

# IOWA LAW

MAGAZINE / 2024

## A Legacy of Excellence

A tribute to Dean Kevin Washburn, whose more than six years at the law school's helm have been filled with extraordinary accomplishments and growth

**IOWA**

### **PLUS:**

Professors and alumni spearhead criminal justice reform / Michael Ketchmark (90JD) upends the real estate industry / Welcome eight new faculty to Iowa Law

## LOOKING BACK AND GIVING THANKS

Serving as dean of Iowa Law has been a profound honor. As I prepare to step down from this role at the end of 2024, I am now much wiser and I am grateful to have had a role in stewarding an institution that will soon begin its 160th year.

The summer of 2018 was the pre-pandemic era, and it seems like a lifetime ago. Being dean of the law school through the pandemic was humbling, but I am grateful for every moment. Iowa Law’s rich history and tradition made it resilient at a very difficult time, but I am grateful that our strong history and tradition was never an obstacle to innovation and evolution.

When I arrived at Iowa Law, I set out to develop my vision organically by learning more about the strengths of the College

of Law. It was not long before it became obvious that the school’s most wonderful and unusual quality was its focus on writing. Because the law school is nestled within the strongest public university in the nation for writing, it was natural to invest in this existing strength and make our commitment more explicit. In the past few years, we have expanded our outstanding legal writing faculty, developed more writing courses, expanded the mission of the law school’s Writing Center, and added positions to the editorial boards of our four student-edited law journals.

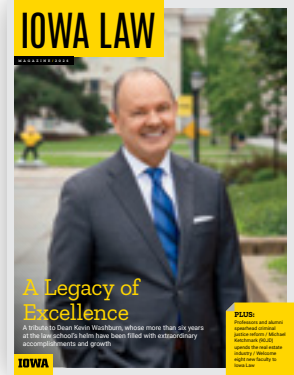
This idea of the “Writing Law School” has taken hold and it is now a shared vision with strong momentum. As a result of our commitment, I am confident that Iowa Law is consistently producing better writers than any other law school in the country. Our outstanding employment numbers bear

this out. Our jobs numbers regularly rank in the top 10 among the 200 law schools in the U.S. The best evidence is the courts: Judges tend to recognize strong writing when they see it and they have been hiring our graduates as law clerks in record numbers (read more on page 3).

In the pages to come, you will read more about the achievements of our students, alumni, and faculty, many of them rooted in a strong foundation of legal writing education and excellence. We are also proud to showcase an alum who shook up the real estate industry, faculty and alumni working to reform the criminal justice system, and a summary of what we have accomplished together during my tenure as dean.

The Iowa Law community is warm and gracious. I have come to love this community during the past six years. I look forward to supporting the next dean and all the colleagues I now call friends. Thank you for supporting Iowa Law. Go Hawks!

Kevin Washburn  
N. William Hines Dean and Professor of Law



### DEAN

Kevin Washburn

### DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Laura Kivlighan

### DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Amy Kassem

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, COLLEGE OF LAW

Jenni Andrew

### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Nic Arp

Dan Fost

Hannah Huston

Deborah Kirk

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

Thomas Langdon,

Thomas Langdon Photography

Justin Torner, Iowa

### DESIGN

Diablo Custom Publishing

### STAY CONNECTED!



### CONTACT US:

Iowa College of Law  
280 Boyd Law Building  
Iowa City, IA 52242

☎ 319-335-9034

law.uiowa.edu

# IOWA

College of Law



# FEATURES

**12** **A TRIBUTE TO DEAN KEVIN WASHBURN**  
 After serving as dean of Iowa Law for the past six years, Kevin Washburn is stepping down at the end of 2024, leaving an impressive legacy of innovation, excellence, diversity, and more.

**18** **CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAILBLAZERS**  
 Three members of the Iowa Law community are driving change in the national parole and probation systems.

**24** **REAL ESTATE REFORMER**  
 Michael Ketchmark (90JD) is radically transforming the way realtors' commissions are determined.

SCOTT LAUCK

# DEPARTMENTS

**2** **IN BRIEF**  
 News and newsmakers from the Iowa Law community.

**8** **ADVOCACY**  
 Meet four alumni judges who serve on the federal bench and three graduates who took different routes to careers in military law.

**28** **FACULTY IN THE NEWS**  
 A look at the law faculty's many accomplishments, from awards and appointments to recent scholarship. Plus: Iowa Law welcomes eight new faculty.

**32** **LASTING LEGACY**  
 Rob Youle (76JD) has spent decades supporting two institutions that changed his life for the better: the American Cancer Society and Iowa Law.

**34** **SCHOLARSHIPS**  
 The family of John F. Wicks (98JD, 98MBA) has established and sustained a generous scholarship fund to support promising students.

