

IOWA LAW

MAGAZINE / 2023

Leading the Way in Corporate Law

Iowa Law's strength in corporate law has helped launch graduates like Jenness Parker (04JD) into successful careers with top law firms

PLUS:

Capital defense lawyers come to Iowa to learn from the best / The Hubbell Environmental Law Initiative sparks positive change / Legal Clinic success stories

DEAR IOWA LAW ALUMNI AND FRIENDS:

Since 1865, this law school has been training excellent lawyers for Iowa and the nation. This fall, we are announcing a new capital campaign for the University of Iowa and the College of Law. It is exciting news because we have a lot to show for past gifts by generous donors.

Our core competencies have remained steady—we continue to invest in a strong faculty and excellent students.



In recent years, we have also developed new initiatives. Our investment in the “Writing Law School” concept has been particularly gratifying. This idea, which began organically, has included a renewed focus on our world-class legal writing faculty, our four student-edited law journals, a revamped writing and academic success center, and several new writing and drafting courses. The concept’s success is reflected in strong bar passage numbers this year and record numbers of judicial clerkships for our graduates. Students are also benefiting from a substantial investment in environmental law. A large gift to create the Hubbell Environmental Law Initiative has given new meaning to a favorite Iowa quotation, “if you build it, they will come.”

We continue to have a strong platform in the Iowa Law School

Foundation. The Foundation is independent but works closely with the UI Center for Advancement to support the College of Law. We are lucky to have both organizations working hard to help build investments in our wonderful law school.

With gratitude,

Kevin Washburn
N. William Hines Dean and Professor of Law

“ [Our new capital campaign] is exciting news because we have a lot to show for past gifts by generous donors. ” — DEAN KEVIN WASHBURN



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IOWA

College of Law



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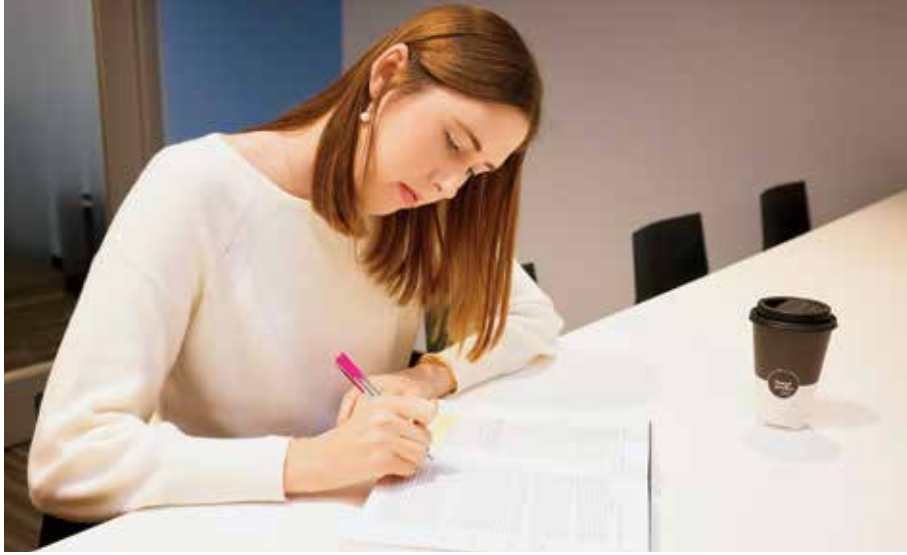
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LEADERSHIP IN LEGAL WRITING

IOWA LAW CONTINUES TO BUILD UPON ITS EXCELLENCE IN LEGAL WRITING EDUCATION AND RESOURCES **[By Hannah Huston]**

In 1989, Nancy Jones founded the Writing Center at Iowa Law. It was the first writing resource center in the country to be housed in a law school and devoted exclusively to the law school community. Jones, an influential figure in legal writing support and education, led the center for more than 30 years before retiring in 2020.

Following Jones' retirement, Dawn Anderson (95JD, 18EdS), a longtime Legal Analysis, Writing & Research (LAWR) professor, assumed leadership. The center continues to build on its rich history as it grows to fit the needs of today's law students.

As Anderson stepped into a leadership role at the center, she and others examined how to increase collaboration between LAWR professors and the writing center. The outcome was the hire of two new LAWR professors, expanding the dedicated writing faculty to six. The center also changed its name to the Writing and Academic Success Center to reflect its expansion and added resources.

"We realized there was a synergy

between writing and academic success. In fact, writing is simply a subset of the academic skills students need to succeed. Hence, the Writing and Academic Success Center was born," said Anderson.

The center is a centralized hub for student support. It offers one-on-one consultations with writing specialists, feedback on written work, and workshops designed to address specific writing and academic challenges that many law students face.

Recent enhancements include extended office hours, a balanced blend of online and in-person appointments, and a new *Tuesday Talk About It* series covering all topics related to academic success from critical reading strategies to exam prep. It also has a series of Legal Writing Shorts: bite-sized presentations on legal writing topics like organizing legal writing, presenting analysis effectively, and writing concisely. The center has also expanded the number of tutors from two to eleven, ensuring adequate assistance during peak semester periods.

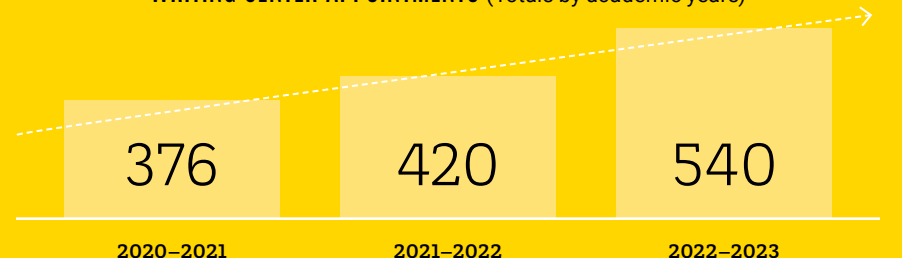
In addition, the College of Law introduced a new course to support writing center tutors. Advanced Legal Writing equips students with the skills to teach writing and editing and effectively serve as peer tutors.

"Students sometimes find peer tutors less threatening, so they will go to them for help when they might not reach out to the professor," Anderson said. "Peer tutoring can also reduce the stigma associated with asking for assistance."

Upcoming changes to the Boyd Law Building will also help support the center, including a remodel to enhance its space overlooking the Iowa River and new technology for advanced writing workshops and writing support for upper-level students.

BY THE NUMBERS • Additional resources and greater tutor availability have led to a steady increase in the number of appointments with the center over the past three years.

WRITING CENTER APPOINTMENTS (Totals by academic years)



SUPPORTING EARLY-CAREER SCHOLARS

IOWA LAW EXPERIENCE COMES FULL CIRCLE FOR 2023 FACULTY FELLOW VINITA SINGH, WHILE 2022 FELLOW CHRISTOPHER MATHIS ADVANCES HIS CAREER IN ACADEMIA **[By Suzi Morales]**

Looking back on when she was an Iowa Law student, Vinita Singh (18JD) recalls not only the quality of her professors as scholars, but also how accessible they were to students.

“I definitely felt there was a very strong culture of collegiality and intellectual inquiry throughout my time there,” said Singh. “Paired with the collegiality [were] the accessibility of professors and their very clear desire to be supportive of the student body, not only in terms of our professional goals, but also in terms of our personal lives.”

After law school, Singh worked in private practice at Kirkland and Ellis in Chicago before earning an LLM in national security at the Georgetown University Law Center.

This fall, Singh is moving into an office down the hall from many of her former professors as the next Iowa Law Faculty Fellow. She knows from example the type of professor she

wants to become: “I want to be a resource for students to help them succeed, both personally and professionally.”

Singh will be the third Faculty Fellow since Iowa Law reintroduced the program in 2020. During the two-year fellowship, early-career faculty serve as visiting assistant professors, teaching one course, and also receive scholarly and career mentorship from a panel of faculty members.

Christopher Mathis, who recently completed his fellowship and is starting as an assistant professor at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, says the fellowship is “unmatched” for its commitment to junior faculty development.

In addition to providing feedback on teaching and scholarship, colleagues advised Mathis on the dynamics of beginning a career in academia. “That was, I think, an even more valuable lesson than what you may be teaching,” Mathis noted.

Mathis’ scholarship focuses on higher education, including issues of access. He will be teaching Tort Law this fall at Maryland Carey, with a



2022 Fellow Christopher Mathis

focus on repair and redress of harms.

Singh is interested in the intersection of business and national security, such as the security implications of international trade, financial transactions, and foreign investment in the United States. After working in private practice, she is looking forward to the intellectual freedom of academia.

As Mathis launches into the next phase of his career, he reflects on his time as a Faculty Fellow. “If you want to be a law professor,” he said, “the Iowa Law School’s Faculty Fellowship is the place where you should strongly consider applying.”



2023 Fellow Vinita Singh (18JD)

“Paired with the collegiality [were] the accessibility of professors and their very clear desire to be supportive of the student body.” — VINITA SINGH (18JD)

2022 GRADS OUTPERFORM IN COMPETITIVE JOB MARKET

IOWA LAW IS AMONG THE TOP 10 LAW SCHOOLS FOR FULL-TIME JOB PLACEMENT **[By Hannah Huston]**



Melissa Norman, director of Career Services, discusses opportunities with then third-year law student Maya Sanaba (23JD).

The University of Iowa College of Law has once again proven its excellence in the competitive job market, standing out as a top 10 law school for full-time job placement (Reuters).

In 2022, more than 98% (158 students) of the graduating class secured full-time jobs within 10 months of graduation. This achievement builds upon the college's outstanding job placement rates from previous years.

In 2021, 99% (136 students) of the graduating class secured jobs, and in 2020, all 133 graduates found employment.

"Iowa Law's Class of 2022 placement rate is one of the best of any law school in the country," says Dean Kevin Washburn. "In addition to the impressive number of students successfully placed, the quality of those jobs is very high, with 36 students winning prestigious judicial clerkships.

In addition, more than 28 graduates went to firms of 501+ attorneys, an impressive feat when one considers the closest office of a Big Law firm is 100 miles away."

Each spring, the American Bar Association releases data on employment outcomes from the 197 accredited law schools. Nearly 78% of 2022 graduates found jobs that required bar passage within 10 months of graduation. This percentage increased from

(TOP 10)

LAW SCHOOL FOR
FULL-TIME JOB PLACEMENT
Reuters

(98%)

JOB PLACEMENT RATE WITHIN
10 MONTHS OF GRADUATION
Class of 2022

(TOP 50)

GO TO LAW SCHOOL FOR
BIGLAW JOBS
LAW.COM

(97%)

OF IL'S FOUND SUMMER
EMPLOYMENT DURING FIRST
SUMMER OF LAW SCHOOL
Class of 2025

(65)

CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND
WORKSHOP EVENTS
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

(190+)

EMPLOYERS COME TO
CAMPUS EACH YEAR FOR
ON-CAMPUS INTERVIEWS

“The quality of those jobs is very high, with 36 students winning prestigious judicial clerkships. In addition, more than 28 graduates went to firms of 501+ attorneys.”

– DEAN KEVIN WASHBURN

76% among the Class of 2021 and was higher than the Class of 2019, the most recent cohort to enter the job market before the pandemic.

Iowa Law’s student success in the job market is supported by a strong career services team and its overarching commitment to producing highly skilled and employable lawyers. As in previous years, the Class of 2022 found jobs across the legal spectrum, including federal clerks (5%), state clerks (17%), big law firms (21%), small law firms (16%), government and public interest agencies (14%), and other law firms or legal-related roles (27%).

“The Career Services Office is dedicated to working with students on an individual level,” explains Melissa Norman, director of career and student services. “We want to

meet with every student to learn about their practice area interests, location preferences, and desired type of employer. We strive to provide customized services that fit each student’s goals. This individualized service helps students succeed not only in finding high-quality employment but finding employment across a variety of sectors.”

The Class of 2022 also secured employment across a diverse range of geographic locations. Graduates found jobs in 26 different states, with Iowa ranking as the most common (64 students), followed by Minnesota (16 students) and Illinois (13 students). Additionally, five students secured employment internationally, a testament to the global relevance of an Iowa Law degree.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Giving students early support to succeed

Amid the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, Iowa Law’s Community Connections program emerged in 2020 as a platform to engage alumni volunteers. The program aims to seamlessly guide incoming students into their Iowa Law journey by providing unique opportunities to connect with faculty, alumni, and current students even before they officially begin law school. With continuous growth over the years, the program has achieved a 90% participation rate across all three match categories. Thanks to the commitment of 30 passionate alumni volunteers from various parts of the country, 94 alumni-student matches were created in the current year alone.

