
assess the economic impact of these laws across borders.

Competition laws, the term used for antitrust laws in
most of the world, have proliferated across the globe over
the past three decades as international institutions and
governments have looked to regulations as a means to
enhance competitiveness and market performance—a
strategy that has become a growing topic of debate among
economists. But until now there has been limited data
available to systematically compare regulatory regimes
across countries, determine which factors lead to the
adoption of competition laws, and what effects these laws
have on market outcomes, say University of Chicago Law
Professor Adam Chilton and Columbia’s Anu Bradford.

The ambitious, five-year project draws on new data
on the evolution of competition laws and offers several
publicly accessible sets of data including the Comparative
Competition Law dataset, which compiles competition
laws from more than 120 countries from 1889 to 2010,
and the Comparative Competition Enforcement dataset,
which provides data on the resources and activities of the
government agencies charged with enforcing competition
law in 100 jurisdictions from 1990 to 2010. In addition,
Bradford and Chilton have also used these data to develop
the Competition Law Index, which provides a single
measure of the stringency of countries’ competition laws
from 1889 to 2010.

Chilton and Bradford’s work highlights the rapid growth
in competition laws in recent decades. It also suggests
that while the “Chicago School” of economics has heavily
influenced antitrust regulation and enforcement in the
United States, the Chicago School’s ideas have had a much
more modest influence around the rest of the world.

The data can be downloaded at
http://comparativecompetitionlaw.org/data/. Access is
free, but Bradford and Chilton ask users to provide a name
and email address so they can share changes and additions
to the data. Codebooks and other relevant files are also
available for download. Feedback and questions can be
sent to info@comparativecompetitionlaw.org.
Books by Alumni Published 2019

Patrick Barry, ’12
Good with Words: Writing and Editing (Michigan Publishing Services)
Barry’s book brings together a collection of concepts, exercises, and examples designed to improve the ability to communicate persuasively in writing and the advocacy skills of people pursuing careers in many fields—from law to marketing, management to medicine.

Charles Bush, ’67
Houseboat Wars (Moonshine Cove Publishing)
In this novel set in the late 1970s in Marin County, California, a young Legal Aid attorney plunges into battles that erupt over attempts to evict hundreds of people, mostly young and rebellious, living in houseboats.

Thomas A. Cole, ’75
CEO Leadership: Navigating the New Era in Corporate Governance (University of Chicago Press)
This straightforward and accessible guide to navigating corporate governance today explores the recurring question of whose benefit a corporation should be governed for, along with related matters of corporate social responsibility.

Ron Cope, ’63
Written for municipal officials involved in the zoning process, this book provides guidelines to the complex philosophical, social, and economic questions frequently asked during the decision-making process.

Michael Faure, ’85
Smart Mixes for Transboundary Environmental Harm (Cambridge University Press) (edited with Judith van Erp, André Nollkaemper, and Niels Philipsen)
This work offers a multidisciplinary approach to legal and policy instruments used to prevent and remedy global environmental challenges. The book’s central focus is an examination of the use of mixes between different types of regulatory and policy instruments and different levels of governance.

The authors provide a detailed overview of how a law-and-economics framework can be used to protect the environment, and also to examine deeper questions involving environmental federalism and the effectiveness of environmental law in developing economies.

Scott Gaille, ’95
Strange Tales of World Travel (Travelers’ Tales) (with Gina Gaille)
Everyone has a story, and some are truly extraordinary. Gina and Scott Gaille have traveled to more than 100 countries, including many off-the-beaten-path places in Africa, South America, and Asia, and have collected 50 of their best stories.

Al Hirshen, ’64
The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Man (Amazon.com Services) (with Renate Stendhal)
Hirshen’s autobiography covers his childhood in the Bronx, his experiences as a civil rights and pioneering anti-poverty lawyer, and his life as a world traveler with a global practice.

Linda Hirshman, ’69
Reckoning: The Epic Battle against Sexual Abuse and Harassment (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
Hirshman, historian of social movements, delivers the story of the struggle leading up to #MeToo and beyond: from the first tales of workplace harassment percolating to the surface in the 1970s to the Clinton/Lewinsky scandal to the downfall of Harvey Weinstein.

Gerald Hochschild, ’85
Ich suchte Gott und fand das Leben (I was in search of God and found life) (TimEdition)
Hochschild’s autobiography recounts his soul-searching journey through an island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, an idyllic place in Sweden, the sunny side of the Rhone Valley, and more.

James B. Jacobs, ’73
The Toughest Gun Control Law in the Nation: The Unfulfilled Promise of New York’s SAFE Act (NYU Press) (with Zoe Fuhr)
The authors provide a comprehensive assessment of gun reform legislation with recommendations for better design, implementation, and enforcement, illuminating the gap between gun control on the books and gun control in action.

Tom Jacobs, ’87
How to Retire on Dividends: Earn a Safe 8%, Leave Your Principal Intact (The Marfa Group) (with Brett Owens)
The authors provide a method for obtaining up to 8 percent annual dividend yields without reducing principal or taking on unnecessary risk.

Julie Justicz, ’88
Degrees of Difficulty (Fomite)
After Ben Novotny is born with a rare chromosomal disorder that produces profound mental disability and brain-racking seizures, his parents and their two other children are asked to give more than they have. This novel follows each family member through several decades.

Kim Kamin, ’97
This newest edition discusses estate planning issues with a particular focus on how they apply to modern families, including topics such as planning for nonmarital children, polyamorous relationships, pets, cryptocurrencies, modern philanthropy, and more.

Mary Kancewick, ’80 (writing as Mar Ka)
Be-hooved (University of Alaska Press)
This poetry collection creates a layered spiritual memoir of Ka’s decades in the northern wilderness. The poems inhabit her surroundings, structured along the seasons and the migration patterns of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.
Jennifer Wisner Kelly, ’96
Stone Skimmers (BkMk Press)
This set of linked short stories follows a splintered clique of teenagers into adulthoods rife with isolation and loss, exploring the lives of those who stayed in the sheltered world of their childhoods and the challenges faced by those who chose to leave

Judith Weinshall Liberman, ’54
Sarah and Her Grandma (Dog Ear Publishing)
Miriam’s Diary (Dog Ear Publishing)
Dad’s Desk (Dog Ear Publishing)
Prolific author and artist Liberman continues to publish art books and children’s picture books. Information about her art and her many published works can be found at jliberman.com.