**35** **GIVING**  
 Donated artworks enrich the campus environment.

**36** **ALUMNI NOTES AND IN MEMORIAM**  
 Learn the latest about your classmates, and remember the lives of alumni we have sadly lost.

**40** **GRATITUDE**  
 The University of Iowa Center for Human Rights celebrates a quarter century of making a difference.

# SKADDEN FELLOW

BARBARA RODRIGUEZ (22JD) IS IOWA LAW'S FIRST GRADUATE TO RECEIVE PRESTIGIOUS PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FELLOWSHIP

**[ By Hannah Huston ]**



Barbara Rodriguez  
(22JD)

In December 2023, Barbara “Barbi” Rodriguez (22JD) made history as the first Iowa Law graduate to be awarded a Skadden Fellowship.

Skadden Fellowships, the most prestigious and competitive awards for public interest lawyers, provide recipients with two years of funding to pursue full-time public interest law initiatives.

Rodriguez joined a distinguished group of 28 graduating law students and judicial clerks from across the U.S. focused on critical issues such as

disability rights, education equity, housing, immigrants’ rights, loan borrowers’ rights, LGBTQ+ healthcare rights, and environmental law.

As a Skadden Fellow, Rodriguez provides legal representation, community outreach, and know-your-rights trainings for noncitizens at high risk of deportation. Her work is hosted by the Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice (Iowa MMJ) and is conducted in collaboration with the Prairielands Freedom Fund, cofounded by Iowa Law alum Julia Zalenski (13JD).

Rodriguez expressed her gratitude for the fellowship, stating, “The Skadden Fellowship has allowed me to help meet the legal needs of immigrant communities across Iowa and to lend visibility and resources to the problem of underrepresentation in immigration proceedings.”

At Iowa Law, Rodriguez was an active member of the Immigration Advocacy Clinic and the Community Empowerment Law Project (CELP). She credits her time in clinic and various volunteer experiences, including the Citizen Lawyers Program, Catholic Charities, and the Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice, along with internships at the Iowa Public Defender’s Office and the Harvard Immigrant and Refugee Clinic, for shaping her collaborative approach, which she now applies in her role as a Skadden Fellow.

Iowa Law professor Daria Fisher Page, who directs CELP, noted that Rodriguez’s experience in the clinic was instrumental in refining her skills for effective and sustainable legal practice.

“In CELP, Barbi worked on a project for the True Second Chances Coalition, a group working to reform the clemency process for individuals sentenced to life without parole in Iowa. The work was challenging, frustrating, and draining, but Barbi didn’t get mired in the difficult emotions. Instead, she used them as fuel to propel her team and the work. This encapsulates Barbi’s ability to reflect on hard truths and use them to sustain her work.”

Visit [skaddenfellowships.org](https://skaddenfellowships.org) to learn more about the prestigious Skadden Fellowship.

**“The Skadden Fellowship has allowed me to help meet the legal needs of immigrant communities across Iowa.”** — **BARBARA RODRIGUEZ (22JD)**

## BY THE NUMBERS

EMPLOYMENT AND BAR  
PASSAGE FACTS AND FIGURES

**[ No. 7 ]**

LAW SCHOOL FOR FULL-TIME JOB  
PLACEMENT, BY REUTERS

**[ No. 35 ]**

GO-TO LAW SCHOOL FOR BIG  
LAW JOBS, BY LAW.COM

**[ 23% ]**

OF THE CLASS OF 2023 RECEIVED  
STATE OR FEDERAL CLERKSHIPS  
ACROSS THE COUNTRY

**[ 88.9% ]**

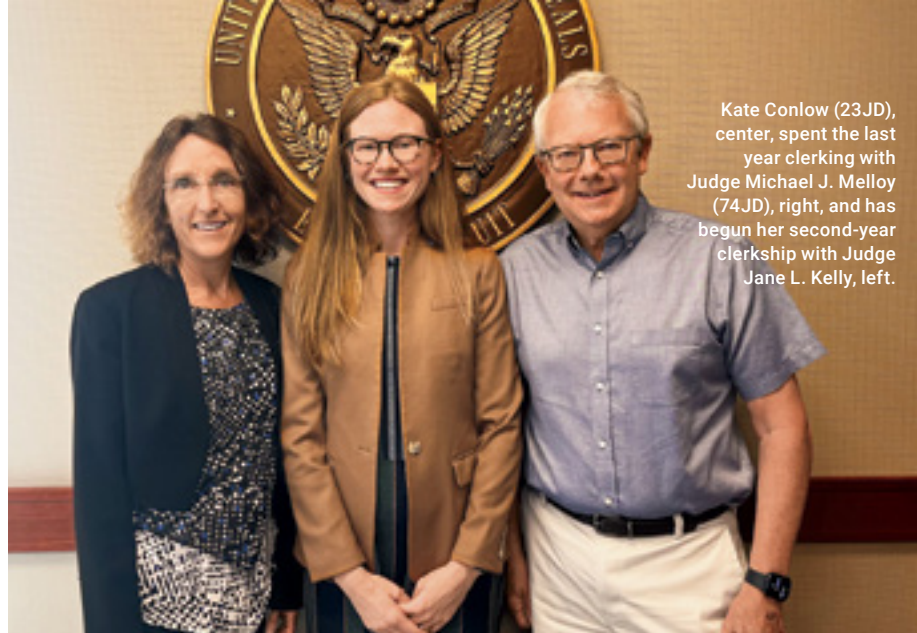
BAR PASSAGE RATE AMONG  
FIRST-TIME TEST TAKERS