SUPREME HONOR:

IOWA LAW ALUMNI GAIN INVALUABLE SKILLS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF IOWA SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

Recent Iowa Law alums share the formative experiences they had serving as judicial clerks for the seven justices on the Iowa Supreme Court. Through their clerkships, these alumni have gained unparalleled experiences, honed legal research and writing skills, and witnessed the inner workings of the state's highest court.



Rebekah Cochran (22JD) and Justice Matthew McDermott.

“I’ve been exposed to cases ranging from property tax disputes to qualified immunity. With every case, I gained valuable legal skills and knowledge. Clerking provides some needed perspective after law school, providing one more year to determine what area of law you want to practice, while learning a lot and hopefully gaining a lifelong mentor.”

— REBEKAH COCHRAN (22JD), CLERK FOR JUSTICE MATTHEW McDERMOTT



Ryan D'Eliseo (22JD)
and Justice Dana
Oxley (98JD).

“

Iowa Law was instrumental in preparing me to get the most out of my clerkship. I learned the fundamentals of legal research and writing in my LAWR classes, but law school also offered tremendous opportunities to hone those skills. The first thing that stuck out to me when I started working on real cases was the quick turn-around on opinions—sometimes the court can get opinions out within just a few weeks of arguments. I was also surprised to learn that clerks help give tours of the judicial building, which has been a fun way for me to learn about the building and Iowa history. So, to anyone even remotely considering clerking: Do it!”

— RYAN D'ELISEO (22JD), CLERK FOR JUSTICE DANA OXLEY

“I am leaving my clerkship with an incredible job. I am also leaving with something even more valuable: confidence. I spent an entire year under the wing of a brilliant judge, and he valued my opinion. I will move through my career differently because of this experience. First-generation students like me are more likely to worry about whether they ‘belong.’ I think clerking is a good way to secure an early sense of ‘belonging’ in the legal profession.”

— STACY MASSEY (22JD), CLERK FOR JUSTICE CHRISTOPHER McDONALD



Stacy Massey
(22JD) and Justice
Christopher McDonald
(01JD).

”



Georgia Carroll
(22JD) and Justice
David May.

“

My biggest takeaway from clerking is a recognition and respect for the amount of research, thought, and analysis that goes into each opinion. I am going into civil litigation, so clerking was immensely helpful for me. I learned more about our court system from the judges’ side of the bench. My experience with the justices and the opportunity to see different attorneys argue helped shape my approach as a new attorney.”

– GEORGIA CARROLL (22JD), CLERK FOR JUSTICE DAVID MAY

“My clerkship involved two main tasks. The first was helping prepare for oral argument, which always included breaking down the record into digestible pieces and often writing a type of bench memo. The second task was helping create a first draft of an opinion. It surprised me to see how much clerkships vary. Your work—and your whole clerkship experience, really—depends on your judge. The seven term clerks at the Iowa Supreme Court work for the same court, but have different responsibilities. Overall, clerking made me more confident and will make me a better lawyer.

– DAVID BANTA (22JD), CLERK FOR CHIEF JUSTICE SUSAN CHRISTENSEN



David Banta (22JD)
and Chief Justice
Susan Christensen.

”



Lauren Hoover (22JD)
and Justice Edward
Mansfield.

“I help Justice Waterman draft his opinions, share my thoughts about pending cases, and edit opinions for publication with the assistance of our staff attorneys. I research issues that come up in pending cases to help him analyze how he should vote or whether to recommend changes to the opinion writer. During oral argument, I ran the court’s cameras or served as bailiff. I also joined Justice Waterman when he visited local schools. There is a learning curve in understanding how to do your work and do it well. That takes some time, and then by the time you get the hang of it, the term is already beginning to wind down. I would enjoy staying longer, but I’m excited to move on to what’s next.

– LUKE ZAHIRI (22JD), CLERK FOR JUSTICE THOMAS D. WATERMAN

“A clerkship has a lot of value. You get past legal research and writing basics and into more advanced work. You see how opinions are written, cases are decided, and conflicts are negotiated. Even if you’re in transactional work, you’re going to be using legal research and writing your entire career, and you’re going to be negotiating with parties. You also get to know a judge personally and gain a mentor. Receiving professional and life advice from an accomplished legal professional is unmatched.”

– LAUREN HOOVER (22JD), CLERK FOR JUSTICE EDWARD MANSFIELD



Luke Zahiri (22JD)
and Justice Thomas
D. Waterman (84JD).



AMY JOHNSON AND STEVEN SAENZ, CLASS OF 2025

» Clerked together at Hayes Lorenzen Biderman Lawyers PLC / Iowa City, IA

"It felt affirming to advocate for a client during what can often be some of the most challenging moments in their lives," Saenz says. If Johnson could give one piece of advice to someone looking for an internship after 1L year, she would tell them "to seek out an opportunity where you will get the most hands-on experience and have opportunities to interact with clients one-on-one."



LINDSEY GILBERG, CLASS OF 2024

» Summer Associate at Mayer Brown in New York City / New York, NY

"Each work experience has helped me hone my interests and professional skills. I really enjoy applying the legal knowledge and skills that I have learned in the classroom to actual client matters."

SUMMER STORIES

STUDENTS AT IOWA LAW SPENT THEIR SUMMERS IN AN IMPRESSIVE VARIETY OF WAYS, FROM INTERNING WITH FEDERAL DEFENDERS' OFFICES TO WORKING FOR INTERNATIONAL NGOS.



ROYA GREEN (LEFT), CLASS OF 2025

» International NGO / Geneva, Switzerland

"This internship has allowed me to work alongside lawyers and law students from around the world. It has been fascinating to conduct legal research on criminal procedure codes in other countries."



BRANDEN MESSMER, CLASS OF 2025

» U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee / Washington, D.C.

"Walk through open doors. Applications are annoying, and it's hard to know whether something is possible or just a pipedream, but you can get much further than you expect."



ALEXIS JONES, CLASS OF 2025

» Judicial Extern to Justice David K. Thomson, New Mexico Supreme Court / Santa Fe, NM

"It is invaluable being able to see how Justice Thomson and his law clerk think through legal issues, taking great care in choosing what words to use, ensuring that every case citation says what the writer purports it to say, and that every factual citation is supported by the record. Additionally, it has been incredible learning from my fellow externs about subjects such as tribal law, and other legal issues unique to New Mexico."



SIDURI BECKMAN, CLASS OF 2025

» Legal intern with the Office of the Federal Defender for the District of Connecticut / New Haven, CT

"I have loved working with the attorneys at this office. Their commitment to their work and the holistic way they approach every case continues to inspire me, and I learn something new from them every day. They approach the work as a team to be conscious of the gravity of the situation, which allows for so many different kinds of strengths to be present as the team makes complicated decisions related to a person's defense."



BRENNDEN PROHASKA, CLASS OF 2025

» Summer Associate for Faegre Drinker / Denver, CO

"Law school tends to teach the law in a very individualized way with students picking their classes, studying for individual assessments of their work, etc. In practice though, the work you do is the product of a team of associates, partners, and professional staff all working together to best serve the client's needs."



JAMES MILLER, CLASS OF 2025

» Interning with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission / Des Moines, IA

"I had the chance to get hands-on experience in the law while working with a group of people that are clearly devoted to advancing the public good. I have a much clearer picture of what it is like to work in government, and no matter what my next steps may be, I can definitely say that I am in a much better position having worked with the ICRC!"

CASE FILES:

LAW STUDENTS ACT AS ATTORNEYS,
NOT INTERNS, ACROSS SIX DISTINCT PRACTICE
GROUPS IN THE LAW CLINIC

Students working in the Law Clinic gain essential practice skills across the legal spectrum. The most recent wins include tackling complex challenges in healthcare, representing clients in federal court, creating resources to drive social change, and helping individuals navigate the U.S. immigration system. These students are making a lasting impact in the community and nurturing a lifelong commitment to service.



Clinic students 3L Victor Brown-Rodriguez and Emily Bushman (23JD) at the naturalization ceremony with their client.

(1) Immigration Law Clinic

WHAT THEY DID: Iowa Law students have helped a client and his family from halfway across the globe on an arduous journey through the United States immigration system, from winning a contested asylum claim in federal immigration court, to navigating with the immigration bureaucracy to obtain a green card, to working with the State Department to reunify the client's family. Recent achievements include working with entities such as the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), U.S. Senators' constituent services offices, and a U.S. Embassy abroad to coordinate the client's long-fought naturalization process with his family's entry to the United States—culminating in the client naturalizing as a U.S. citizen following his family's arrival after more than a decade apart.

WHAT THEY LEARNED:



“Being on Mr. Mazibo’s case taught me how difficult and broken the immigration system is. Mr. Mazibo is a wonderful man who has built his life in the U.S. for over a decade, but he still had to jump through endless bureaucratic hoops to get his American citizenship. Fortunately, tireless advocacy by my colleagues helped Mr. Mazibo overcome these barriers and achieve his immigration goals. I learned how emotionally trying immigration representation can be, but also how crucial it is to be patient, empathic, and communicative with clients and legal adversaries.”

— 3L VICTOR BROWN-RODRIGUEZ



“I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities I had to work alongside clients while working on substantive legal matters. Getting to the point where a person is naturalizing as a U.S. citizen is generally a very long, emotional, and taxing process with many barriers. Naturalization is the end of a long and arduous path through the U.S. immigration system, but it is also part of the process where there is a lot of hope. For years this client had shared with us their dreams of naturalizing, and it was incredibly moving to see them become a U.S. citizen.” — EMILY BUSHMAN (23JD)

(2) Federal Defense Clinic

WHAT THEY DID: Iowa Law students developed advocacy skills by presenting an argument before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit in Chicago. The case entailed a collateral attack on a prior conviction and sentence, with the argument hinging on a 2020 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that altered the parameters for classifying “violent felonies” under the Armed Career Criminal Act. Third-year law student Paige Roff skillfully navigated this evolving legal landscape and exemplified her understanding of the law.

WHAT THEY LEARNED:



“Someone once told me appellate advocacy is the one opportunity an advocate has to speak about a case with others that care about it as much as they do. My experience arguing in front of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit was an amazing experience for this reason. And I learned that to be an effective advocate, I had to immerse myself in the complex and novel legal issues and meticulously review the record.” — PAIGE ROFF (23JD)

(3) Federal Defense Clinic

WHAT THEY DID: During a supervised-release revocation hearing, Iowa Law students advocated for their client in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa. The students had the opportunity to conduct direct and cross examinations and navigate the complex terrain of both liability and disposition. The collaboration between third-year law students Sarah-Rose Ballard, Trevor Hurd, and A.J. Brantley culminated in a resounding victory, as their client's release was not revoked and he returned home to his family and community.

WHAT THEY LEARNED:



From left: Sarah-Rose Ballard (23JD), A.J. Brantley (23JD), and Trevor Hurd (23JD).

“*Having the chance to provide direct representation in law school was a truly unique opportunity. The three of us each had our own approaches to the work and the law, but that is what made our team so special and successful. We challenged each other to incorporate the statutes in creative ways and take risks for our client, which paid off. This experience taught me that in public defense, we might have to reframe our ‘wins’ to include just showing up for our client, but securing the best outcome for them should always be the goal.*”

— SARAH-ROSE BALLARD (23JD)

“*In law school, one of the first things we learn is that being an attorney is as simple as solving a client’s problem. The invaluable experience of representing our client in his revocation hearing this past semester taught me that one of most important components of solving a client’s problem is having a thorough understanding of the client’s goals. Our true understanding of our client’s goals facilitated the way we strategized and is what ultimately helped us come up with our winning arguments.*” — A.J. BRANTLEY (23JD)

“*Much of law school trains you how to think like an attorney and, while this is certainly a valuable skill, it pales in comparison to the opportunity to actually be one. By working with a team of unique law students on an active case, I was able to learn that advocacy is much more of an art than a science. And, in order to improve your capacity as an advocate, it is important to constantly work to understand your team members, yourself, and most importantly, your client.*”

— TREVOR HURD (23JD)

(4) Estate Planning Clinic

WHAT THEY DID: Iowa Clinic Law students partnered with the University of Iowa’s Adult/Gerontological Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program to explore how their disciplines address and resolve complex healthcare challenges. Together, they engaged in insightful discussions, delving into the laws and real-world practices surrounding the preparation, acceptance, and implementation of patient healthcare directives. Focal points of the workshop included empowering patients through powers of attorney, living wills, and essential healthcare and financial directives.