Geoffrey W. R. Palmer, ’67
The new edition of this classic coursebook has been extensively revised to include an introduction to international law through examining the legal dimensions of several real-world environmentally related conflicts.

Roger Price, ’68
When Judaism Meets Science (Wipf and Stock)
This book explores how scientific discoveries impact Judaism’s foundational texts, what Judaism and science have to say to each other about contemporary issues, and whether new scientific developments might affect Jewish thought in the future.

William J. “Bill” Reinke, ’65
A Hoosier Trial Lawyer’s Notebook (Hawthorne Publishing)
In this case notebook, one of Indiana’s top trial lawyers tells the story of many of the most interesting trials in which he participated for his law firm, from sensational and highly publicized cases to the cases of ordinary farm and small-town people seeking justice.

Richard Roddewig, ’74
Corridor Valuation: An Overview and New Alternatives (Appraisal Institute)
Roddewig uses the collected personal experiences and insights of experienced professionals to explore the controversial issues surrounding railroad corridors.

David M. Rubenstein, ’73
The American Story: Conversations with Master Historians (Simon & Schuster)
Best-selling and Pulitzer Prize–winning authors offer fresh insight on pivotal moments from the Founding Era to the late 20th century in these lively dialogues with Rubenstein.

The Oxford Handbook of Fiduciary Law (Oxford University Press) (edited with Evan J. Criddle and Paul B. Miller)
This resource for practitioners, policymakers, scholars, and students provides a comprehensive overview of critical topics in fiduciary law and theory through chapters authored by leading scholars.

Charles H. Troe, ’72
We Are That We Are: Theism, Spiritualism, Naturalism, and a Path to Spiritual Existentialism (Amazon.com Services)
The author discusses the Christianity of his youth, a long period of agnosticism, and his spiritual awakening in connection with recovery from alcoholism, followed by his understanding and embrace of naturalism.

Howard M. Turner, ’59
Written by an expert in mechanics lien laws with over 50 years of experience, this book provides a straightforward explanation of mechanics lien law and a starting point for legal research and acquiring a deeper understanding.

Asma T. Uddin, ’05
Uddin explores the threat to religious freedom in the United States through the prism of attacks on the constitutional rights of American Muslims, outlining a way forward for individuals and communities navigating today’s culture wars.

Franklin E. Zimring, ’67
American Juvenile Justice (2nd edition, Oxford University Press)
Focusing on the principles and policy of a separate and distinct system of juvenile justice, this book argues for a penal policy that recognizes diminished responsibility and a youth policy that emphasizes the benefits of letting the maturing process continue with minimal interruption.

D’Angelo Law Library Featured in New Book on South Side Architecture

The D’Angelo Law Library is featured on the front cover of a new book by photographer and writer Lee Bey, a former Chicago Sun-Times architecture critic. Southern Exposure: The Overlooked Architecture of Chicago’s South Side (Northwestern University Press, 2019), takes readers on a tour of about 60 sites throughout the South Side, highlighting lesser-known work by Jeanne Gang and Frank Lloyd Wright, as well as work by pioneering black architects such as Walter T. Bailey.

The D’Angelo, designed by famed architect Eero Saarinen and completed in 1959, is a “showstopper,” Bey writes, “with its crisp, undulating curtain wall of bluish glass that reads like the folds of an accordion’s bellows as it rises above a solid, Bedford limestone base.”

Bey said the publisher’s art director, Marianne Jankowski, had mocked up several potential covers for the book, and that the law library stood out.

“The clarity of the building’s design, the color, all made it a winner,” Bey said. “And as an added plus, Marianne was also able to use the building’s reflecting pool to create an effect of mirroring the book’s title in the water.”
A Message from the Associate Dean of External Affairs

Dear Alumni and Friends,

With your support, the University of Chicago Law School has made history through the University of Chicago Campaign: Inquiry and Impact. Your remarkable generosity and engagement contributes to the Law School’s legacy of excellence and unparalleled commitment to legal education. I am incredibly grateful to see the partnerships our alumni and friends have made with the Law School throughout the past eight years and the meaningful investment you have made in the institution.

Philanthropy plays a vital role in the life of the Law School. Each gift increases our ability to invest in the students, the faculty, and the programs and initiatives that make our Law School education unique. Gifts to the Law School have enabled us to foster an environment that transforms our students into legal scholars who will make a lasting impact in the legal field and beyond.

From experiential learning to our commitment to rigorous debate, the Law School continues to challenge our students during their time at the Law School. These opportunities would not be possible without the support and involvement of our alumni and friends. We are so thankful for your many contributions and your dedication to the success of the Law School. As you read the pages of The Record, when you see a graduation picture, or when you join us for Reunion Weekend, be reminded of our thanks, but most importantly, please know you make the Law School’s achievements possible.

Warmest regards,

Carolyn M. Grunst
Associate Dean of External Affairs

LAW SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND

The Law School Annual Fund allows flexibility to address emerging needs and provides valuable support for the students, faculty, and programs that continue to make Chicago such an exceptional place.

Your gift to the Annual Fund helps the Law School:

• Attract and retain the world’s best legal minds,
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• Teach students effective advocacy skills and professional ethics, and enable them to serve underrepresented communities through our renowned clinical program, and
• Support more than 60 student organizations, student-edited journals, and other important resources.

By contributing to the Law School Annual Fund each year, you can assist in every aspect of life at the Law School.
Kraus-Weigle Fund Stems from an Entire Family’s Commitment to Public Service

For more than 30 years, Douglas Kraus, ’73, and his wife, Alice Weigle Kraus, have generously supported a fund that provides financial support to students and graduates who take public interest jobs. Last year the Kraus-Weigle Fund for Public Service enabled two students to accept summer positions, one at the child protection division of the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office and the other with the New Hampshire Public Defender’s office.

“Our family started this fund in 1989 as a way of honoring my father, a graduate of the College and the Law School who passed away that year, and also as a way to recognize and further my mother’s strong commitment to public service,” Alice said. Her mother, Helen, also a graduate of the College, had been president of the Illinois League of Women Voters, served on a presidential advisory council addressing the welfare of children and families, and cofounded the advocacy organization Voices for Illinois Children. Alice’s family also established the Maurice Weigle Exceptional Young Lawyer Award at the Chicago Bar Association to honor her father and grandfather (both of whom were named Maurice), which is given each year to an outstanding young lawyer with a demonstrated commitment to the profession, the organized bar, and the community. (Last year’s winner of the Maurice Weigle Award, David Pi, ’13, is profiled in this issue.)