**[ 98.9% ]**

OF THE CLASS OF 2023 FOUND  
EMPLOYMENT WITHIN 10 MONTHS  
OF GRADUATION

**[ 99% ]**

OF FIRST-YEAR LAW STUDENTS  
FOUND EMPLOYMENT DURING  
THEIR FIRST SUMMER



Kate Conlow (23JD), center, spent the last year clerking with Judge Michael J. Melloy (74JD), right, and has begun her second-year clerkship with Judge Jane L. Kelly, left.

## IOWA LAW STUDENTS EARN RECORD NUMBER OF JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS

**By Hannah Huston**

Iowa Law's judicial clerkship program continues to see success, with the Class of 2023 securing the highest number of clerkships in recent history, with graduates obtaining 47 judicial clerkships. These include 15 federal and 32 state positions.

A judicial clerkship is a prestigious and competitive one- or two-year position where a law graduate works closely with a judge to assist in formulating decisions. Clerks often review court records, conduct legal research, and help draft opinions.

Iowa Law alumni who graduated in 2023 earned clerkships nationwide, including six on the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Kate Conlow (23JD) secured a clerkship on the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit in Iowa. Conlow said her experiences as editor in chief of the *Iowa Law Review* and as a law clerk for FTC Commissioner Alvaro Bedoya during her third year helped her prepare for this role.

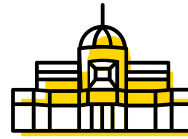
"As a student writer on the *Iowa Law Review*, I was able to write my student note, which was similar to writing an appellate brief in terms of digging into an issue, researching, and writing it," Conlow said. "As a clerk for Commissioner Bedoya, much of my work was researching issues, writing, and editing, but I also advised him and shared my thoughts on various matters. Much of a judicial law clerk's work is thinking through complicated legal issues and then talking with a judge about your opinion, so to have a similar experience working for Commissioner Bedoya was incredibly valuable."

Beyond the skills gained through student-edited journals, externships, and other law school experiences, Iowa Law students stand out to judges and employers for their exceptional writing abilities. With faculty boasting more than 120 years of collective legal writing experience, students receive a comprehensive writing education. From small-section writing courses and innovative programming to personalized tutoring sessions in the Writing and Academic Success Center, students graduate with the knowledge and confidence needed to excel in their legal careers.

"Our commitment to writing and our skill set in that key area make us unique among law schools. The result is our graduates stand out to prospective employers," said Dean Kevin Washburn.



Sophia Gustafson (24JD),  
Spencer Culver (24JD), and  
Samantha Savala (24JD)



## FIRST-EVER ENVIRONMENTAL LAW MOOT COURT TEAM

» This year, the Hubbell Environmental Law Initiative helped establish the first environmental law moot court team in the law school's history. Sophia Gustafson (24JD), Spencer Culver (24JD), and Samantha Savala (24JD) competed, representing Iowa Law for the first time in the Jeffrey G. Miller National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition at Pace University's Elisabeth Haub School of Law. Each team member won Best Oralist in the preliminary rounds, and as a team, they earned enough points to qualify for the quarterfinal round.

# INSIDE IOWA LAW

THE CLASS OF 2024 CELEBRATES COMMENCEMENT, A NEW MOOT COURT TEAM WINS BIG, DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS GIVE LEVITT LECTURES, AND MORE CAMPUS HAPPENINGS



Mary Matalin and  
James Carville

## CARVILLE, MATALIN GIVE FALL LEVITT LECTURE

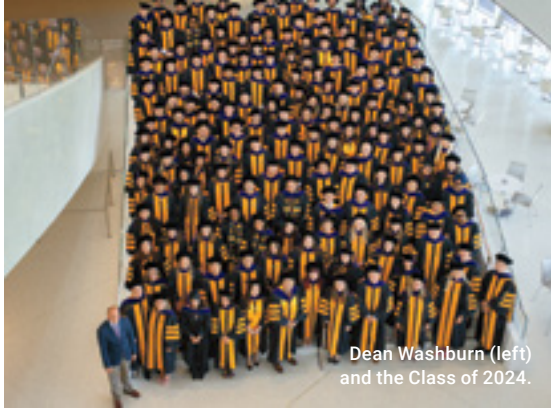
» James Carville, a renowned political consultant, and his wife, Mary Matalin, a celebrated conservative voice, author, and media personality, gave the College of Law's fall Levitt Lecture at Hancher Auditorium.