WHAT THEY LEARNED:



“The workshop proved to be mutually beneficial. For law students, it was an invaluable experience to witness the application of legal forms and procedures in real-world scenarios. Equally significant, nursing students gained insight into the development, placement, and proper utilization of these legal forms. I learned how to skillfully draft documents to better assist clients facing challenging medical circumstances.” — LEIGHTON BERRIDGE (23JD)



“The workshop was invaluable. Learning about the graduate nursing students’ personal and professional experiences with these forms helped me realize just how important they are to clients’ future medical and financial decisions. It was a learning experience for both groups, and as a clinic, we left feeling more comfortable discussing advance directive documents with clients now that we’ve seen how they’re used in a medical setting.” — RACHEL ZINGG (23JD)

[5] Community Empowerment Law Project

WHAT THEY DID: As school shootings become more prevalent, numerous school districts have invited law enforcement into their buildings. However, police in schools have done little to decrease the severity of school shootings and their presence has negatively impacted students of color and those with disabilities. Iowa Law students collaborated with the Des Moines Black Liberation Project and the National Center for Youth Law to create an advocacy toolkit aimed at students, parents, and other organizers and activists working to remove police from Iowa schools.

WHAT THEY LEARNED:



“While working on the toolkit, I learned a lot about legal advocacy and the different forms it can take. As law students and lawyers, we often want to point to the specific law, rule, or principle that has been violated, but that’s not always possible. Here, we focused on creating a comprehensive resource that can be used by our clients and other activists to effectively initiate the change they want to see in the law—don’t underestimate the power of the people!” — TIA SMITH (23JD)



“In creating the toolkit, I learned the value of a collaborative environment and how to use people’s strengths to produce a deliverable that is informative, useful for advocates, and easy to understand. Moreover, I think that creating this toolkit showed me the importance of being aware of the issues that affect people in their everyday lives. It’s easy to focus on what is immediately around you but such a narrow focus doesn’t allow you to see the challenges people face, allowing unaddressed issues to continue to affect people, in this case, students.” — SANDRA MORALES (23JD)

EXPANDING HORIZONS

IOWA LAW'S STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS RETURN FOR FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS

Participating in the first Iowa Law study abroad program since the Covid-19 pandemic began in 2020, Amber Crow (23JD) said her trip to London during this past winter session provided an invaluable culmination to her law school experience.

“This was a meaningful trip for the 3L students. We started our legal education during the height of the pandemic, which posed a lot of challenges. The trip was a wonderful way for many of us to connect with one another and end our legal education on an exciting and enriching note,” said Crow, who after passing the bar will be joining an Iowa law firm that also operates in London and Shanghai.

Professor Stella Burch Elias, director of the London Law Program, said that for many of this year’s 40 participants, the 2022-2023 trip was especially exciting because their undergraduate study abroad programs had been canceled, and some had never had the opportunity to travel to another country.

“It was rewarding to be a part of their journey. In addition to working hard in their classes and participating fully in their field trips, the students took advantage of the many opportu-



3L Alexis Jones and Mary Scarpinato (23JD) pose in front of the The Royal Courts of Justice in London.

“The trip was a wonderful way for many of us to connect with one another and end our legal education on an exciting and enriching note.” — AMBER CROW (23JD)

nities that London had to offer during their two weeks in the U.K.,” said Elias, who accompanied the students to Parliament, the Inns of Court, the U.K. Supreme Court, and Oxford University.

This winter, the two courses that will be taught in London, Elias said, are the British Legal System and Art Law and the Business of Art.

Associate Dean Adrien Wing, director of the summer study abroad program in France (held this year from May 15 to June 16), agreed that the first trip to be offered since 2019 went exceptionally well.

“Students have always been enthusiastic about the program,” Wing said, adding that the level of excitement for this year’s trip was no different than in previous years.

Stella Nguenpang, who is entering her third year at Iowa Law, found that this year’s program in France was an opportunity “to open up my chances of working internationally.”

Born in Cameroon, Nguenpang was able to add legal vocabulary to her fluent French with the help of Professor Michaël Amado, a French lawyer and professor who taught Introduction to French Law I and II. Instruction in the program is in English, but Nguenpang said Amado challenged the French-speaking students to develop their professional language skills.

“Before, I was not going to go into an [international] courtroom and speak to a judge,” Nguenpang said. “Now I’m prepared for that.”

Traveling with the program, which included stays in Paris and the seaside town of Arcachon, has fueled Nguenpang’s passions for travel and international law.

“Going on the trip just makes me want to travel more and learn about different systems of law,” she said. “It really does open your eyes when you see how other people do things.”

“Going on the trip just makes me want to travel more and learn about different systems of law. It really does open your eyes when you see how other people do things.”

— 3L STELLA NGUEPNANG



Above: Students visit a Paris trial court with Associate Dean Adrien Wing (fourth from left) and Professor Michaël Amado (fifth from left). Right: 3Ls Alexa Stechshulte, Patrick Fontana, Lindsey Gilberg, and Claire Eichhorn pose in front of the London Bridge during the 2023 London Law Program.



DESTINATION

DELAWARE

IOWA LAW'S STRENGTH
IN CORPORATE LAW IS
CATAPULTING GRADS TO
LARGE FIRMS AND
PRESTIGIOUS CLERKSHIPS

By Carrie Kirby

For a young lawyer fascinated by transactional law, the road from Bangalore, India, to Wilmington, Delaware, ran through the University of Iowa College of Law.

For an Iowa native who became a passionate litigator, Iowa Law also led straight to Delaware. In major Wilmington law firms and judges' chambers, Iowa alumni and current students are known to support one another through summer internships, clerkships, and associate positions.

How did such a close and productive relationship develop between a law school in the middle of the country and the East Coast state where the majority of U.S. public companies are incorporated?

"It's something you would not have thought of: from Iowa to Delaware," said Jenness Parker (04JD), the Iowa farmer's daughter who has served as a litigator at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom since 2005.

To understand Iowa students' success in Delaware, it helps to grasp why the nation's second-smallest state is its corporate law epicenter. The draw is the Delaware Court of Chancery, a unique institution where the judges—one chancellor and six vice chancellors ("chancellor" being the traditional term for a judge presiding in a court of equity)—are all experts in corporate law, as well as related areas like corporate finance, accounting, and economic analysis of law. They interpret the Delaware General Corporation Law, a statute that lays out the responsibilities and

"In Delaware, you're much more likely to get predictable, economically rational decisions in even the most complex corporate problems."

— PROFESSOR ROBERT MILLER

relationships of corporate directors and officers and their shareholders. They also enforce Delaware's system of fiduciary duties, a body of judge-made law that requires directors act not only *legally* (meaning in conformity with the statute) but also *equitably*, (meaning in the best interests of the corporation's shareholders).

The accumulated expertise of the judges on the Court of Chancery, along with their extraordinary work ethic, enables them to rule expeditiously on complex corporate matters that might confound otherwise capable judges, explained Professor Robert Miller, the F. Arnold Daum Chair in Corporate Finance and Law and associate dean for faculty development.

"In Delaware, you're much more likely to get predictable, economically rational decisions in even the most complex corporate problems," Miller said. "That's why it is, by far, the court of choice for large corporations, financial institutions, and other sophisticated commercial parties, both in the United States and from around the world."



JENNESS PARKER (04JD)

DAUGHTER OF IOWA FARMER
THRIVES IN WILMINGTON

Jenness Parker grew up on a farm not far from her alma mater. Her father and grandfather, farmers and bankers, and her mother, a highly accomplished nurse and COO of her hometown hospital, inspired her interest in corporate law. At Iowa Law, then-professor Hillary Sale helped her learn to push for the excellence that has become a hallmark of her career.

"I learned how to rigorously prepare and how to distill things down to what really matters. That's exactly what I do to prepare for arguments now," Parker says.

The turning point of Parker's life happened one spring break, when she filled the week with a seminar taught by Justice Randy Holland.

Over the course of the intensive seminar, Parker and Holland became well-acquainted, and, since Parker was soon to graduate, the justice encouraged her to apply to be his clerk. Once he interviewed her, Holland hired Parker on the spot.

In Wilmington, Holland and his wife acted like surrogate parents to Parker.

"He used to say, 'I told your mom I'd take care of you—so you have to eat your vegetables,'" Parker laughs.

After her clerkship, Parker moved on to her job at Skadden. In 2022, she was appointed to the Rules Committee of the Court of Chancery, and this year her name appears on *The Best Lawyers in America* list.

"None of what I do would have happened but for Justice Holland. And I would never have met him but for the University of Iowa College of Law."

APOORVA GOKARE (23JD)

FROM BANGALORE TO WILMINGTON—VIA IOWA CITY

Growing up visiting her scientist father's laboratory in Mysore, India, Apoorva Gokare seemed destined to become a scientist as well one day—until an upsetting experience changed her trajectory.

"My family faced constant intimidation from the land mafia," she said. "They attempted to manipulate us into surrendering my father's property for a trivial financial gain. This inspired me to pursue law, to defend our family's rights and the rights of others."

That experience motivated Gokare to become a lawyer. Earning a dual degree in business administration and law at Bangalore's Alliance University, Gokare discovered her passion for transactional law.

While studying at Iowa Law in the Advanced Standing JD program, she learned about the importance of Delaware law from two sources: a corporate law seminar presented by Professor Robert Miller, and the Business Associations course taught by Professor Joseph Yockey.

For the one summer in her two-year program, Gokare set her sights on a Delaware internship. Staff at Iowa Law's Career Services Office helped her prepare for interviews at the Delaware State Bar Association's Diversity Job Fair.

When Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster spoke at Iowa in her first year, Gokare had the opportunity to have breakfast with him, along with Peter Sotos (22JD), a third-year law student at the time and future clerk for Laster.

The preparation paid off, netting her an internship at top Delaware firm Morris Nichols.

Gokare wrapped up her time at Iowa with Professor Miller's Deals seminar, which, she said, "strengthened my interest to go into the corporate counseling world."

Now, she is headed back to Morris Nichols as a first-year associate. In Delaware, she hopes to connect further with alumni.

"We have a good alumni base there," Gokare noted. "In the past two years, six or seven people I know graduated and will be in Delaware."



Why are these sophisticated judges choosing clerks from the University of Iowa, and hearing arguments from alumni now working in Delaware law?

The top reason is probably the simplest: “We have really good students,” Miller acknowledged.

As one of the nation’s leading law schools, Iowa reliably produces the caliber of student that Delaware judges and firms need.

Then, too, the College of Law has long-standing ties to the Delaware judiciary. For years, the late Justice Randy Holland, the longest-serving judge on the Delaware Supreme Court, taught intersession seminars at Iowa and at Iowa’s London program.

“Randy was a tremendous judge, teacher, and person, and we were extremely fortunate that he chose to teach our students,” said Professor Gregory Shill.

The school honors that relationship by annually bestowing the Holland Award on a student author of an exceptional corporate law paper.

Holland wasn’t Iowa’s only connection with the Delaware judiciary. Former Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justices E. Norman Veasey and Myron Steele have both addressed students, as has Delaware Court of Chancery Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster.

Moreover, preeminent attorneys practicing Delaware law visit regularly to present in Miller’s seminar on Deals. Recent semesters have seen presentations from partners at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz; Sullivan & Cromwell; Orrick; Mayer Brown; Cooley, Gibson Dunn; and other prominent firms. These attorneys are based all over the country, but because Delaware law is so central to corporate law nationwide, they can all be said to be practicing Delaware law.

Scholarly publications also keep the law school visible to Delaware firms and judges. Since 1975, Iowa Law has published the *Journal of Corporation*

Law, the nation’s oldest and one of its most respected publications specializing in corporate law.

The Delaware Court of Chancery regularly cites work by University of Iowa corporate law professors. Recently, the court quoted both Shill and Professor Mihailis Diamantis in its opinions. And Court of Chancery opinions have quoted Miller’s work more than 40 times, including twice this spring.