Alice noted that her family has strong ties to UChicago—in all, 18 members of the extended Weigle family have earned degrees from the University.

Doug developed a strong interest in public service work during the course of his nearly 40-year career at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, where he chaired the pro bono committee for many years and led the firm’s trial team in a headline-making housing discrimination case against a New York City cooperative that refused to admit an interracial couple. He also served on the boards of the New York Legal Aid Society and New York Lawyers for the Public Interest. For the past 26 years, he has served as town justice in his hometown of Chappaqua, New York, in the hills of northern Westchester County. He was recently elected to a seventh four-year term as town judge, a position he describes as “the best job I’ve ever had.” He also serves on the boards of Northern Westchester Hospital and the Westchester Land Trust.

Doug has served on the Law School Council and cochaired many reunion committees. “My three years at the Law School were among the best three years of my life, although I probably didn’t fully appreciate that at the time,” he said, adding that “the faculty and my classmates were simply dazzling.” He and Alice were married several months before first-year classes began, and he credits her with helping him survive the rigors of his Law School years by insisting that he explain, at dinner each evening, what had happened in class that day, in plain English and without using any legal jargon.

Alice earned a master’s degree in social work while they were in Chicago. After a hiatus when the couple were raising their two children, she returned to school to earn a second master’s degree, in museum education. In connection with her work for a museum near the couple’s home, she developed and continues to facilitate a visual-image-based program for people with dementia that uses artwork to stimulate thought and encourage conversation while validating the participants.

“Doug and I, and my sister, Babs Maltenfort, who also helped start this fund, are delighted to be able to help the exceptionally capable students of the Law School experience the satisfactions of public interest law,” Alice said. “We’re especially pleased that so many of them have found positions working to protect the rights and welfare of children, which was a such strong interest of my mother. Given Doug’s love for the Law School, and our desire to give something in return, establishing our public service fund was a great fit, and has provided a tremendous amount of satisfaction for us both.”
THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT

100% 1L and 2L summer employment in the summer of 2019

76 full-tuition or more scholarships

98% of the Class of 2018 employed (ten months after graduation)

115 clerkships in the 2018 term

34% of alumni donors are Dean’s Circle members

$5K guaranteed summer public-interest funding available to all students

8,948 3L student pro bono hours completed in the 2018–2019 academic year

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A Message of Thanks from our Students

“I am very grateful for my scholarship support that allows me to pursue this caliber of education. Attending such a prestigious law school has long been a dream of mine, and I am very appreciative of the people that have made that possible for me. I am certain I will put this support to good use as I bring my perspectives into the legal field.”
—Jocelyn Sitton ’21

“I’ve truly loved my three years at the University of Chicago. From the people I’ve met, to the classes I’ve taken, to the quality of the education I’ve received, I truly could not have asked for a better law school experience. And it was thanks to you that I’ve been able to do it. Going forward, I cannot wait to enter the legal profession, apply the skills I’ve learned, and give future students the same opportunity you have so graciously given me. Thank you.”
—Sarah Gaskell, ’20

“I would not be at the University of Chicago without their generosity, and while it can be easy to get wrapped up in the frenzy and stress of day-to-day life here, the magnitude of the good fortune I have stumbled upon has not been lost on me. The past two and a half years have been quite difficult but extraordinarily rewarding, and though I look forward to life after law school using what I’ve learned here, I already know that these three years will be some of the most special of my life. And I am incredibly grateful for that gift. Thank you.”
—Jessica Lee, ’21

“Thank you very much for your support. From a young age, my dream was to attend law school—and receiving a scholarship from UChicago Law made that possible. I hope to one day support another aspiring lawyer the same way that you have supported me in fulfilling my dreams.”
—Chase Robinett, ’20

“Although my aspirations are to work in the private sector, the opportunity to work in public interest has inspired me to commit time to pro bono matters as a professional. The work I completed this summer gave me confidence in my ability to champion the government’s or individual’s interests. I look forward to future opportunities in public interest to apply my skills in varied ways and grow as an attorney. Thank you.”
—Julia Chiao, ’21
In Memoriam

1952
William C. Leiper
November 11, 2019
Leiper earned his undergraduate degree at Saint Mary’s College of California; he served in the US Army Air Corps and was stationed in India during World War II. He retired as general counsel of the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad and was a devoted fan of the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Notre Dame Fighting Irish. Leiper lived in Sewickley Heights, Pennsylvania.

Edwin P. Wiley
October 4, 2019
Wiley, who earned his undergraduate degree at the College, was editor of the Law Review. He spent his career at Foley & Lardner, where he was a partner and founded the intellectual property department. Wiley was known for his support of a wide range of civic, arts, and charitable organizations in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and was especially proud that he and his wife were honored with the Wisconsin Governor’s Award in Support of the Arts.

1953
Harry N. D. Fisher
November 19, 2019
Fisher earned his undergraduate degree at the College and served in the US Air Force after earning his JD. He practiced criminal defense law in St. Louis, Missouri, before becoming a principal in the public relations firm of Stemmler, Bartram, Fisher and Payne. Fisher was a scholar in residence at Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Israel, supported a number of arts organizations, and recorded more than 150 audiobooks for people with visual impairments. He lived in Kirkwood, Missouri.

1954
Arthur L. Content
July 9, 2019
A US Army veteran, Content was a senior partner at Arent, Fox, Kintner, Plotkin, and Kahn in Washington, DC, before starting his own firm, Content, Tatusko, and Patterson, specializing in real estate and tax law. He was a generous philanthropist and, after retiring, acted as a pro bono financial advisor for people with disabilities. Content loved sailing, playing tennis, and attending the ballet at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. He lived in Annapolis.

1956
Joan Levey Gutterman
August 16, 2019
Gutterman was a graduate of the College as well as the Law School. She lived in Highland Park, Illinois.

Marco F. Weiss
July 24, 2019
Weiss earned his bachelor’s degree at the University of California–Berkeley. He and his wife were avid travelers who lived and worked in Chicago, Los Angeles, Russia, the UK, and France. Weiss’s other interests included opera, food, and Jewish culture; he was also an active, longtime supporter of many cultural and social service organizations in Chicago and Los Angeles.