## GRAND JURY SIMULATION

» Alison Guernsey (08JD), clinical professor and director of the Federal Criminal Defense Clinic, teamed up with First Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Barker to bring an immersive grand jury simulation to Iowa Law. This unique experience allowed students to actively participate in the simulation, gaining rare insights into the workings of a grand jury and enhancing their understanding of criminal procedure.



Participants in the  
grand jury simulation.



Dean Washburn (left) and the Class of 2024.

## CLASS OF 2024 GRADUATION

» On May 10, the Class of 2024 gathered in Hancher Auditorium to receive their law degrees at the annual College of Law commencement ceremony. Graduation speakers included Samantha “Sam” McCort (24JD) and the Honorable C.J. Williams (85BBA, 88JD), chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa and a College of Law adjunct professor.



Nominated class speaker Sam McCort (24JD).



Members of the Iowa Law community study in the Writing Center.

## WRITING CENTER REVAMP

» Iowa Law’s Writing and Academic Success Center received a major upgrade in 2023. The space was updated with modern fixtures; additional workstations for tutoring sessions; and advanced technology for improved seminars, group meetings, and collaborative learning experiences.

## JUDY WOODRUFF GIVES SPRING LEVITT LECTURE

» In the spring, Iowa Law’s Levitt Lecture featured Judy Woodruff, broadcast journalist and senior correspondent for “PBS NewsHour.” She highlighted her most recent project, “America at a Crossroads,” to better understand the country’s political divide.



Judy Woodruff and Iowa Public Radio’s Ben Kieffer.



University of Iowa President Barbara Wilson, Professor Cristina Tilley, and Professor Christopher Coffey.

## CRISTINA TILLEY GIVES PRESIDENTIAL LECTURE

» Iowa Law Professor Cristina Tilley was invited to speak at the 41st Annual Presidential Lecture alongside Christopher Coffey, professor at the UI College of Public Health. Their talk, “Pathways to Discovery: Clinical and Legal Trials, Academic Rigor, and Public Perceptions,” explored the intersections of their respective fields. Tilley’s segment, “Legal Trials and Communities of Care,” examined public views on the legal profession and the inherent complexities of the trial system, including the roles of judges and juries.



Professor Cristina Tilley

## ALUM WINS PRESTIGIOUS LEGAL WRITING AWARD



Benjamin Louviere (23JD) has been honored by the academic board of the Burton Awards with the 2024 Law360 Distinguished Legal Writing Award. His winning article, "Time for a Tune-Up in America's Healthcare Market: Securing the Right to Repair for Medical Devices," was published in the *Journal of Corporation Law*. The Burton Awards, presented in partnership with the Library of Congress and sponsored by Law360 and the American Bar Association, celebrate excellence in legal writing. Louviere is one of only 15 writers selected from law schools nationwide.



Front row: Isabelle Breitfelder (24JD), Kameron Reed (24JD), and Mike Hegarty (24JD). Back row: Professor Mary Ksobiech (00JD).

## IOWA LAW'S WRITING EXCELLENCE SHINES IN NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

Three Iowa Law students earned honors in the 74th Annual National Moot Court Competition. Isabelle Breitfelder (24JD), Mike Hegarty (24JD), and Kameron Reed (24JD) submitted the nation's top-scoring Respondent's brief, tied for second place overall for briefs, and advanced to the quarterfinals in New York City.

Professor Mary Ksobiech (00JD), one of the college's seven full-time legal analysis, writing, and research professors, highlighted the team's achievement as a testament to their hard work and Iowa Law's reputation for producing strong legal writers. "There's a real commitment to writing here to develop our students into effective communicators and advocates," Ksobiech remarked.

Sponsored by the American College of Trial Lawyers and the New York City Bar Association, the National Moot Court Competition promotes intellectual rigor, legal research, and persuasive argument. Over 120 schools compete annually, with top teams advancing to the New York City Bar for the National Finals.

In addition to the National Moot Court Competition, Iowa Law also excelled in the 17th Annual Tulane International Baseball Arbitration Competition (TIBAC). This simulated salary arbitration contest, modeled after Major League Baseball (MLB) procedures, features a distinguished panel of judges, including player agents, MLB executives, and members of the MLB Players Association.