Finally, there’s Iowa’s growing alumni base in this area. As more of Iowa Law students arrive in Delaware and at firms practicing Delaware law elsewhere, they encourage future graduates, and the population snowballs.

“The alumni do a lot to maintain that connection and deepen it,” Parker said. “[Skadden] interviews at Iowa, and we have two people from Iowa who interned with us last summer who are starting this fall full time.” □



PETER SOTOS (22JD)



MATTHEW STRAND (20JD)

CLERKING FOR THE DELAWARE COURT OF CHANCERY

TWO IOWA LAW GRADS GAINED VALUABLE EXPERIENCE IN TOP BUSINESS COURT

Aided by a recommendation from Professor Robert Miller, Peter Sotos (22JD) received an offer to clerk for Delaware Court of Chancery Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster after graduation last year. When Sotos called Vice Chancellor Laster to accept, Laster didn’t immediately pick up the phone. Only hours remained before the decision deadline.

“I started panicking,” Sotos recalled. Luckily, the Court of Chancery already had an Iowa alum clerking there: Matthew Strand (20JD). Sotos emailed him, and Strand ran into the vice chancellor’s office to congratulate him on his choice.

“This was news to the vice chancellor, who didn’t get my call. So technically, an Iowa Law connection made it possible to get my foot in the door and accept the position,” Sotos said.

Now nearing the end of his clerkship and looking ahead to his next career step, Sotos said: “Between this clerkship and an Iowa Law degree, there’s no firm out of reach.”

For his part, Strand has now completed his year at the court, where he clerked for then-Chancellor Andre Bouchard, and then after Bouchard’s retirement, for Vice Chancellor Lori Will.

During his time there, Strand learned to keep up with the fast pace and high stakes of the nation’s top business court.

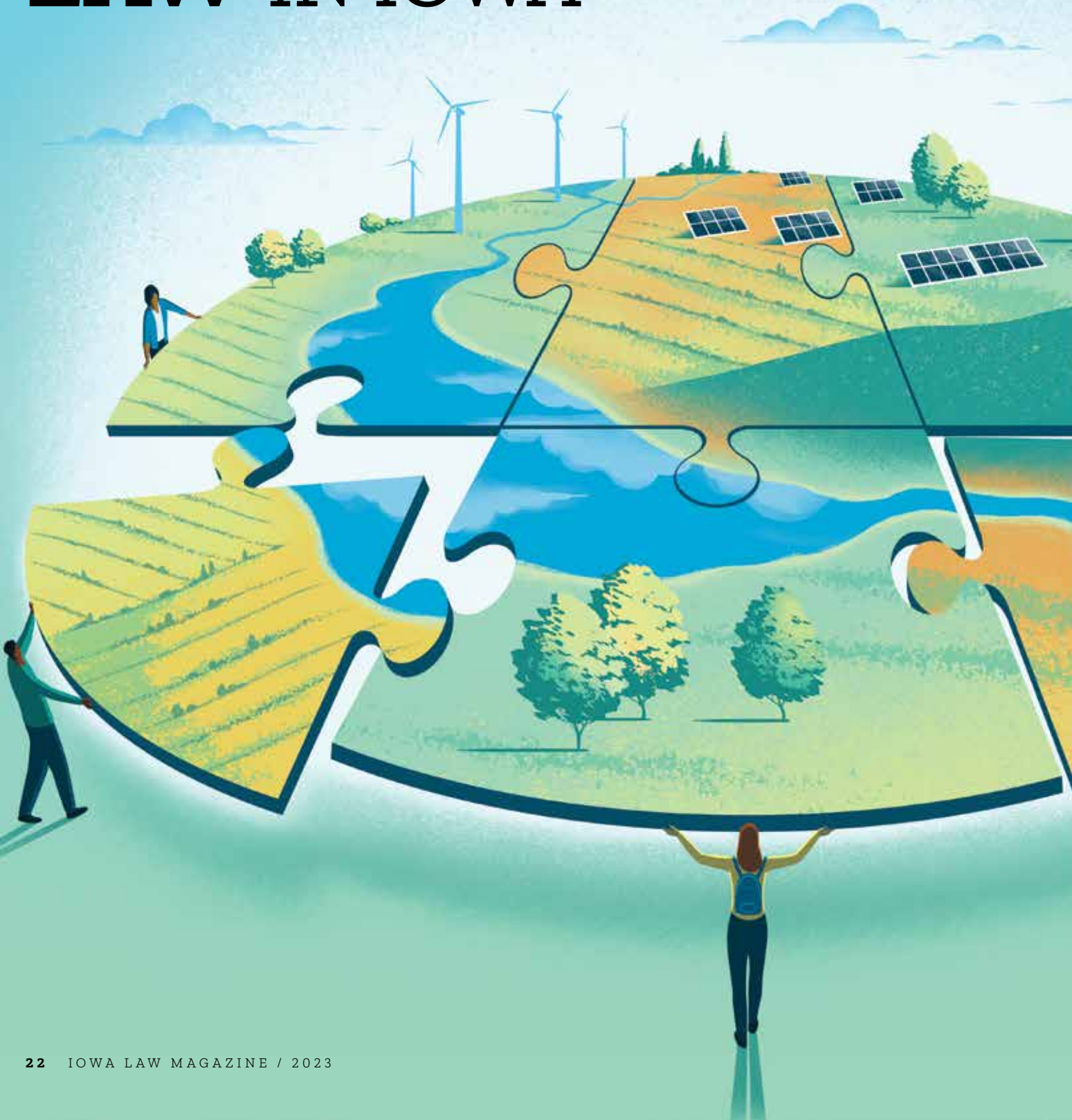
Both Strand and Sotos wrote draft opinions, drawing on case law and the briefs filed by the parties. Getting from that first draft to the final opinion was then a collaboration in which students learned from the judges, Sotos said.

“It’s a mix of being a research assistant, editor, and co-author,” he said.

Other clerk duties include doing extensive research to answer any questions that come up, tracking case calendars, and helping the judge prepare for hearings and conferences.

“I was struck by how much responsibility I was given from the start,” said Strand, now an associate with Sullivan & Cromwell in New York.

ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL LAW IN IOWA





THE HUBBELL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INITIATIVE FOSTERS COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO SPARK POSITIVE CHANGE

By Michaela Jarvis

AS Josh Mandelbaum (09JD) likes to say, “Iowa could be the state that gets to 100% clean energy around the clock.” Mandelbaum, a Des Moines-based senior attorney with the Environmental Law and Policy Center, is referring to the potential of the state’s substantial, and complementary, wind and solar resources to provide 24/7 green electrical power generation. And as a longtime practitioner of environmental law, he knows that the accomplishment of such a goal and other environmental solutions require the collaboration of people from different disciplines, organizations, and viewpoints.

In part, that realization has led Mandelbaum to actively participate in the collaboration-building events organized as part of Iowa Law’s Hubbell Environmental Law Initiative (HELI).

“The Hubbell Initiative has been an important opportunity for stakeholders to exchange information, talk about solutions, and explore how folks can better collaborate to work toward common goals,” Mandelbaum said, explaining that he has engaged in multiple conversations about how HELI can help advance the field of environmental law. He has also attended a number of related events and was an expert panelist at the Solar Energy in Iowa event.

“I’ve used my participation as both a learning opportunity and a networking opportunity,” he said.

The Hubbell Initiative was established in early 2022 to expand opportunities for Iowa Law to intensify multidisciplinary engagement on environmental issues. The initiative was created with a \$5 million gift from Charlotte Beyer Hubbell (76JD) and Fred Hubbell (76JD) with an explicit focus on helping their home state of Iowa by addressing the state’s main environmental problems. Water quality is a major problem in the state, mostly related to agricultural runoff, and despite the state’s embrace of wind energy, much electricity generation is still provided by inefficient, polluting coal-burning power plants.

“We face a water-quality crisis; we face a climate crisis. The climate crisis is obviously bigger than the state of Iowa, but the solutions can absolutely be found in Iowa, and the local impacts are found here, too,” said Mandelbaum.

SOLAR POLICY PANEL SERIES

The Hubbell Environmental Law Initiative publicly launched with a solar energy event, convening policy experts, researchers, industry members, public employees, and nonprofit organization representatives.

The series of panels, which was hosted at the Boyd Law Building, featured 17 speakers from seven different counties across two states. More than 300 attendees (195 in person and 129 virtually) heard about specific challenges to implementing solar energy.

Event recordings are available at law.uiowa.edu/hubbellsolar.



“We face a water-quality crisis; we face a climate crisis. The climate crisis is obviously bigger than the state of Iowa, but the solutions can absolutely be found in Iowa, and the local impacts are found here, too.”

– JOSH MANDELBAUM (09JD)

PROMOTING INCREASED ENGAGEMENT

In HELI’s first year, Shannon Roesler, faculty director of the initiative, said it sponsored events focused on such topics as solar energy, carbon pipelines, climate change, and biodiversity. Those events invited wide-ranging perspectives on the issues, such as those coming from policy experts, academics, industry representatives, landowners, and environmentalists.

“In addition to enriching our students’ academic experiences, these discussions engaged people from across campus and the wider community,” Roesler said.

Roesler said that HELI has also expanded connections between students and alumni who practice environmental law, established more externship and internship opportunities, and awarded funding to students in unpaid environmental law internships at governmental agencies or nonprofits.

“There is a growing demand in the area of environmental law at the College of Law, and HELI is helping us meet that demand,” Roesler said.

This fall, HELI program director Blake Rupe said HELI and the Iowa State Bar Association will host an environmental law seminar in Des Moines and Iowa City.

“This will serve to unite the environmental bar, as well as offer Iowa Law students a chance to network and connect with practitioners and thought leaders.”

For Amanda De Jong (05JD), farmer and head of government affairs and policy engagement at Pivot Bio, a microbial nitrogen fertilizer company, HELI’s facilitation of collaborative efforts on environmental issues is crucial.

“This is one, if not the most, important thing that HELI can contribute. In the hyper-politicized and almost angry societal environment we find ourselves in, creating a space where different viewpoints can be heard on really tough issues is critical,” De Jong said. “Building a fair and open-minded group can alleviate some of these challenges.

“HELI can be a great conveyor and the right neutral party to be a facilitator,” said De Jong, who served as the state executive director of the Iowa Farm Service Agency from 2017 to 2020. “If we can learn anything from the implementation of the Clean Water Act or the Endangered Species Act, it’s that building consensus

RENEWABLE ENERGY IN IOWA

PERHAPS SURPRISING TO SOME, IOWA HAS BEEN A NATIONAL LEADER IN RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR DECADES. HERE ARE A FEW KEY FACTS:

SOLAR IS GROWING FAST
WITH A NEARLY **EQUAL MIX OF**
SMALL ROOFTOP PANELS AND
LARGER-SCALE ARRAYS IN
THE STATE.

NEARLY
[67%]
NEARLY 67% OF IOWA’S TOTAL
ELECTRICITY NET GENERATION CAME
FROM RENEWABLE RESOURCES,
ALMOST ALL OF IT FROM WIND.

WIND POWER DIRECTLY
SUPPORTED **3,953 JOBS IN**
IOWA IN 2020 AND **ANNUAL**
LAND LEASE PAYMENTS TO
LANDOWNERS OF **\$67 MILLION.**

[62%]
IN 2022, 62% OF IOWA’S TOTAL
ELECTRICITY NET GENERATION
CAME FROM WIND, THE LARGEST
WIND POWER SHARE OF ANY STATE.

AS OF MARCH 2022, **IOWA HAD AT LEAST 349 MEGAWATTS (MW) OF TOTAL INSTALLED SOLAR CAPACITY.** THIS IS UP FROM APPROXIMATELY 2 MW OF SOLAR INSTALLED IN 2012. **IOWA IS ON TRACK TO EXCEED 2,200 MW OF SOLAR WITH THE ADDITION OF PROPOSED AND APPROVED UTILITY-SCALE PROJECTS OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS.**

*Data reported from the U.S. Energy Information Administration and the Iowa Environmental Council.