1957
Miriam L. Chesslin
July 26, 2019
Chesslin served as a clerk on the Kansas Supreme Court before working as an attorney at New York City law firms; later, she practiced public interest law and retired as an environmental litigator at the US Department of Justice in Washington, DC. A lifelong activist, she championed causes that were important to her and joined her granddaughters in marching on Washington in 2017.

Harry J. Holmes
June 29, 2019
Holmes was a graduate of Carleton College and began his legal career in Zumbrota, Minnesota. In the early 1960s, he moved with his family to Colorado, where he served as a municipal judge, a prosecutor in the district attorney’s office, and a criminal defense attorney. Holmes was an art collector, a gourmet cook, and an avid bridge player; a lover of music, he sang tenor in his church choir. He lived in Longmont, Colorado.

David L. Servies
November 2, 2019
Servies served in the US Army before earning his JD. He worked for many years at Seattle First National Bank, where he was regional vice president of the trust department, before joining First Trust Company of Montana, from which he retired as president. Servies loved the outdoors, traveling, and collecting stamps. He lived in Billings, Montana.

1958
John G. Satter Jr.
July 8, 2019
Satter was a founding director of Attorneys’ Title Guaranty Fund, which provides services for attorneys assisting clients with real estate transactions, and worked there from 1964 to 2001. He lived in Northbrook, Illinois.
1960
Edward T. O’Dell Jr.
October 7, 2019
O’Dell won a full scholarship to Brown University, where he earned his undergraduate degree, and worked for the Securities and Exchange Commission after earning his JD. He later became a partner at Goodwin Procter in Boston and founded that firm’s investment management practice. O’Dell was a volunteer mentor with SCORE, an organization that supports entrepreneurs; he loved to travel, shoot pool, and play cards. He lived in Westwood, Massachusetts.

1961
Edwin L. Emerick Jr.
October 28, 2019
Emerick was a Baker Scholar at Reed College in Portland, Oregon, and after earning his JD was a teaching fellow at the New York University School of Law. He practiced law in Seattle’s University District for 52 years.

M. Leslie Kite
December 6, 2017
Kite, who also earned his bachelor’s degree and an MBA from the University, was a business litigation attorney in Chicago.

1963
Thayer C. Lindauer
September 26, 2019
Lindauer was a graduate of the College as well as the Law School. He had a private law practice for more than 50 years, where he practiced corporate law with a specialty in serving multilevel marketing firms in the US and worldwide. Passionate about politics, reading, and history, Lindauer lived in Glendale, Arizona.

1965
Phillip E. Johnson
November 2, 2019
Johnson earned his undergraduate degree at Harvard University and clerked for Chief Justice of the United States Earl Warren; he later taught law at the University of California–Berkeley. He was the author of a number of textbooks on criminal law and of *Darwin on Trial*, a key text of the “intelligent design” movement, and helped launch the Torrey Honors Institute at Biola University. Johnson was a resident of Berkeley, California.

1966
Elbert J. Kram
September 20, 2019
Kram held an LLM in business and taxation from Capital University. A trial lawyer, associate, and partner in the Columbus, Ohio, law firm of Bricker & Eckler, he was the first chairman of the Ohio Supreme Court Commission on Continuing Legal Education and cofounder of the Volunteer Resource Center of the Legal Aid Society of Columbus. He volunteered for a number of legal and arbitration organizations, as well as his church, and was a history and railroad enthusiast.

Henry A. Waller
January 10, 2020
Waller was active in the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation in Evanston, Illinois, and volunteered in its soup kitchen; he also supported a number of civic and social service organizations. He lived in Evanston.

1967
James L. Billinger
June 29, 2019
Billinger earned an undergraduate degree at Regis College and a JD at the University of Denver before enrolling in the Law School’s Foreign Law Program, where he completed his MCL. He joined the staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation, a nonpartisan committee of the US Congress, as a legislation attorney and later became a refund attorney there. He was a longtime resident of Vienna, Virginia.

Thomas R. Shanle
December 11, 2019
Shanle joined Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) after graduating from the Law School, serving as a staff attorney at the Santa Cruz County Legal Aid Society and as a research attorney for the California District Court of Appeal in Sacramento. Afterward, he worked in private practice and for Comerica Bank until his retirement. Shanle was a lifelong athlete who also loved to travel, cook, and read; he lived in Santa Cruz, California.

1970
Anita L. Glasco
September 4, 2019
A graduate of the University of Southern California who earned a JD at Harvard University, Glasco was a Ford Foundation Fellow while completing her MCL in the Foreign Law Program. She practiced contract law at the firm of Smith & Glasco and taught at Southwestern Law School, where she was the Irving D. and Florence Rosenberg Professor of Law before being named professor emeritus. She was inducted into the John M. Langston Bar Association of Los Angeles Hall of Fame.
1971  
James C. Prickett  
December 29, 2019  
Prickett lived in Alexander City, Alabama.

1973  
Simon H. Aronson  
December 10, 2019  
Aronson was a partner in the Chicago firm of Lord Bissell & Brook, where he practiced real estate law before retiring at age 55 to focus on magic. An accomplished magician who performed to earn tuition for his three University degrees, Aronson invented a number of intricate card tricks now performed by magicians worldwide. He also wrote a number of books about magic, including *The Aronson Approach* and *Art Decko—Compositions with Cards*. Aronson lived in Chicago.

1976  
Timothy G. Atwood  
July 12, 2019  
Atwood was a graduate of Wesleyan University and worked as a partner at Marsh, Day, and Calhoun in Bridgeport, Connecticut, before going into private practice. He focused primarily on legal issues in the firearms industry as well as commercial real estate law, personal injury, and workmen’s compensation. Atwood loved to sail, hunt, and fish.

1983  
David J. Landes  
September 13, 2019  
Landes left high school early to study in Israel at the Har Etzion yeshiva and went on to earn a BA in English literature from Columbia University as well as a PhD in anthropology from Princeton University. While Landes lived most of his life in New York City, he was a devoted fan of the 1990s Chicago Bulls.

1985  
David M. Dolan  
November 23, 2019  
Dolan earned a bachelor’s degree in economics at Duke University and a JD/MBA at U Chicago. He practiced corporate securities law at Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld in Dallas, Texas, and later served as in-house counsel at Kimberly-Clark, MobileStar, T-Mobile, and Dresser, Inc. Dolan was an audiophile and music lover who also loved playing the piano, downhill skiing, and reading. A longtime resident of Dallas, he moved to Connecticut in 2019.