In a field of 41 law school teams, the oral advocacy team of Jack Schelhaas (24JD), Ethan Dunn (24JD), and Elias Wunderlich (24JD) advanced to the quarterfinals. The writing team of 3Ls Tyson Williams, Yousef Chamas, and Jude Jaber clinched first place, crafting winning briefs for both sides in the Adolis Garcia salary arbitration case for the Texas Rangers. This victory marked Iowa Law's second win in the written-only competition in four years and their second appearance in the quarterfinals in three years.



Benjamin Louviere (23JD)



# ALUMNI BOOKSHELF

RECENT WRITING FROM IOWA LAW GRADUATES

By Nic Arp

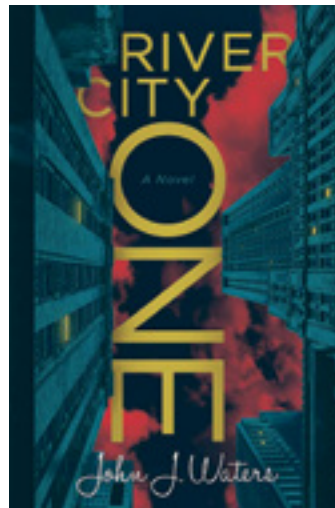
The University of Iowa is nationally recognized as the “Writing University” for its significant contributions to American literature. The College of Law proudly shares in this legacy, upholding a long-standing commitment to excellence in writing and communication. While Iowa Law alumni have worked hard to become expert legal writers, some have also made their mark publishing works of creative writing. Meet four alumni who are gaining attention for their literary artistry.



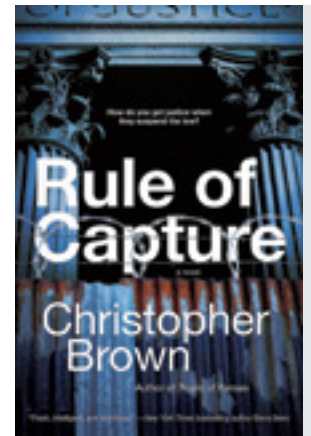
**Steve Sieberson** (75JD) has been a practicing lawyer, mountaineer, globe-trotting traveler, writer, and law professor. He once even served as honorary consul for the Netherlands to three U.S. states. With the 2023 publication of *The Fifteenth Commandment* (University of North Dakota State Press), he can add young-adult novelist to his résumé. Set in a fictionalized northwest Iowa town, a boy struggles to find freedom in a life dominated by a religious sect. Check out Sieberson’s acclaimed nonfiction books, too: *The Naked Mountaineer* and *Low Mountains or High Tea*.



**Angela Dixon** (03JD), a Houston-based attorney and educator, honed her writing talents as a civilian public affairs specialist for the Department of the Army before coming to Iowa Law. Her 2023 book, *Wisdom from Willie, Jewels from Jessie: Simple Lessons to Help You Live a Long and Fulfilling Life*, collects essential life lessons from her parents (and coauthors), Willie and Jessie Dixon, natives of rural Alabama. Her dad was the son of a sharecropper, her mom was one of 16 children, and the book poignantly traces their journeys. Along the way, we learn anew the importance of recording our living histories.



**John J. Waters** (18JD) tells the story of a soldier home from war in his debut novel, *River City One* (Knox Press). The protagonist, John Walker, is fundamentally changed, wracked with guilt, and longing for something he can’t quite describe. Waters himself served in the U.S. Marine Corps for nearly seven years, completing deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Horn of Africa; he also served as a deputy assistant secretary of Homeland Security and wrote for RealClearPolitics. After his discharge, he came to Iowa Law and immersed himself in Iowa City’s writing world. Now a practicing attorney in Omaha, he wrote *River City One*—“an embodiment of the veteran experience,” per one reviewer—as a way to face his own homecoming.



**Christopher Brown** (91JD) practices law in Austin, Texas, while also crafting novels, stories, essays, and a blog called “Field Notes.” His 2019 novel, *Rule of Capture*, published by HarperCollins, carries the tagline, “How do you get justice when they suspend the law?” *The Wall Street Journal* raved, “*Rule of Capture* is not just sci-fi, it’s also a legal thriller. Its author is himself a lawyer, just like John Grisham, and he has a grip on detail that full-time sci-fi authors can’t match.” Check out Brown’s other acclaimed novels, *Tropic of Kansas* and *Failed State*, and watch for his upcoming meditation on urban nature, *A Field History of Empty Lots*, which includes memories from his Iowa Law years.