2L ALEC GOOS



2L JONATHAN HUMSTON

SUPPORT FOR TOMORROW'S ENVIRONMENTAL LAWYERS

HUBBELL SCHOLARSHIPS ENABLE STUDENTS TO GAIN INVALUABLE EXPERIENCE

Two recipients of Hubbell Scholarships, Alec Goos and Jonathan Humston, now second-year students at Iowa Law, worked as law clerks at the Iowa Environmental Council (IEC) in Des Moines this past summer. The Hubbell Initiative provides stipends of \$5,000 to students interested in environmental law to support them in unpaid positions at government agencies or nonprofits. The funding is part of their admission package and is intended to be used the summer after their first year of law school.

Goos says he was able to work on substantive matters right away at IEC and received extensive support.

"This guidance has allowed me to explore my interests and understand my goals," Goos said. "I am grateful to work with such a dedicated team that is committed to protecting Iowa's environment because this advocacy will influence me for the rest of my career."

Humston says he plans to practice in Iowa because he is committed to helping the people and communities of the state.

"Receiving a Hubbell Scholarship has allowed me to start that work," Humston said. "I've learned about many environmental issues we face and met many of the people and organizations making an impact in this space. The Hubbell Scholarship helped show me the many ways a lawyer can make a difference in the environmental future of Iowa."

early and finding a way for the parties to work together can result in solutions being implemented earlier."

ENGAGING AND ENCOURAGING DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES

Leo Tyree (05JD), associate regional counsel at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, has worked with Iowa Law, and more recently with the Hubbell Initiative, since 2020. Through that interaction, Tyree focused on developing programming, providing mentorship opportunities, and preparing and recruiting Iowa Law students for federal internships, clerkships, fellowships, and other legal positions.

"The goal is to increase community engagement on these issues by introducing the growing field of environmental law to students, providing real-world learning opportunities to students who have a demonstrated interest, and connecting students with some of the foremost legal experts in the field," Tyree said.

Tyree also sees the collaboration with HELI as a way to make sure that members of underserved and traditionally marginalized communities participate in conversations about the environment, particularly as those communities are often hardest hit by environmental problems.

"In order to make the best decisions," Tyree said, "everyone has to have equal opportunity to be heard, including individuals from impacted rural and urban communities."

Of course, one way to diversify participation in discussions about environmental issues is to make sure that future lawyers and policymakers represent a diverse population themselves.

"In my work with Iowa Law and HELI, we're trying to make sure that law students understand emerging legal issues and are prepared to engage with them in practice. Iowa Law has been very supportive in developing and expanding career pathways for first-generation and diverse students," Tyree said.

The most urgent environmental problems and their solutions must bring together representatives of the public, industry, activists, government, and the law. Iowa Law, through HELI, is orchestrating some of that confluence to ensure environmental initiatives get the broadest input possible and create an efficient space to smooth out difficult conflicts.

As Mandelbaum pointed out, "It's always helpful for folks to sit down together." □

"In my work with Iowa Law and HELI, we're trying to make sure that law students understand emerging legal issues and are prepared to engage with them in practice."

- LEO TYREE (05JD)



Defending a person who is facing the death penalty occupies a particular niche in the legal profession.

The stakes are never higher.

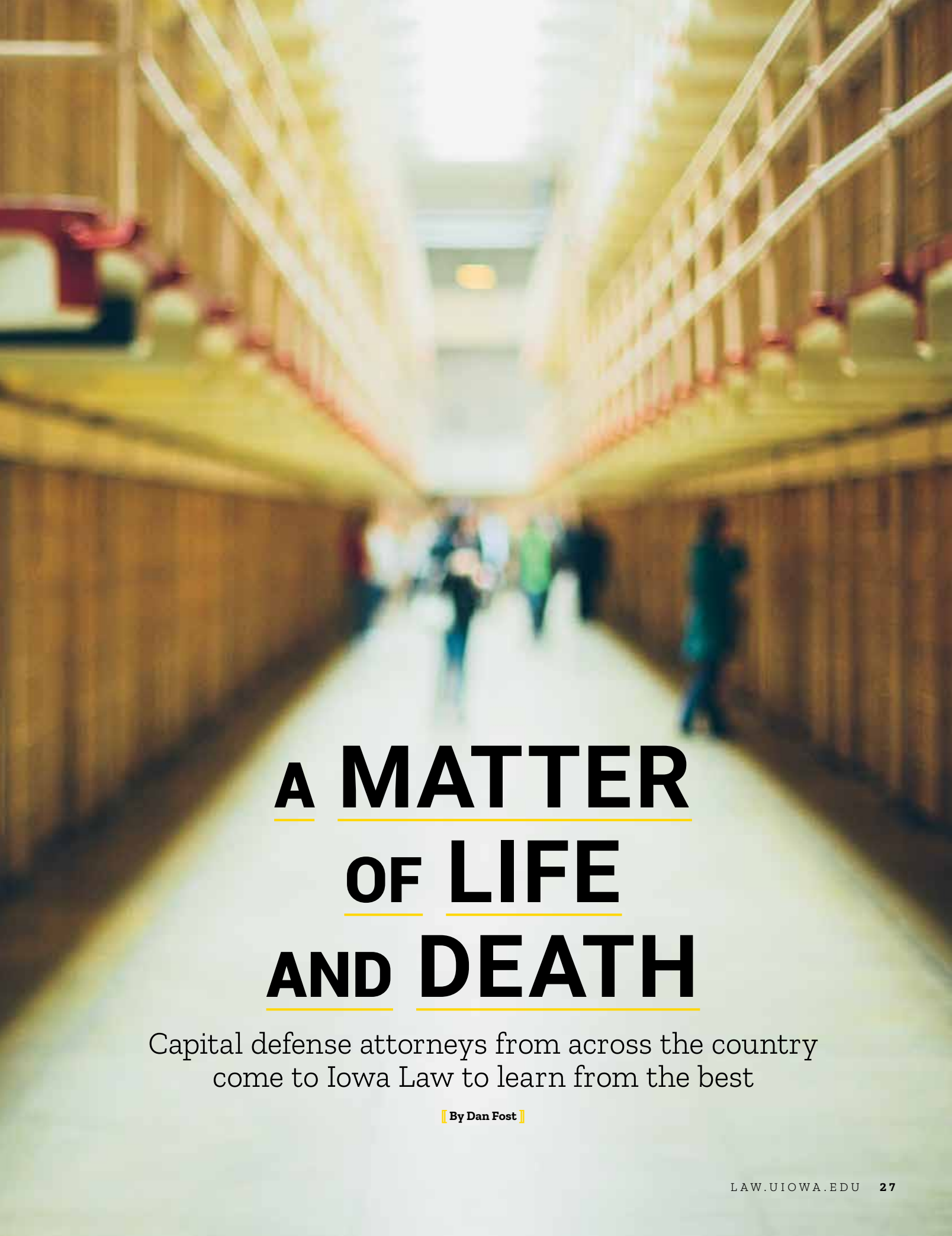
The University of Iowa College of Law hosts one of the leading conferences each year on how best to defend clients who are facing execution—and it's not just for lawyers, said Emily Hughes, the professor who runs the conference.

"Bring every member of your team," said Hughes, Iowa College of Law's senior associate dean for academic affairs and Edward F. Howrey Professor. "It's very hands on. The idea is for you to roll up your sleeves and work on your case while you're there. It's a very skills-based conference."

Because the legal system wants to make certain that innocent people don't get executed, each defendant typically receives representation from a team that often includes at least two attorneys, an investigator, and a mitigation specialist—someone who can gather information about a defendant's circumstances, such as their mental health history, in an effort to persuade a jury or a judge to spare their life.

Capital defense attorneys, mitigation specialists, and investigators from across the country come to Iowa City each May for the Clarence Darrow/ David Baldus Death Penalty College. Some present the latest research and techniques for capital defense, while others are there to learn. →





A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

Capital defense attorneys from across the country
come to Iowa Law to learn from the best

[[By Dan Fost]]

The conference is named in part for acclaimed Iowa Law professor David Baldus, who died in 2011. Baldus conducted groundbreaking research, cited in a U.S. Supreme Court decision, about racial inequities in the application of the death penalty.

Baldus had a major influence on Hughes' career, mentoring her when she worked as an Iowa City public defender. They overlapped briefly as colleagues at Iowa College of Law, and Baldus inspired her to pay forward that commitment to indigent criminal defendants.

"This conference is trying to make sure that people who face the death penalty receive excellent representation," Hughes said.

"A BIG WIN"

Public defenders have an ingrained commitment to help the underdog, the indigent, the person against whom police and prosecutors are bringing down the hammer. They have come to see clients in all their humanity, with all the struggles they face in their lives.

Kush Govani (15JD), who grew up in a family of doctors, first caught the public defender bug in Hughes' class, and then became hooked the next semester when he enrolled in her public defense clinic. The experience taught Govani the value of always seeing things from the client's point of view and never giving up hope. "I learned that you can get a positive result in almost any case," he said, "as long as you approach it the right way."

Since graduating law school, Govani has been a federal public defender in Arizona, working on death penalty appeals, and recently returned to Maricopa County as a public defender. "I think I can make more of a difference doing trial work than habeas work," he said. "I went back to the state to be on the front lines of capital litigation."



“It’s always about context. It’s not just about IQ. It’s about what we call adaptive functioning—you have to understand all the different components of someone’s social behavior, work behavior, and emotional state.”

— KUSH GOVANI (15JD)

Govani had a big impact during his last job, winning a habeas case, in which he argued that his client on death row did not receive adequate representation at trial years before. Although the client had a long history of head injuries, the trial attorneys had never investigated evidence of brain damage, Govani said. His client had been sentenced to death row as a teenager in 1994.

Through a long round of appeals, and armed with new rulings from the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as neurological exams revealing the extent of his client's problems, Govani persuaded a judge to order a new trial in 2020. "The judge ruled that if this evidence had been presented to the court in 1994, there's a reasonable probability that the judge would have sentenced the client to life in prison, as opposed to death," Govani said. "That was a big win."

IT'S ALL ABOUT CONTEXT

When Govani attended the conference in 2022, he learned a wealth of information about how to assess a client's intellectual disability, and how it might have influenced the criminal charge.

One lesson he learned at the conference: Issues of mental capacity are never black and white. "Someone might think, 'this person has an IQ that barely crosses the threshold. The person is not intellectually disabled,'" Govani said. "But this conference is invaluable in helping us understand that it's always about context. It's not just about IQ. It's about what we call adaptive functioning—you have to understand all the different components of someone's social behavior, work behavior, and emotional state."

"There are thousands of different roads to go down when investigating that," Govani said. "I'm sure if I went to the conference every year, there's always something to gain from it. You

can't go too many times.”

Hughes says the conference typically runs for five days, and that instructors bond with participants and often continue advising them long after everyone leaves Iowa. This year's conference attracted 93 participants from across the United States.

Andrea Lyon started the conference as a law professor at the University of Michigan, then moved it to Chicago, where she worked at Valparaiso University Law School's Center for Justice in Capital Cases. Hughes worked on the conference when she took a job at the center; ultimately, Lyon became Valparaiso's dean, and Hughes returned home to Iowa, bringing the conference with her in 2015.

BIAS AND THE DEATH PENALTY

Lyon named the conference for the legendary Clarence Darrow, and Hughes added Baldus' name. “It's about extending and honoring the legacy of David Baldus, who committed his scholarship, his teaching, and his work to analyzing and addressing discrimination in the administration of the death penalty,” Hughes said.

Baldus's widow, Joyce Carman-Baldus, recalled how devoted her husband was to his work. “He was working night and day,” she said, adding that his dedication inspired “a huge cadre of students” to help him collect data for his ambitious research projects.

Baldus' most noteworthy study was published in 1983, analyzing more than 2,000 murder cases from Georgia in the 1970s, and was cited in the Supreme Court decision *McCleskey v. Kemp* (1987). Baldus and his colleagues examined the race of the accused and the victims in each murder and saw a disparate application of justice.

According to the Supreme Court's summary of the case, “Baldus subjected his data to an extensive analysis, taking account of 230 variables that could have explained the disparities

“It's about extending and honoring the legacy of David Baldus, who committed his scholarship, his teaching, and his work to analyzing and addressing discrimination in the administration of the death penalty.”

— PROFESSOR EMILY HUGHES



on nonracial grounds. One of his models concludes that, even after taking account of 39 nonracial variables, defendants charged with killing white victims were 4.3 times as likely to receive a death sentence as defendants charged with killing blacks.”