1995  
Kimberly K. Rubel  
September 5, 2019  
A Chicago native, Rubel was a graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and spent her entire legal career with Drinker, Biddle, and Reath in Chicago, where she specialized in corporate and securities law. She was elected managing partner and held a number of other leadership positions within the firm, and was well known as a mentor to others.

2002  
Kevin L. Morris  
November 12, 2019  
Before earning his JD and joining the Chicago office of Kirkland & Ellis, where he was a corporate partner, Morris worked as a health care representative for Pfizer and as the director of fiscal management and planning at Illinois State University. At Kirkland, he worked in private equity and was a member of the firm’s diversity and inclusion committee; he was also a trustee of Butler University, his undergraduate alma mater.

2005  
Michael M. Giel  
January 9, 2019  
Giel served in the US Marine Corps and earned a bachelor’s degree in English at the University of South Florida. He clerked for Judge Emerson R. Thompson Jr. of Florida’s Fifth District Court of Appeals and practiced commercial litigation for several years before starting the Giel Family Law firm in Jacksonville, Florida. Giel also volunteered as a job coach at Catholic Charities of Jacksonville, helping job seekers polish their résumés and interview skills.

Sarah Fleisig Powers  
September 18, 2019  
Powers earned a BA in English literature at the University of Southern California. She worked as an attorney at Los Angeles–area firms including Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher; Wargo & French; and Eisner, where she was senior counsel.
Frank L. Ellsworth

October 20, 2019

Frank L. Ellsworth, a former assistant dean at the University of Chicago Law School whose book *Law on the Midway* chronicled the school’s early-20th-century founding, died peacefully at home on October 20. He was 76.

Ellsworth, whose decades-long career included top leadership roles at colleges in California as well as teaching, earned his PhD in the social sciences from the University of Chicago in 1976. He worked as the Law School’s assistant dean between 1971 and 1979, when he left to become the third president of Pitzer College, part of the Claremont College consortium in California. At age 36, he was the youngest president ever appointed to head a Claremont College.

Ellsworth devoted himself to meticulously studying the Law School’s early history, from the hiring of the first faculty to the University’s approach to legal education. His book, *Law on the Midway*, was published in 1977 by the University of Chicago Press.

“The Law School librarians really appreciated Frank’s detailed research for his book,” Wright said. “It is an invaluable resource for the fairly frequently asked questions about the founding of the Law School and the early faculty.”

Holly Davis, ’76, who succeeded Ellsworth as the Law School’s assistant dean for development and alumni relations, remembered Ellsworth as “a lovely, nice man.”

“He was a connector, kept in touch, and supportive after graduation,” Davis said. “The kind of person you were always delighted to see.”

While on staff at the Law School, Ellsworth also served as a lecturer in the University’s Social Sciences Collegiate Division. At Pitzer, he taught political science in addition to serving as president.

After leaving Pitzer, Ellsworth served for six years as the president of the Independent Colleges of Southern California and later served as interim president at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California; interim president at Sofia University in Palo Alto, California; president of endowments at Capital Research and Management Company; president of the Japan Society in New York; and founder and chairman of the board of Global Partners Institute, among other roles.

In addition to his PhD, Ellsworth earned a BA in English and religion at Case Western Reserve University in 1966, an MEd in the history of education at Pennsylvania State University in 1967, and an MA in language and literature at Columbia University in 1969. He received honorary degrees from the Art Center College of Design, Southwestern University School of Law, and Pepperdine University.

Added Judith Wright, a longtime D’Angelo Law Library director who retired in 2013: “I remember how popular Frank was with the students, attending student dinner parties, always a friendly, engaging person in the Green Lounge.”

At the Law School, Ellsworth focused on alumni relations and development. “He was a great colleague,” said Richard Badger, who retired from the Law School earlier this year after a 48-year career that included top roles in Law School admissions, student affairs, career services, and graduate programs. “He was always willing to consult on issues whether they were in his area of responsibility or not, and he was very attentive to our alumni.”

Frank Ellsworth (left) with Richard Badger.

Frank L. Ellsworth

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Class Notes Section – REDACTED

for issues of privacy
A Fair-Minded Judicial Career with Bipartisan Roots

Milan D. Smith Jr., ’69, has served on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit since 2006. He is widely described as a moderate conservative judge who has joined in decisions across the ideological spectrum. “As a judge, I just don’t have a political agenda,” he said. “I suspect that’s part of the reason why I was confirmed by the Senate in a 93-to-nothing vote.”

Moderate doesn’t mean bland. He began a 2012 dissent with a lithograph illustration from Gulliver’s Travels, showing Gulliver helplessly bound and at the mercy of Lilliputians, followed by the words “Here we go again.” In the dissent he discussed several Ninth Circuit decisions in environmental cases that he said “undermine the rule of law, and make poor Gulliver’s situation seem fortunate when compared to the plight of those entangled in the ligatures of new rules created out of thin air.” The US Supreme Court subsequently overturned one of those decisions, and a second case was withdrawn. “I wanted to get the Supreme Court’s attention, and I am informed that I did,” he recalled. “Part of any legacy I have on the bench is in the field of environmental law, where I believe I have been an important factor in nudging our court to follow actual statutes and regulations, and [to be] less likely to conjure environmental rules out of whole cloth.”

Until the time he was appointed to the court, Smith had practiced law at the California firm that he founded just three years after graduating from the Law School. He had started as an associate at O’Melveny & Myers, but soon found that he was bringing in work that he concluded he could just as well handle himself. “I’m very entrepreneurial by nature,” he said. “I was confident that I could build a successful firm.”

During the years that he was practicing law, he also held two significant state positions. As president and then general counsel of the Los Angeles State Building Authority from 1983 to 2006, he helped achieve on-time and on-budget construction of two major state office building projects. When he was vice chair of the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission (CFEHC), he took a bold step that he believes was ultimately instrumental in securing his judgeship. After California’s highest court ruled that CFEHC, an executive branch agency, could not award monetary damages to victims of sexual harassment, Smith helped obtain passage of legislation allowing litigants to opt out of the CFEHC process and segue into the judicial system instead. When California’s governor vetoed that bill, Smith resigned in protest even though the governor was from the same political party.