# JOURNEY TO THE FEDERAL BENCH

MANY DISTINGUISHED IOWA LAW ALUMNI PRESIDE OVER FEDERAL COURTROOMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. WHILE EACH ONE FOLLOWED A UNIQUE CAREER PATH TO GET THERE, THEY HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON: GRATITUDE FOR THEIR LEGAL EDUCATION. [ By Deborah Kirk ]

## Influence in the Legal Landscape

→ The Hon. Leonard Strand (90JD), a judge with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa, has succinct words of wisdom for anyone who aspires to a career in the judiciary: “Stay out of trouble. Get courtroom experience. And definitely learn how to write.”



Strand did not originally intend to pursue a judgeship. While a law student, he planned to be a litigator, and he sharpened his writing skills by contributing to the *Journal of Corporation Law*. Upon graduating, he joined Simmons Perrine Moyer Bergman, where he specialized in commercial litigation and employment law. During his first decade as a trial lawyer, he saw firsthand the influence judges have in the legal ecosystem and began to think about making a professional pivot. “I loved being in the courtroom, and I have a problem-solver personality,” Strand said. “I realized that being a judge might be a good fit for me.”

Strand became a federal magistrate judge in 2012, and in 2015, he was nominated to serve as a district judge in the Northern District, where he has been ever since. “It is immensely satisfying work,” he said. “I enjoy the intellectual challenge of dealing with radically different issues week to week, and sometimes even day to day. And I enjoy working with smart and curious law clerks, many of whom come from Iowa Law. Reflecting back, the way Iowa Law taught me to approach the law has been a huge factor in whatever successes I have had as both a lawyer and a judge.”

## Fairness to All Litigants

→ Like many of his fellow alumni in the judiciary, the Hon. Jeffrey Armistead (01JD) became a judge by way of a multifaceted career path.



After graduating law school, Armistead practiced corporate law with Cooley in Silicon Valley, followed by a period in Washington, D.C., where he litigated administrative matters at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A California native, Armistead decided to return to the West Coast and landed a job as a staff attorney at the Oregon Court of Appeals. In 2022, he was appointed to his current position: U.S. magistrate judge with the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon.

“My work calls for a lot of judicial writing,” he said, “and it’s important to realize that the writing we do is not an exercise; it affects real people and real communities.” He credits Iowa Law’s focus on writing and analysis with giving him these essential skills. Armistead has a docket of both civil and criminal cases, with the latter all too often related to the fentanyl crisis that Oregon is experiencing. “We always emphasize fairness to all litigants,” he said. “Everybody matters and is given a fair shot. Even if they are not successful, at least we heard their arguments. We listened.”

## Journalism and Juvenile Justice

→ Writing also played a part in the Hon. Stephanie Rose's (96JD) trajectory to the federal bench. The chief U.S. district judge for the Southern District of Iowa—and the first female district court judge in the district, where she has served since 2012—Rose worked as a newspaper journalist prior to attending law school. "I really loved journalism," said Rose, whose unusual beat included covering, among other subjects, dirt track racing. "I always thought it would serve me well no matter what career I chose, because it teaches you to write well, interview people, and be accurate."



Rose also had a deep interest in juvenile justice, and one of her original goals was to one day find meaningful work that could help reform Iowa's foster care system. "My parents were foster parents, and I saw how the system had a lot of issues," she said. Rose volunteered as a special advocate for abused and neglected children but found that "ultimately I wanted to make a difference in the system that caused these problems in the first place." A game-changing clinical placement in the U.S. Attorney's Office during her 3L year led to a job there upon graduation, "and that tipped me into a career in criminal prosecution and ultimately into the judiciary."

Today, Rose said that her court hears a wide range of cases that involve everything from child exploitation to the constitutionality of certain laws. "It is rewarding to have a voice in important issues and to help people who deserve to be helped," she said. "And it is also gratifying to stop people who are causing trauma to society."

*"It is rewarding to have a voice in important issues and to help people who deserve to be helped."*

— STEPHANIE ROSE (96JD)

## Freedom to Make a Difference

→ The desire to make a difference—in as thoughtful a manner as possible—is what inspired the Hon. Susan Bolton (75JD) to pursue a career on the bench. A senior judge with the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, Bolton developed her interest in the judiciary during the 12 years she spent in private practice. As a commercial litigator, she regularly appeared in state court, "and that sparked my interest in becoming a judge." She began her career as a state court judge in 1989 and was appointed to the federal bench in 2000. "One reason I was motivated to leave private practice is that it is driven by billable hours," she said. "It was liberating to become a judge and find I could devote as much time as I needed to a case without consideration of its monetary value."



Bolton notes that her court's complex caseload has been largely shaped by Arizona's unique profile as a border state that also has 21 Native American reservations. "We have an extremely high volume of criminal cases that involve people or things crossing the border illegally," she said. "Additionally, the federal courts have jurisdiction over felonies committed on the reservations, so this results in a higher felony caseload than you might see in other federal districts."