Yet despite that evidence, the court held that it didn't apply in *McCleskey's* case, and it upheld his death sentence. Years later, Justice Lewis Powell, who wrote the 5-4 opinion, said it was his biggest regret from his time on the court.

SURMOUNTING NEW HURDLES

Iowa is one of 23 states that don't employ the harshest possible punishment, according to the Death Penalty Information Center. Yet Hughes notes the federal government can bring a capital case in any of those states.

“There's a lot of work to be done,” she said. “Many states are trying death penalty cases.”

And new hurdles arise as the law develops, says Govani, citing a 2022 case, *Shinn v. Ramirez*, that would block the sort of habeas appeal Govani won in 2020. “The U.S. Supreme Court made it extremely difficult in 2022 to present this new evidence,” Govani said.

Yet one theme that pervades death penalty work is to stay positive.

“I've been lucky [in winning that appeal],” Govani said. “I'm definitely aware that it's not something that happens all the time. But it's important to always think that it can happen. You always have to be optimistic.”

Often the odds can seem stacked against a criminal defendant. It's not popular work in a society in which many politicians and judges want to appear tough on crime.

“A lot of people in public defense can get fed up with the system,” Govani said, “so it's always important to think positively. And from that mindset, good things can happen.” □

SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

A SELECT LOOK AT THE LAW FACULTY'S MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AWARDS & APPOINTMENTS

- Professor **Robert Miller** received one of The Heritage Foundation's inaugural Freedom and Opportunity Academic Prizes. The award is presented to higher education professionals who contribute to research aligned with Heritage's priority issue areas.
- Professor **Chris Odinet** and his co-authors received the Grant Gilmore Award from the American College of Commercial Finance for their article "The Private Law of Stablecoins." The award honors superior scholarship in commercial finance law.
- Professor **Anya Prince** was named the William T. Barker Distinguished Visiting Professor of Insurance Law at Berkeley Law. Prince led the course titled Anti-Discrimination Policies in Insurance Law where she explored the pressure between the conceptions of social and actuarial fairness.

SCHOLARSHIP

- Professor **Mihailis Diamantis**, "Branding Corporate Criminals," *Fordham Law Review* (forthcoming). The article highlights the shortcomings of corporate punishment, in which corporate criminals may view fines simply as costs of doing business.
- Professor **Diane Lourdes Dick**, "Alliance Politics in Corporate Debt Restructuring," *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal* (2023). The article analyzes "hostile restructuring," a bankruptcy practice in which debtors drive a wedge through syndicated lender groups.
- Professor **Andy Grewal**, "Billionaire Taxes and the Constitution," *Georgia Law Review* (forthcoming). The article argues that the existing Sixteenth Amendment doctrine suffers from deep infirmities and theoretical inconsistencies.
- Senior Associate Dean **Emily Hughes**,

"State Constitutionalism and the Crisis of Excessive Punishment," *Iowa Law Review* (2023). The article offers a doctrinal trajectory for state courts to interpret their constitutions to limit mass incarceration.

- Professor **Andrew Jordan**, "The Promise of Contract Pluralism," *Connecticut Law Review* (forthcoming). Through a series of examples, the article shows how features of promissory morality vary radically across different kinds of human relationships.
- Professor **Chris Odinet**, "Silencing Litigation Through Bankruptcy," *Virginia Law Review* (forthcoming). The article explores how bankruptcy proceedings cause harm to survivors by allowing cover-ups of mass torts.
- Professors **Daria Fisher Page** and **Brian Farrell**, "One Crisis or Two Problems? Disentangling Rural Access to Justice and the Rural Attorney Shortage," *Washington Law Review* (forthcoming). The article explains how the access to justice crisis and attorney shortage in rural areas are two distinct issues.
- Professor **Jason Rantanen**, "Who Appeals (and Wins) Patent Infringement Cases?" *Houston Law Review* (2022). The article draws on a newly constructed multilayered relational dataset of patent infringement cases to assess hypotheses about different types of patent asserters and what happens in appeals of those cases.
- Professor **Ryan Sakoda**, "The Architecture of Discretion: Implications of the Structure of Sanctions for Racial Disparities," *Northwestern University Law Review* (2023). The article studies a statewide probation reform that implemented swift and certain sanctions.
- Professor **Greg Shill**, "The Social Costs (and Benefits) of Dual-Class Stock," *Alabama Law Review* (2023). The article debates whether dual-class stock is optimal for investors and is the first to

identify the structure's social costs as a critical issue.

- Professor **Sean Sullivan**, "The Decline of Coordinated Effects Enforcement and How to Reverse It," *Florida Law Review* (forthcoming). The article exposes a sharp decline in coordinated-effects merger enforcement and the threat this poses to competitive markets.
- Professor **Cristina Tilley**, "The First Amendment and the Second Sex," *Arizona Law Review* (2023). The article reviews nineteenth-century speech regulation and highlights miscalculations by a women-led group to create gender equality in speech.
- Professor **Shannon Roesler**, "Constitutional Resilience," *Washington and Lee Law Review* (forthcoming). The article applies resilience theory to constitutional governance structures and examines how recent Supreme Court decisions either disrupt or support governance doctrines that facilitate our ability to adapt to climate change.

NATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE

- Professor **Diane Lourdes Dick** quoted in "Bed Bath & Beyond Closing More Stores and Selling Stock to Avoid Bankruptcy" by *USA Today*: The share sale "is a lifeline," said Diane Lourdes Dick, a law professor at the University of Iowa. "It can alleviate their immediate distress. But it isn't addressing the underlying issues that have put the company into the position that it's in."
- Professor **Robert Miller** quoted in "Elon Musk, Tesla Board Members to Defend CEO's Pay in Court" by *The Wall Street Journal*: "I think if you offered this kind of package to the average public company CEO, they'd all say, 'no way,'" said Robert Miller, a corporate law professor at the University of Iowa.
- Professor **Gregory Shill** quoted in "Race, Class and Traffic Deaths" by *The New York Times*: "The engorgement of the American vehicle," as Gregory Shill of the University of Iowa has called it, can kill pedestrians and people in smaller vehicles.
- Professor **Sean Sullivan** quoted in "FTC Faces Uphill Battle in Microsoft/Activision Appeal" by *Reuters*: Antitrust scholar Sean Sullivan, who teaches at

DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS

The use of data to inform court decisions has a long history. However, with the advent of big data and enhanced computing power, the legal landscape has rapidly evolved. Risk-assessment algorithms now play a role in jurisdictions nationwide, influencing decisions on pre-trial release, probation conditions, and prison security-level placement. Relying on these algorithms has raised concerns among scholars and policymakers due to the potential perpetuation of biases. Current research seeks to understand how data analytics can be integrated into decision-making processes while minimizing adverse effects and optimizing benefits.



Professor Ryan Sakoda is using data amassed by the Administrative Office of the U.S. District Courts to analyze the characteristics of federal criminal cases dating back to 1994. Leveraging this information, Sakoda examines the impact of different forms of criminal defense representation on crucial case outcomes, such as trial decisions, conviction likelihood, and sentence severity. His research sheds new light on the dynamics that shape justice outcomes, paving the way for a more profound understanding of the underlying factors.

University of Iowa's law school, said an appeals court can modify or throw out a lower court opinion based on "errors of law." "But not every alleged error is an actual error," Sullivan said. "And not every actual error compels intervention."

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

- Professor **César Rosado Marzán** was appointed to the nine-member Labour Law Research Network Steering Committee (LLRN). The LLRN is one of the leading international organizations of labor and employment scholars.
- Professor **Chris Odinet** was appointed an expert by the U.S. State Department to serve on the Digital Assets and Tokens Project. The project, run by the Hague Conference on Private International Law and The International Institute for the Unification of Private Law, focuses on digital asset transfers across international borders.

2023 FACULTY PROMOTIONS

On the recommendation of Dean Kevin Washburn, Provost Kevin Kregel appointed five faculty members to named professorships in the College of Law. Professorships are awarded to faculty who, through their scholarship, have substantially altered the fields in which they work and have received national or international recognition

from their scholarly peers.

- **Mihalis Diamantis:** Ben V. Willie Professorship in Excellence
- **Diane Lourdes Dick:** Charles E. Floete Distinguished Professor of Law
- **Chris Odinet:** Josephine R. Witte Professor of Law
- **Todd Pettys:** renewed as H. Blair and Joan V. White Chair in Civil Litigation

FELLOWSHIPS

- **Anya Prince:** Joseph Rosenfeld Fellow in Law
- **Gregory Shill:** The Michael and Brenda Sandler Faculty Fellow in Corporate Law
- **Sean Sullivan:** Bouma Fellow in Law

- **Cristina Tilley:** The Claire Ferguson Carlson Fellow in Law

NEW FACULTY

- **Bethany Berger:** Professor Bethany Berger is a nationally renowned scholar in property law, legal history, and federal Indian law. Before joining Iowa Law, she taught courses on American Indian Law, Property, Tribal Law, and Conflict of Laws at the University of Connecticut School of Law. Professor Berger brings a wealth of experience, having served as a judge for the Southwest Intertribal Court of Appeals and as a visiting professor at esteemed institutions like Harvard Law School and the University of Michigan Law School. She has also contributed to legal successes with her co-authored amicus briefs in five U.S. Supreme Court cases. Her tenure at Iowa Law begins fall 2024.
- **Vinita Singh:** Professor Vinita Singh (18JD) joins Iowa Law as a Faculty Fellow. She was previously a transactional attorney focused on structuring investment platforms and fundraising for private equity and venture capital funds. Her expertise extends to national security law, where she earned her Master of Laws from Georgetown University Law Center in May 2023. With an interest in the convergence of business and national security, Singh explores critical areas like the security implications of international trade, financial transactions, and foreign investment in the United States.



Experts from across the globe meet in The Hague to discuss the Digital Assets and Tokens Project, including Iowa Law professor Chris Odinet (third from right).

HONORING THE LEGACY OF DAVID H. VERNON

THE LATE DEAN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO IOWA
LAW LIVE ON THROUGH A PRESTIGIOUS

PROFESSORSHIP AND STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP | **By Xenia Kobylarz** |



Professor David H. Vernon in 1967.

Iowa Law has a rich history of esteemed faculty members who have left a lasting impact on the institution and its students. One such influential figure is the late Professor David H. Vernon, a former dean and beloved member of the faculty whose achievements and influence extended far beyond the walls of the classroom

and deep into the hearts of those who knew him.

In 2001, after his passing, former students, colleagues, family, and friends came together to establish the David H. Vernon Professorship of Law, a position established in recognition of Vernon's outstanding contributions to the law and as a testament to the

profound influence he had on the Iowa College of Law community.

"David was a noted legal scholar, inspiring teacher, and successful academic administrator. He was also my favorite professor while I was a student at the law school and a mentor to me during the first years of my legal career," said Casey D. Mahon

(73BA, 76JD), one of several former students and colleagues of Vernon who have generously supported the endowment since its establishment. “It was only natural that I would contribute to an endowment in David’s name to help fund the salaries of the distinguished professors appointed to David’s chair.”

Vernon’s journey in academia was marked by notable achievements and contributions. With degrees from Harvard University and New York University, he served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After teaching at leading institutions such as New York University Law School, the University of Houston Law Center, and the University of New Mexico School of Law, Vernon joined the University of Iowa in 1966. As dean of Iowa Law from 1966 to 1971, he introduced the innovative small-section program, providing first-year law students with a more personalized learning experience. Following his deanship, Vernon spent 30 years on the Iowa Law faculty and was named the Allan D. Vestal Professor of Law in 1986. His scholarly focus encompassed contracts, commercial law, and remedies.

Since its establishment, the David H. Vernon Professorship has been held by remarkable scholars, with each named professor adding to its



Gabriela Rivera Aponte (23JD), the most recent recipient of the Vernon Fellowship.



From left: Professor Todd Pettys, David H. Vernon Professor Joseph Yockey, and Dean Kevin Washburn.

rich legacy. In 2006, Randall Bezanson (71JD), a former student of Vernon’s during his deanship, became the inaugural holder of the professorship and continued Vernon’s dedication to legal education and scholarship. After Bezanson’s passing in 2014, Sheldon Kurtz succeeded him as the next Vernon Professor. Both Bezanson and Kurtz, who joined the College of Law in 1973, served as deans of other law schools during their careers.