Fifteen years later, when he met with California Senator Barbara Boxer as she was evaluating judicial nominees, she took out a copy of his resignation letter. “She said in effect, ‘I wish you were a liberal Democrat, but I’m never going to get that from George Bush. Your resignation shows me that you believe in the rule of law, you have integrity, are fair minded, and are mindful of the persons intended to benefit from the laws applied by the FEHC. I would be pleased to support you,’” Smith recalled. “With support from her, my brother, and Senators Orrin Hatch and Ted Kennedy, my confirmation went smoothly after the White House nominated me.”

Bipartisanship might be in his genes. His brother Gordon was a Republican US senator and his father was chief of staff to President Eisenhower’s secretary of agriculture, while his mother’s side of the family, the Udalls and Lees, includes both Democratic and Republican representatives and senators. His second cousin, Rex E. Lee, a 1963 graduate of the Law School, became US solicitor general during Ronald Reagan’s presidency. “It was Rex who took me aside when he heard that I was thinking about going to law school and told me that UChicago was the only place to go,” Smith said. “That was very good advice, and I’m very grateful for the full-tuition scholarship that helped make it possible for me to follow it. The Law School started me on the path to a career I have thoroughly enjoyed.”

Parkinson’s disease. Unfortunately, he recently entered stage five and was in hospice care. For those of you who remember our classmate, who went to the gym and ran most days during our first year and lost 30 pounds, he stayed the same determined self for most of his life. While in stage four of Parkinson’s he began boxing and joined a choir. Both were things he had never tried before and that he hoped would help hold off this last stage. But it was not to be. Tom passed away on December 11, 2019.

Parting shots from your correspondent:
As you can see, we have reports from an active and interesting group of classmates. I hope that all will enjoy reading these so much that more will be inspired to submit contributions next time around. As a devout curmudgeon, it is difficult for me not to be cranky about those who cannot spare a few minutes to e-mail a short note. Personally, 2019 has been a very stimulating and active year for Anne and me and our family, and 2020 is shaping up to be another good one. Most importantly, we continue to be blessed with good health throughout all generations of our diverse family. I wish all of you well and hope that next time I reach out for contributions, all of you will respond.
A Technology and Business Career Yields a Second-Generation Legacy

Peter Altabet, ’83, has been the person in charge at some of the world’s biggest and best-known technology companies. Today, in addition to serving as chairman and CEO of one of those companies—Unisys—he is leading a broad and deep national effort to create a safe and secure Internet.

The first person in his family to have gone to college, Altabet came to the Law School with a business orientation inspired in part by his father, a Manhattan garment-industry executive who would discuss his daily business challenges with his family over dinner. “The law and economics orientation drew me to UChicago,” Altabet said, “and the quality of the faculty and students was pretty breathtaking. For most of my first year I wondered when the administration was going to realize the mistake they had made in admitting me. After a while, though, I got the hang of it.”

He clerked for a US federal appeals court judge after graduation and then worked for a year in New York before joining Hughes & Luce in Dallas. There his assignments included working on business and family legal matters of the legendary entrepreneur Ross Perot. He became the general counsel of Perot Systems in 1993 and was named the company’s president and CEO in 2004.

When Perot Systems was acquired by Dell in 2009, Altabet was put at the helm of the resulting business unit, Dell Services, which had nearly 45,000 employees. Charged with putting that division on a stable business footing, he had fulfilled that responsibility in 2011, and he soon moved on to take the top leadership roles at MICROS Systems, where he presided over the 2014 sale of that company to Oracle for more than five billion dollars. He joined Unisys as its CEO the next year and has led a resurgence of profitability at that venerable company.

He said that the Law School imparted a skill that has been fundamental to his accomplishments: “The Law School taught me how to go deep into a complex issue quickly, how to get to the essence of it with just a few questions. The companies I’ve led have been quite complex, providing multiple services and solutions across a very wide range of industries and geographic areas, and getting to the core of things fast has been an invaluable skill.”

He’s been applying that aptitude as cochair of the cybersecurity moonshot committee of the President’s National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee. The committee’s report and recommendations for creating a safe and secure Internet within 10 years were delivered to the White House in late 2018, and since then the committee has been convening experts to develop strategies and tactics to implement its recommendations.

“I have been honored to be part of this process because I don’t think that there is much that is more important than cybersecurity for our national security, social welfare, and sustained economic growth,” Altabet said. “We called what we are doing a ‘moonshot’ because, like President Kennedy’s commitment in the 1960s to land a man on the moon and bring him back safely within a decade, it’s going to require will, ingenuity, resources, and great skill to make it happen. Among other things, we have to address not only the threats we know, but ones we can’t even see today but will be coming.”

He is a member of the Law School Advisory Council, which he said has been not just an honor but also a source of great pleasure, since the council’s meetings give him an extra opportunity to visit his two children in Chicago. They both have ties to the Law School: daughter Hayley graduated in 2017 and is an associate at a Chicago firm, and son Will is in the class of 2021.

“To my mind, there isn’t a law school whose graduates are as well prepared and as sharp, and who consistently show the discipline and work ethic of UChicago graduates,” he said. “The Law School helped me enjoy a very fulfilling career, and my wife and I are thrilled that our daughter and son will have that same opportunity.”
A Passion for Trial Work, Baseball, and Giving Back

After ten years of handling complex cases as an Assistant United States Attorney, Lisa Noller, ’95, joined Foley & Lardner in 2010. She is national chair of the firm’s Government Enforcement, Defense, and Investigations practice. Since 2007, she also has been imparting her knowledge to students at the Law School through teaching a Federal Criminal Practice seminar and the Prosecution and Defense Clinic that she founded.

It’s not just knowledge that she’s imparting; it’s passion, too. “I love trial work,” she said. “To me, it’s the epitome of justice in action.” Her cases at the US Attorney’s Office included a 100-count racketeering case against car dealers who laundered drug money and sent the proceeds overseas to potential terrorist groups, and the first healthcare Anti-Kickback Statute trial in Chicago.

She was an original member of the select team created by US Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald to prosecute healthcare fraud. Before she left, she was a deputy chief in the Financial Crimes and Special Prosecutions section.

Noller serves on the Law School Council, has cochaired reunion committees, and is active in both the Women’s Mentoring Program and the Public Interest Faculty Mentor Program. The clinic that she founded provides two quarters of instruction from Noller and an experienced criminal defense attorney, accompanied by a supervised clinical placement in either a prosecutor’s office or a public defender’s office. She and her husband have made a gift to the Law School toward establishing a fund that will support students who are interested in prosecutorial jobs.