Now a senior judge, Bolton can work a less demanding schedule than when she was an active judge. But she still remains committed to seeing justice served in Arizona and beyond, and is grateful to Iowa Law for helping her realize that goal. "I don't think my career would have gone as well as I think it has," she said, "were it not for the education I received in Iowa."

# LAW HAWK HEROES

IOWA LAW HAS A PROUD HISTORY OF PREPARING STUDENTS FOR FULFILLING AND SUCCESSFUL LEGAL CAREERS IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY. READ ON TO MEET THREE ALUMNI WHO TOOK DIFFERENT ROUTES TO SERVICE IN MILITARY LAW. **By Nic Arp**



*“It’s never too late to challenge yourself. Don’t be afraid to fail.”*

— CAPT. ANDREW J. LORELLI (13JD)

## Capt. Andrew J. Lorelli (13JD)

→ With his Iowa Law degree in hand, Andrew J. Lorelli had launched a successful career as a probate attorney near Detroit. But he had a big dream: He wanted to become a United States Marine.

Joining the Marines was a daunting goal for Lorelli, who was several years out of law school and physically out of shape. But his grit, determination, and Hawkeye smarts got him through.

In November 2019, Lorelli graduated from Officer Candidates School in Quantico, Virginia, a grueling 10-week induction into the Marines, and earned a commission as a second lieutenant. Next up was the Basic School, a six-month infantry training program for all new officers, followed by Naval Justice School in Newport, Rhode Island, a 10-week military law program. By February 2021, he was stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

Lorelli’s initial assignment was to the Legal Assistance Office, helping service members and families with a wide range of personal legal matters. A few months later, he was named company commander of a headquarters and support unit with over 600 Marines. Then, he deployed as deputy staff judge advocate with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, helping to advise the command aboard “a giant floating city” patrolling the Pacific. After returning to Okinawa, he joined the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing as an operational law judge advocate, advising the command for Marine pilots and aviation support units throughout Japan and Hawaii. In December 2013, Lorelli left active duty and returned to Michigan to resume his civilian probate practice while continuing to serve in the reserves.

Academically, now Capt. Lorelli advises students with military aspirations to learn to be generalists and prepare for different types of jobs. His most practical advice? “It’s never too late to challenge yourself. Don’t be afraid to fail.”



Col. Erica Harris (07JD)  
with her family.

## Col. Erica Harris (07JD)

→ When Col. Erica Harris was growing up, she dreamed of going to the University of Iowa and becoming a lawyer. The Fort Madison, Iowa, native had no idea that the United States Air Force would empower her to fulfill both of those goals.

Harris missed her first chance to be a Hawkeye, choosing the U.S. Air Force Academy for her undergraduate studies. “The draw was they’ve got planes, which is cool,” she said. She earned her BS degree in mechanical engineering in 2001 from the USAFA, enabling her to join the Air Force as a civil engineering officer at the rank of second lieutenant.

She loved her work as an engineer. But she still wanted to go into law, and the Air Force paved her way. The JAG Corps of the Air Force offers a program that sends commissioned officers to law school. Harris would need to cover her tuition, but she would stay on active duty. She jumped at the chance. She could apply to any law school, and naturally Iowa Law was her first choice.

Harris graduated from Iowa Law in 2007 and has since been stationed around the U.S. and the world, her military rank and job title advancing with each step. Now she is at Air Force headquarters, directing the office that codifies the Air Force’s civil law and ethics policies and administers Air Force-wide civil justice programs. She works with members of Congress, presidential cabinet members, and top military officials, helping key stakeholders understand the legal and ethical implications of policy choices.

“I have had a great career with so many amazing experiences,” said Harris, whose spouse is also a JAG. “Iowa and the Air Force prepared me well.”

## Lt. Col. Tyler Musselman

### (06BS, 10JD)

→ When Lt. Col. Tyler Musselman began his studies at Iowa Law, he was not planning to become a military trial judge. He just knew he wanted to practice law.

Now, 13 years into a fulfilling legal career in the Air Force JAG Corps, he has found that military law offers a professional experience like none other—and unlike in many law firms, new hires begin doing important work the minute they start their jobs.

Musselman outlined the most common process for joining the Air Force JAG Corps. “You apply in your third year of law school,” he said. “If you get selected, they will medically qualify you. If you pass the bar exam, they will commission you before you even start training. You go to a nine-week Officer Training School and do nine weeks at the JAG School.”

“Once you are done with that, and you step on your installation, you are a qualified judge advocate,” Musselman said. “Thirty days after training, I tried my first court martial as a prosecutor.”