In 2022, Professor Joseph Yockey, a nationally recognized scholar in the areas of corporate governance, organizational compliance, social enterprise, and higher education, succeeded Kurtz, who retired in 2021. “This is really the ultimate honor a person in my profession can achieve,” Yockey said. “It’s also given me even more motivation to try to do what I can to raise the profile of Iowa Law and help our students succeed.”

VERNON FELLOWSHIP AIMS TO ENSURE STUDENT SUCCESS

Former College of Law associate dean and professor Marcella David, now a senior vice president, provost, and professor in the Business and Entre-

preneurship Department at Columbia College Chicago, remembers Vernon not just as an outstanding scholar and teacher but a proud advocate of diversity in legal education.

“He was the kind of legal educator I wanted to be: engaged in teaching that is robust and forward-thinking, a campus leader providing service to the college and university, and a professional committed to providing the broadest possible access across all dimensions of diversity,” David noted.

A little over a decade ago, David founded the David H. Vernon Fellowship to honor Vernon’s dedication to diversity.

“From my perspective, we see the values that David inspired—diversity, access, engagement, professionalism—at risk in today’s supercharged, divisive political environment. So having two ways of honoring David’s commitment to these values in support of faculty and students is truly fantastic,” she added.

Gabriela Rivera Aponte (23JD) is the most recent recipient of the Vernon Fellowship and is now an incoming associate at McGuireWoods in Chicago.

“Going to law school was a big financial lift for me. Thanks in part to financial assistance from the Iowa Law School Foundation, I earned my JD and was able to pursue a career in the law. Supporting ILSF is my way of paying that assistance forward to benefit today’s Iowa law students.” — ROBERT YOULE (76JD)



TOGETHER HAWKEYES

TOGETHER, HAWKEYES ARE UNSTOPPABLE. WE UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF UNITING FOR A COMMON CAUSE—AND OUR PIONEERING SPIRIT KEEPS US PUSHING FORWARD TO CHANGE THE FUTURE.

NOW’S YOUR CHANCE TO HELP MAKE HISTORY AT IOWA LAW. JOIN THE CAMPAIGN: [TOGETHER.FORIOWA.ORG](https://together.foriowa.org).

- Ensure Iowa Law excellence
- Endow law journals to secure a lasting legacy
- Create professorships for Legal Analysis, Writing & Research faculty
- Provide scholarships to the best and brightest future attorneys
- Attract and retain top legal scholars
- Make the Boyd Law Building the optimal place for legal education



“No single experience or institution has given me more than Iowa Law has in terms of the tools necessary to build a successful and engrossing career. I want those tools to continue to be accessible to deserving students, regardless of financial capacity, and I am committed to giving back to the College of Law for that purpose. As a longtime member of the ILSF board of directors, I have enjoyed a front row seat to the benefits of supporting talented law students through scholarships, as well as providing financial support to enhance the College of Law’s reputation for excellence in legal scholarship and programming. A gift to the law school is an investment in bright futures.” — MAJA EATON (77BA, 84JD)

MEET OUR HUBBELL FELLOWS

2L KEGAN PETERS AND 2L ANDREW HAMILTON RECEIVED PRESTIGIOUS HUBBELL FELLOWSHIPS TO ADVANCE THEIR EXPERIENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW **By Michaela Jarvis**



2L Kegan Peters



2L Andrew Hamilton

Second-year Iowa Law student Kegan Peters always wanted to pursue a career in social justice, and in 2020, when a hugely powerful derecho hit Iowa, her career plan took further shape.

“I became convinced that climate change is the biggest social justice challenge facing my generation,” Peters said. “I am interested in working to change the structural and policy issues surrounding climate change.”

Named a Hubbell Fellow this past year, Peters had the opportunity to work during the summer at Clean Wisconsin, where she performed a wide variety of duties, including pre-litigation research and composing memos to public organizations about their authority to track carbon emissions.

The Hubbell Environmental Law Initiative (HELI) awards two fellowships each year to support students who are already in law school at Iowa and wish to pursue unpaid summer internships in environmental law. The fellowship stipend supports students who have chosen public interest or government positions.

“The Hubbells [who donated \$5 million to establish HELI] have created the opportunity for law

students to pursue their real passions instead of pursuing a completely different legal path simply because of finances,” Peters said. “It’s great to be meeting folks who could potentially be mentors and collaborators for my entire career.”

Hubbell Fellow Andrew Hamilton, also entering his second year, spent the summer working in the Alaska Attorney General’s Office.

“Alaska is a unique state considering the government’s influence over major operations,” Hamilton said. “As one might presume, oil and gas is a booming industry that competes directly with environmental considerations.”

Hamilton’s internship included helping on a mediation and appellate brief, doing legal research for torts, and working on pre-judgment interests and highway easement deeds.

“I am so grateful for the expertise of the attorneys and legal staff in guiding me to develop these critical skills,” Hamilton said, adding that receiving the Hubbell Fellowship made it possible. “Without a doubt, the fellowship grant is 100% the reason I was able to accept this summer internship.”

He says his internship helped him realize just how nuanced the law is

surrounding environmental issues. “I am learning more about these areas and have found a certain fascination regarding water law in particular.” He says he plans, however, to develop a general base of knowledge in environmental law before specializing.

Hamilton, who was medically disqualified from military service in his last semester at the United States Military Academy, says environmental law has provided him with another way to give back.

“I believe I have found another avenue of service to my community,” he said.

“It’s great to be meeting folks who could potentially be mentors and collaborators for my entire career.” — 2L KEGAN PETERS

ALUMNI NOTES

STAY CONNECTED: [f](#) [@](#) [in](#) [X](#)

1975

Retired Ahlers & Cooney attorney **James “Jim” Hanks** received the American Bar Association’s 25th Annual Jefferson Fordham Lifetime Achievement Award. The award honors accomplished practitioners in varied practice areas associated with state and local government law.

1978

Longtime Senate staffer **Susan Keith** was announced as a member of the staff roster for the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry in preparation for the 2023 Farm Bill. Keith works on commodities, crop insurance, credit, trade, and CFRC issues.

1979

Jaki Samuelson received the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys Arabella Mansfield Award. The Arabella Mansfield Award recognizes outstanding women lawyers in Iowa who have promoted and nurtured women in the legal profession.

1983

Lowell V. Stortz was named a 2022 Minnesota ICON by *Finance & Commerce* and *Minnesota Lawyer*. The ICON Award recognizes accomplished individuals with proven success throughout their career within Minnesota’s business and legal communities.

1984

Hon. **Lucy J. Gamon** was appointed to the Washington State Bank’s Board of Directors. She retired as district court judge of Iowa’s 8A Judicial District in 2023 after 30 years on the bench.

1987

James Larson joined Hepler Broom LLC as attorney of counsel. Larson is a real estate and commercial litigation attorney focusing in the areas of property development, sales/acquisitions, leasing, title insurance defense, and other real estate litigation.

1988

Hon. **CJ Williams** published

his fourth and fifth books titled *Sentencing Advocacy: Principles and Strategies* and *How Not to Rob a Bank and Other Stories from 20 Years as a Federal Prosecutor*. Williams is a district judge on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa.

1989

Chief Justice Susan Christensen appointed **Henry Latham II** as chief judge of the Seventh Judicial District. Judge Latham previously served as assistant chief judge. He was appointed to the bench in 2013.

1990

Stephen R. Baird was selected to receive the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy. Baird is a shareholder at Greenberg Traurig, LLP in their intellectual property and technology practice in Minneapolis.

1991

U.S. President Biden appointed **Lonnie Johnson** to the Presidential Advisory Commission on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans.

1992

Susan Oliver and **Jake Felderman** (03JD) were selected to join the faculty at the inaugural Nuclear Verdicts Defense Institute. They guided experienced defense attorneys on their path to becoming certified Nuclear Verdicts Defenders.

1993

The Illinois Supreme court appointed **David Navarro** to the Illinois Court of Appeals. In 2021, Judge Navarro was

appointed chief judge in the pre-trial division, where he played a significant role in the preparations for eliminating cash bail under the provisions of the Safe-T Act.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds appointed **Patrick Smith** a district judge in Judicial Election District 5C. Smith previously served as an attorney for Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company.

1994

Steven Grubbs was featured in an article by the *Daily Iowan*, reflecting on his time at Iowa and highlighting his journey from the Iowa House of Representatives to founder and CEO of VictoryXR, a company bringing virtual reality to education.

1995

The Los Angeles Superior Court appointed **Sergio C. Tapia** an assistant presiding judge.

1996

Jay Byers was named the 25th president of Simpson College. Byers received his undergraduate degree from Simpson College and served as a member of the board of trustees since 2012. He previously served as the president and CEO of the Greater Des Moines Partnership.

Dean C. Eyler was recognized by the World Trademark Review as a Global Leader in Private Practice in 2022. Eyler is a partner at Lathrop GPM, where he represents clients in intellectual property and complex commercial disputes.

1998

Bridget Penick was appointed to the 2022-2023 Iowa State



ANGELICA HERNANDEZ (93JD)

Angelica Hernandez recently received a Presidential Citation from the 2022 State Bar of Texas President Sylvia Borunda Firth. She was the co-chair of the State Bar Convention held in Houston.



BRIAN WHITE (02JD)

Brian White was named vice president and general counsel of Wake Forest University. Reporting directly to the president, White will become the principal legal officer for the university, leading its Office of the General Counsel and providing advice and counsel to the university on all significant legal matters.

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF IOWA LAW

We recognize the incredible time, talents, and treasures provided by the Iowa Law School Foundation (ILSF) to help us achieve our goals and drive Iowa Law forward. The board is led by Maja J. Eaton (84JD); alumni members are listed below.

- David W. Alberts (91JD)
- Robert "Andy" Andersen (76JD)
- Elizabeth R. Boyd (87JD)
- Craig A. Cook (89JD)
- Jeff W. Courter (87JD)
- Dave Day (77JD)
- H. Mitchell D'Olier (71JD)
- Renee Dotson (06JD)
- Angela L. Fontana (89JD)
- Kelly M. Hnatt (89JD)
- Terry A. Jacobs (81JD)
- Lonnie Johnson (91JD)
- Mary K.W. Jones (93JD)
- Douglas P. Kintzinger (86JD)
- Cynthia Lande (10JD)
- Darrel A. Morf (69JD)
- Abhay M. Nadipuram (13JD)
- Karin Nelsen (93JD), Vice President
- Timothy Ray (94JD)
- James G. Sawtelle (91JD), Secretary
- Jeffrey A. Scudder (06JD)
- S. Lata Setty (91JD)
- William Smith (71JD)
- Tina B. Solis (97JD)
- Leena Soni (92JD)
- Mark Steffensen (92JD)
- Annette G. Stewart (04JD), Treasurer
- Lowell V. Stortz (83JD)
- Gary J. Streit (75JD)
- Joel S. Telpner (83JD)
- Winnie Uluocha (18JD)
- John F. Wicks (98JD)
- Amy Taylor Wilson (09JD)
- Gretchen Wolf (02JD)
- Robert E. Youle (76JD)

Bar Association's Ways and Means Committee. Penick is a shareholder at Fredrikson & Byron in Des Moines.

[[1999]]

Theresa E. Corona was promoted to deputy general counsel, corporate at Ecolab. Corona has served more than 11 years at Ecolab, starting her tenure in 2012 as a senior attorney.

McCeil Johnson was selected to participate in the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges Institute for Leadership & Governance in Higher Education.

[[2000]]

Lionel Weaver joined Faegre Drinker as counsel in the firm's government and regulatory practice in Chicago. His experience includes artificial intelligence and algorithms, and other technology-driven areas of law, including cybersecurity, data privacy, and information governance.

[[2001]]

John Ruan IV, chairman of Ruan Transportation Management Systems, joined the board of directors for the University of Iowa Center for Advancement.

[[2002]]

Justin Page was featured in an article by the *Minnesota*

Lawyer about his work representing people with disabilities, and his ability to bring a new perspective to the Minnesota Commission on Judicial Selection as its newest member.

[[2003]]

David Funkhouser III was named office managing partner of Spencer Fane's Phoenix office. He has been a partner at the firm since 2018, providing clients with counsel in complex commercial litigation matters.

[[2004]]

Anne West Burmeister was named to the Iowa Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2023. She is the first rowing athlete inducted into the Hall of Fame. She was the first All-American in program history and was a top 10 finalist for the 1998 NCAA Woman of the Year.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds appointed **Michael Carpenter** a district judge in Judicial Election District 8A. Carpenter previously served as an attorney at Gaumer, Emmanuel, Carpenter & Goldsmith, P.C.