“Show me a way to give back to this law school, which has given me so much, and I’m going to be interested,” she said. “I came to UChicago with strong interest in being a litigator with a focus on social justice, figuring I would learn the rules and follow them. There came a moment of clarity for me, as I think comes to most UChicago students, when I understood what the faculty was teaching us—that rules are only part of what a good lawyer has to know and think about, sometimes a relatively small part. I transitioned from student to advocate when I started reasoning my way to the most just resolution, instead of simply following black-letter law and statutes. Once I grasped that concept, the Law School had succeeded in teaching me how to think like a lawyer.” Noller sees client advocacy as “the freedom to argue for just results and a galvanizing challenge to always bring your best to whatever you’re working on.”

Noller has long been a baseball fan, and she thinks that might have helped her get accepted to the Law School. When she interviewed with Dean Badger, she told him she had sold programs at Fenway Park during college, and they discussed baseball for most of the interview. For five years while she was at the US Attorney’s Office, she sold beer at White Sox games. “It’s tough to beat a side job that’s physically challenging, fun, and incorporates a lifelong hobby,” she observed.

Her client work at Foley & Lardner includes several disciplines, principally focused on defending clients under investigation for alleged healthcare and public corruption violations. She is also a member of the firm’s national management committee. Named by many publications as a top lawyer in healthcare, white-collar criminal defense, and government investigations, she was chosen for membership in the American College of Trial Lawyers in 2015.

“People sometimes ask me what I would be doing if I wasn’t a lawyer,” she said. “I can’t really even contemplate an answer to that. I’m fortunate to be able to get up every day and do something I love, and I’m so grateful to the Law School for showing me how to do it to the best of my ability.”

Thank you so much, Steve and Meg, for sharing those words with us. We miss you, Kim. We will all have an opportunity to remember Kim at Reunion together.

Other classmates also wrote in to share news of the past few months, including some who will likely miss the upcoming reunion. Brad Denton writes: “Family is doing great. We have 10 grandkids now, and they’re way, WAY better than regular kids. Plus, you take them to the beach once a year and they think you’re a genius. Some of you knew my wife Jenny. She’s now working on her second master’s degree, this one in English literature from Harvard. (Hooray frequent flyer miles!) By the time you read this, she’ll be mostly done with her thesis.

“In October I get back from another trip to Pakistan (my fifth). There are wonderful people there in very difficult circumstances. I’ve concluded that if you want to improve people’s lives, there’s no substitute for meeting with people, getting to know and care about them, and then personally working with them over an extended time period to help them improve their own lives.

“We also went to Finland, Russia, and Estonia in July. What a great trip. Here’s a pro tip, though—if you have a couple Pakistani visas in your passport, leave yourself extra time to convince the border authorities to let you out of Russia. That was not a comfortable delay at all—especially since Jenny had already gotten through and had no idea what had happened to me.

“Work is basically the same as ever. I still have direct involvement in some of our biggest cases (which aren’t big at all compared to what many of you
An Unforeseen Path Leads to a Dream Job

Rahwa Ghebre-Ab, ’09, is the senior vice president of business and legal affairs at the entertainment-industry powerhouse Lionsgate, where her principal focus is on labor and employment matters. She’s been in her present position for more than two years and at the company for more than five years, and she is very happy to be there.

“This is a dream job,” she said. “Some days I can’t really believe I get to do this work every day.”

The path to her current professional happiness was not entirely smooth. Graduating into the ongoing effects of the Great Recession, she found her law-firm start date postponed, and after she did begin work, she was slotted into the employment law practice after only interning with the litigation practice group. Despite not having studied or interned in the labor and employment field, she quickly grew to greatly enjoy the work, particularly her assignments with Sony Pictures, one of her firm’s clients. At one point she requested to be seconded by the firm to work directly at Sony. That didn’t work out, but the firm did transfer her to its San Diego office so she would be closer to the action.

After she had been in that San Diego office for just nine months, the firm closed it. Although the firm offered to move her back to Chicago, she liked California and still felt drawn toward the entertainment industry, so she decided to stay and make her own way. “Among the many things the Law School imparts to you are resilience and the understanding that there is always opportunity, even when things seem to be most challenging,” she remarked.

After an extensive job search, she landed at a Los Angeles firm that had an employment-law focus, and for two years she continued mastering the state’s intricate legal landscape and applying her knowledge for the firm’s clients. She also kept submitting applications for openings in the entertainment business. As one of her side activities, she hosted segments of a video series, Justice Is Served, for the organization Black Hollywood Live, and one of her podcast guests, Carl Douglas, an attorney who had worked on O. J. Simpson’s defense team, offered her some crucial job-search advice after they had finished recording the interview.

“Essentially, he told me to relax and recognize that I was someone with a lot to offer,” she said. “Not to seem arrogant, but not to shrink myself, either—just to show confidence that a company would not regret hiring me and that I had a lot to bring to the table.”

Her interview with Lionsgate was the next day, and she says she surprised both herself and her interviewer with her directness. After a follow-up round of interviews, she was hired within the week.

Lionsgate has grown rapidly, principally through mergers and acquisitions, and it has produced or distributed blockbuster programming that includes the Hunger Games franchise and the television series Mad Men. It has facilities in China, India, and other countries, and it is active in virtually all media and entertainment platforms. Ghebre-Ab has provided support on the employment side for several major mergers and acquisitions, participated in a wide range of contract negotiations including at the company’s highest levels, and engages regularly with executive leadership regarding employment strategy. In this fast-growth environment, she has a constant responsibility for ensuring that everyone involved with the company understands and honors its cultural expectations. “There is a complete commitment here to being a company that is diverse, inclusive, and respectful, and we make sure that everyone gets that message,” she said.

She is also working toward inclusivity in other ways, including serving on the Women Who Lead advisory board of the Association of Media and Entertainment Counsel and as a member of the board of directors at the Employment Roundtable of Southern California.

“When I was at the Law School, there was so much energy, intellectual curiosity, and important learning that I rarely took a real break,” she recalled. “I had thought that might change when I got more settled into a career, but it’s the same way for me here. I’m busy all the time, constantly learning and growing—and I am loving every minute of it.”

2009 JD
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Please reach out to Daniel Rawner (e-mail: rawnd@uchicago.edu) with any updates. If you have not received e-mails requesting an update—then he does not have your e-mail address. Please send him an e-mail!

Les Carter notes: “One of the first things I do when I get my copy of the University of Chicago Law School Record is to turn to the class notes in the back to see what’s up. Then I get disappointed if I see there are only a few notes from the class of ’09, especially if ’08 and ’10 have a ton of notes and if the ’09 notes are lame and boring. Makes us look bad. So I thought I would address that issue by submitting my own note. First, a professional update. Just over two years ago I left Sidley’s Chicago office to take a role as a client advisor at Gresham Partners, a Chicago wealth management firm that provides investment and wealth planning services for high-net-worth
Prioritizing Substantive Legal Experiences and Pro Bono

Last year, the Chicago Bar Foundation recognized David Pi, ’13, with the Maurice Weigle Exceptional Young Lawyer Award, given to the one Chicago attorney under 37 years old who has most fully furthered the ideals of the legal profession, contributed to making the organized bar an effective force for improving the legal profession, and shown a commitment to pro bono and community service.

Pi, who has been at Schiff Hardin since he graduated and was named a partner at the firm earlier this year, might have outdistanced the other worthy Weigle Award nominees with his exceptional pro bono work, which has amounted to nearly 3,000 hours since he joined the firm. Although his pro bono cases cover a variety of areas, the focus has been on violations of constitutional rights and immigration-related asylum cases. Of the seven asylum cases he has handled, five have been favorably resolved and two are awaiting decisions. For his work, the National Immigrant Justice Center also honored him with its Rising Star award in 2018.

"Of course, pro bono work gives me a sense of purpose and satisfaction because the cases and clients are so compelling," he said. "But, more broadly, the work helps the legal system reach informed, reasoned outcomes. One of the most significant predictors of whether an asylum seeker will prevail at their hearing is simply whether or not they are represented by counsel. With thousands of unrepresented people who depend on the result of legal proceedings like these, I can’t just be a spectator."

His practice area at Schiff is complex commercial litigation, where he represents clients on a range of general commercial disputes with a focus on insurance and reinsurance coverage cases. "The problems tend to be very cerebral—it’s a bit like solving puzzles all day," he said. "It really brings out the UChicago nerd in me."

Pi received his undergraduate degree from UChicago in 2006, after having graduated from high school in Korea (he was born in the United States, but his family returned to Korea when he was young). Uncertain about what career he might want to pursue, he went to work at the healthcare consulting firm Sg2, where he quickly took on ambitious projects, including hosting a group of US healthcare executives on an extensive overseas trip to observe best practices at hospitals and companies that excelled at logistics and operations. "It was a great experience because it taught me to think big when problem solving, but then to focus on the practical implementation of those ideas," he said. "We really improved performance among our US hospital members, and that was very satisfying."

Despite his success and satisfactions at that job, he decided that he wanted to go to law school—but not until he had done some further service to humankind. "It was very appealing to me—drop everything, learn a new language and culture, and devote myself to development work in one small community," he said to explain his decision to join the Peace Corps, where he served for two years in Romania. He taught high school there, established a Model United Nations program that has now engaged thousands of student participants, and bolstered a lasting partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

At the Law School, he was enthralled from the beginning to the end. "My first-year classes were so inspiring," he recalled. "There were so many 'Aha!' moments, my classmates were bright and passionate about learning, and there was such a powerful sense of intellectual camaraderie. It continued that way throughout my time there, and I couldn’t get enough of it." He was a winner of the Mulroy Prize and worked as a research assistant to professors Levinmore and Porat.

In choosing a firm to join, he had two requirements: that he would get to do plenty of pro bono work and that he would do substantive legal work early in his tenure. "Schiff Hardin checked those boxes and more when I was interviewing, and if anything the firm has exceeded even what I would have expected," he said. "Here, as at the Law School, there’s a special blend of challenge, opportunity, support, and commitment to excellence that just seems to bring out the best in people."

Rohit Nafday and his wife Heidi welcomed their son, Bodhi, to the world on October 27. The law and economics instruction is expected to commence promptly.

Molly (Grovak) Abraham and Nikhil Abraham, ’11, welcomed their second son in November. Miles Kadaville Abraham made a surprise debut six weeks early, at 5 lbs. 8 oz., in the most dramatic of fashions. Big brother Aiden is excited to have his brother home, and the whole Abraham family is excited to see everyone at the Reunion in May!

Arsineh Ananian reports that she “left Gibson after nine years and am now the director, Talent and Employment Affairs, at the Athletic Media Company. We’re also expecting baby number three (a girl) in March, so I’ll be missing our 10-year reunion sadly."

Mark Emison reports that “my wife (Alesia Emison) and I are expecting our third, a boy, in February 2020.
A Dream Deferred, Advanced, and Remembered
Earl Dickerson, class of 1920, fought for economic and racial justice, argued successfully before the US Supreme Court, and secured a long list of “firsts.” On the centennial of his graduation, the Law School celebrates—and reintroduces—his legacy. By Becky Beaupre Gillespie.

The Boldness of the Bigelow Fellowship
The Law School’s 73-year-old legal writing program is a demanding and all-encompassing experience that is an effective launching pad for future scholars. By Claire Parins.

Listening across Differences
A new University of Chicago workshop combines behavioral science and improvisational exercises to help Law School students hone communication skills. By Claire Stamler-Goody.

“Ultimate Flexibility”
The Law School and Booth add an accelerated JD/MBA to the business and law offerings. By Robin I. Mordfin.

Promise and Possibility
Students in the new Immigrants’ Rights Clinic confront human vulnerability and build skills in a changing area of law. By Becky Beaupre Gillespie.

The Cartoonists’ Guide to Law
The D’Angelo Law Library’s new collection of illustrated legal codes offers insight into statutes and society. By Becky Beaupre Gillespie.

Message from the Dean

Faculty News
The Trust Revolution: How the Digitization of Trust Will Revolutionize Business and Government
by Todd Henderson and Salen Churi

Alumni News
Books Published by Alumni in 2019

Development News
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The Impact of Your Support

Class Notes
Milan D. Smith Jr., ’69
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Rahwa Ghebre-Ab, ’09
David Pi, ’13

Reunion 2020 Schedule

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Reunion Weekend registration closes on April 23, 2020.

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The Growing Impact of the Pro Bono Pledge
Excerpt from a New Book on Aging by Professors Nussbaum and Levmore

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The University of Chicago Law School Record
Spring 2020