Hon. **Paul Kraus** was sworn in as judge for Ottawa County Michigan's Fifth Circuit Court. Judge Kraus will serve in the Family Division of the Circuit Court and his docket includes adoptions, child

neglect/abuse cases, juvenile delinquency, divorce, and other domestic matters.

[[2005]]

Elizabeth Chiarello published her second edition of *The Food, Beverage and Cosmetics Law Review*. Chiarello's practice at Sidley Austin LLP focuses on the defense of companies in class action, products liability, mass tort, toxic tort, and other complex litigation matters.

Amanda Hamilton started a new position as assistant attorney general at the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia. She previously served as a senior antitrust correspondent at *The Capital Forum* and an attorney in the Office of the General Counsel for the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

[[2006]]

Tara Eberline became partner-in-charge for Foulston Siefkin LLP's Kansas City office. Eberline has chaired the firm's Kansas City-area employment and labor/litigation practice since 2021.

Shawn Gibbs accepted a new position with Sage Therapeutics as vice president, corporate counsel. Sage Therapeutics is a Boston-based biopharmaceutical company developing

therapies to better treat brain health disorders.

Eugenio Mollo Jr. joined the full-time faculty of the University of Toledo College of Law. Mollo started as an adjunct professor to teach immigration law courses and will now join the Legal Clinic as a clinical assistant professor of law.

[[2009]]

The Iowa Attorney General appointed **David Faith** as deputy attorney general for agency counsel at the Office of the Attorney General of Iowa. Faith previously served as a judge advocate for the Iowa Army National Guard.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds appointed **Kristen Formanek** to district associate judge in Judicial Election District 5C. Judge Formanek formerly served as an assistant Polk County attorney and an assistant Story County attorney.

Justin Grad was promoted to associate general counsel for Amazon Web Services. He began his tenure at Amazon as corporate counsel for Kindle in 2014.

Michelle Ramirez of Sidley Austin was named to Bloomberg Law's 40 Under 40. The award recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of early career lawyers nationwide. Her practice area focus is products liability.

Lanny Zieman was appointed by the Iowa Attorney General to run the state Office of the Consumer Advocate. The consumer advocate represents consumers and the public in matters dealing with gas, electricity, telecommunications, and other utilities, including in proceedings before the Iowa Utilities Board.

[[2010]]

Kiri Somermeyer was named executive director of the Corporate Institute at the University of Minnesota Law School. Somermeyer teaches in the Business Law Clinic and oversees the Corporate Externship Program and Independent Field Placements.

[[2011]]

Kaitlin Cswaykus was promoted to partner in Thompson Coe's Dallas office. Cswaykus' practice focuses on health care litigation.

Nabilah F. Irshad joined Brandwatch as chief legal and people officer, where she leads the legal, privacy, compliance, risk, and people functions.

Sarah Pierce started a new position as policy analyst for United States Citizen and Immigration Services. She previously served as senior counsel, border and immigration for the U.S. Senate's Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee.

[[2012]]

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds appointed **Tyler Buller** a judge on the Iowa Court of Appeals. Previously, Judge Buller prosecuted criminal trials and appeals as an assistant attorney general at the Iowa Department of Justice.

Bryce Carlson started a position as assistant inspector general at the City of Chicago Office of the Inspector General.

Lindsey Guerrero was awarded the Iowa Bar President's Award for her service in protecting Iowa's land title system. Guerrero represents lenders, developers, purchasers, and sellers in commercial real estate transactions with

2023 COLLEGE OF LAW ALUMNI AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2023 Alumni Award winners!

The annual alumni awards recognize those who have made significant achievements in their careers and in their service to the College of Law. *Read more about this year's winners at law.uiowa.edu/awards.*

- **Carroll Reasoner** – Alumni Achievement Award
- **Hon. CJ Williams** – Alumni Service Award
- **Abhay Nadipuram** – Emerging Leader Award
- **Alison Guernsey** – Iowa Law Review Award

Nyemaster Goode.

[[2013]]

Nicholas Chamis was promoted to senior counsel at Foley & Lardner LLP's Dallas office. His practice focuses on estate planning, transfer tax planning, estate and trust administration, and other wealth planning issues.

[[2014]]

The Iowa Attorney General hired **Daniel Barnes** as deputy attorney general for consumer protection. He will represent the state by overseeing cases involving consumer fraud.

[[2015]]

Sarah G. Raaii was promoted to partnership at McDermott Will & Emery. Raaii focuses her practice on employee benefits and matters related to health care reform, data privacy and HIPAA compliance, executive compensation, and health and welfare, 401(k), 403(b), and pension plans.

[[2017]]

Kathryn Reynolds assumed a new role as president/commissioner of Northwoods League Softball. She has had a distinguished career in sports administration and leadership, most recently as director of player development for the University of Iowa women's basketball team.

[[2019]]

Derek Huish joined Quinn Emanuel's Salt Lake City office. Huish's practice focuses on complex commercial and intellectual property litigation.

Abraham Sotelo started a new position at K&L Gates' Kansas City office as a member of the Power practice group. His practice focuses on energy transactions, including developing, buying, selling, and investing in renewable energy projects.

[[2022]]

Elizabeth Estey was approved as the new Jefferson County Assistant Attorney. She previously served as a member of the Fairfield City Council and has worked as an attorney for Disability Rights Iowa.

Von Briesen & Roper S.C. welcomed **Denisha A. Renovales** as an associate in the firm's Milwaukee office. Renovales is a member of the business practice group where she focuses on corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, and transactional matters for business, health care, and nonprofit organizations.

We'd love to hear from you. Please share your news with us at law.uiowa.edu/alumninotes.

IN MEMORIAM

IOWA LAW PAYS SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE FOLLOWING ALUMNI,
WHO PASSED AWAY BETWEEN JULY 1, 2022, AND JUNE 30, 2023.

[[1948]]

• John A. Bogen

—

[[1950]]

• James F. Smith

—

[[1951]]

• Thomas E. Quirk

—

[[1952]]

• Tom Curry

• Merle J. Watters

—

[[1954]]

• Milton Posnick

• Prof. Robert L. Stoyles Jr.

—

[[1955]]

• James H. Cothorn

• John C. Shenk, Jr.

• Lt. Colonel H. A. Teeter, Ret

—

[[1956]]

• Theodore M. Hutchison

—

[[1957]]

• Robert P. Ebersole

• Paul E. LeBuhn

• Simon W. Rasche Jr.

• James R. Snyder

—

[[1958]]

• David L. Marner

—

[[1959]]

• Daniel L. Berry

• John R. Burrows

—

[[1960]]

• H. Montgomery Hougen

[[1961]]

• Richard R. Albrecht

• Minor Barnes

• Jean Hickey Bartley

• Marvin S. Berenstein

• Lake E. Crookham

• James E. Lloyd

• The Hon. Charles R. Wolle

—

[[1962]]

• Russ B. Gray

• Larrie C. Hindman

• Michael J. Lane

—

[[1963]]

• Duane J. Goedken

• John B. Grier

—

[[1964]]

• J. Edward Power

• Stephen M. Turner

• John R. Wicks

—

[[1965]]

• C. Carleton Frederici

• The Hon. Ronald T. Y. Moon

—

[[1966]]

• Ronald W. Feilmeyer

• Rev. Herbert J. Knudten, Jr.

• Charles W. Larson Sr.

• John J. Willett

—

[[1967]]

• Craig G. Ensign

• Robert D. Jacobson

• Merle L. Royce II

• Thomas L. Smallwood

[[1968]]

• John S. Gosma

• The Hon. William H. Joy

• Martin W. Peterson

• F. Kelly Smith

• Marjorie Friedl Stampolis

—

[[1969]]

• D. Michael King

—

[[1970]]

• Dr. John R. Wunder

—

[[1971]]

• Thomas F. Breuch

• Lloyd H. Wolf

—

[[1972]]

• Tracy E. Anderson

• Rodney H. Powell

—

[[1973]]

• Alexander G. Gillett

• Barbara J. Weller

—

[[1974]]

• Charles K. Ayers

—

[[1975]]

• Patricia Mullen Hulting

—

[[1976]]

• David W. Hibbard

• Roy Paul Roth

• Larry J. Thorson

—

[[1977]]

• John R. Thompson

—

[[1981]]

• Crystal L. Usher

—

[[1983]]

• Irene Monroe Boyd

—

[[1984]]

• Cameron M. Gundrum

[[1988]]

• Marty R. Howard

• Juan A. Moran

—

[[1989]]

• Karl J. Wolle

—

[[1993]]

• Thomas D. Shakeshaft

• David R. Treimer

—

[[1994]]

• Raymond A. Gibson

• Nancy A. Thoma

—

[[1995]]

• Lewis C. Gwin

—

[[1999]]

• Robert J. Meyerhofer

—

[[2000]]

• The Hon. Kristi M. Bellamy

—

[[2002]]

• Ellen Daniels Osborn

—

[[2005]]

• Jeffrey S. Roberts



Willard "Sandy" Boyd,
president emeritus of
Iowa Law.

“Sandy created community, and he understood better than anyone how to bring the academic commitment to bear in such a way that it improved the community. He improved our community, he improved students, and frankly, the whole state of Iowa.” — DEAN KEVIN WASHBURN

REMEMBERING SANDY BOYD

REFLECTIONS ON A LIFETIME OF SERVICE, LEADERSHIP, AND FRIENDSHIP TO IOWA LAW

President Emeritus Willard “Sandy” Boyd will continue to be celebrated at the University of Iowa College of Law for generations. Boyd, beloved by the entire university community, passed away on Dec. 13, 2022.

Boyd served as the University of Iowa’s 15th president from 1969 to 1981. He started at Iowa as a professor at the College of Law in 1954, later becoming an associate dean and then moving into university administration. One of Boyd’s early tasks was to help conceive and establish the UI Foundation, known today as the UI Center for Advancement.

His contributions to the university are also cherished in the Boyd Law Building, which opened in 1986 and was dedicated in his honor. Boyd continued to teach at Iowa Law after returning to campus in 1996 and co-founded the Larned A. Waterman Iowa Nonprofit Resource Center in 2001. He then served as the university’s interim president from 2002 to 2003 before formally retiring in 2015.

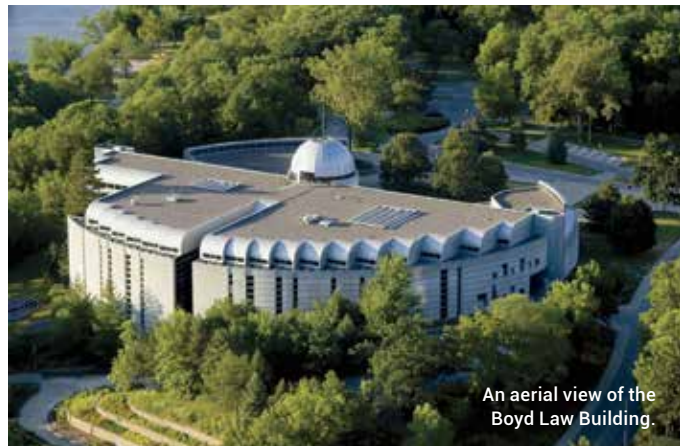
Boyd’s influence is deeply embedded in the character and excellence of Iowa Law, and we will forever be thankful for his commitment to our community.

“Sandy believed in and practiced, as a central tenet of his life, service to the institutions of which he was a part, to the larger community, and to other people. He also deeply embraced the cause of justice, fairness, and equality of opportunity through the rule of law for all members of our society.”

— ARTHUR BONFIELD, ALLAN D. VESTAL CHAIR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN EMERITUS



The Boyd Law Building was dedicated in Sandy Boyd’s honor in 1986.



An aerial view of the Boyd Law Building.

CONGRATS!

We are incredibly proud of the remarkable achievements of our 2023 Iowa Law graduates. Their determination, resilience, and academic success have paved the way for a bright future in the legal field. As they embark on their professional journeys, we are confident they will continue to reflect the standards of excellence they've established at Iowa Law while positively impacting the world. Give a gift today to support the next generation of law hawks.



Dean Kevin Washburn (left) and the Class of 2023 stand proudly before commencement at Hancher Auditorium.



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