Musselman has served in prosecution and defense roles at the trial and appellate levels. He has been the chief national Air Force JAG recruiter and advised in a general counsel role. Now he is a military trial judge, with the rank of lieutenant colonel. And he has served in two military deployments abroad.

Musselman and his spouse and two young sons love the military lifestyle. “I have seen places and done things that only people in the military have seen and done,” he said. “On top of that, it provides a good quality of life.”



Lt. Col. Tyler Musselman  
(06BS, 10JD)



# A TRIBUTE TO DEAN KEVIN WASHBURN

AFTER SERVING AS DEAN OF IOWA LAW FOR MORE THAN SIX YEARS, KEVIN WASHBURN IS STEPPING DOWN AT THE END OF 2024, LEAVING A LEGACY OF INNOVATION, EXCELLENCE, AND DIVERSITY



**K**evin Washburn, who joined the College of Law as dean in 2018, has announced that he will step down from the deanship, effective January 1, 2025.

During his time as dean, Washburn has been a national leader in legal education, serving a term as chairman of the board of trustees of the Law School Admission Council, followed by a three-year term on the nine-member Executive Committee of the Association of American Law Schools.

Washburn has remained an active scholar, continuing to publish research during his time as dean and co-teaching a course on Federal Indian Law with Professor Ann Estlin. His recent articles have focused on indigenous conservation and tribal co-management of federal public lands. He also serves as the co-editor in chief of the leading treatise in his field, the *Felix S. Cohen Handbook of Federal Indian Law*, which is being revised for a new edition.

Washburn came to Iowa after having served as the dean of the University of New Mexico and serving in a Senate-confirmed position at the Department of the Interior in the second term of the Obama administration. While at Iowa, he also took partial leave from the deanship for two and a half months in 2020-2021 to lead the Biden-Harris transition team for the Department of the Interior.

Except for one year spent as a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, Washburn has spent his entire career in public service or public legal education. He began his career as an attorney with five years at the U.S. Department of Justice, first as a trial attorney in the Environment and Natural Resources Division in Washington, D.C., through the Attorney General's Honors Program, and then as an assistant U.S. attorney, prosecuting violent crimes in Indian country in New Mexico. Washburn also served late in the Clinton administration as the general counsel of the National Indian Gaming Commission, and then later in the Obama administration as the assistant secretary for Indian Affairs at the U.S. Department of the Interior. He began his academic career at the University of Minnesota, where he earned tenure, and also served on the law faculties at the University of Arizona and the University of New Mexico, where he was dean.

Washburn graduated from Yale Law School, where he was editor in chief of the *Yale Journal on Regulation*. Immediately following law school, he clerked for Judge William C. Canby, Jr., of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Washburn is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma and is recognized as the first enrolled tribal member of any tribe to become a law school dean.



We are obviously not the first institution to realize that better writing leads to clearer thinking, but we have embraced it more than most other law schools.”

— DEAN KEVIN WASHBURN

# A TRIBUTE TO DEAN WASHBURN



Washburn congratulates a student as they walk across the stage during graduation.



Indeed, this year we have hired our largest crop of new faculty in many years. ... By the time I leave, the faculty will have been substantially renewed.”

— DEAN KEVIN WASHBURN



Washburn with 2022 alumni award honoree Carol Havemann Lynch (69BA, 72JD) and Dean Emeritus William (Bill) Hines.

## Q&A WITH DEAN WASHBURN

**Q: What will be your most important legacy at Iowa Law?**

**A:** I hope that it will be the vision of Iowa Law as the “Writing Law School.” We are obviously not the first institution to realize that better writing leads to clearer thinking, but we have embraced it more than most other law schools. We have long had a commitment to teaching writing. Unlike some law schools that use adjunct professors or junior professors called “fellows” to teach legal analysis and writing, we have a dedicated and talented faculty teaching these fundamental skills.

One of our founding Legal Analysis, Writing and Research (LAWR) professors came to Iowa Law with an MFA from the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, and we like to think that he brought that DNA to the College of Law. During my time here, we increased the size of our writing faculty from four full-time professors to seven and have added part-time professors. This ensures very small class sizes, a close relationship with students, and dedicated feedback from true experts.

We have also turned the leadership of our longstanding Writing Center over to the LAWR faculty to improve the alignment between these two key components of our law school. Led by Professor Dawn Anderson, that realignment succeeded better than any of us could have hoped. Now called the Writing and Academic Success Center, it is helping our students become better writers.

Many of our commitments in this area are not new. We have been committed to writing since long before I arrived. We have also had four excellent student-edited law journals since the 1990s. In recent years, we have expanded each of them and seen each of them increase their online footprint and offer more symposia. As a result of our focus on writing, more of our



# UNDER DEAN WASHBURN'S LEADERSHIP, THE COLLEGE OF LAW ACHIEVED MANY KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 10 OF WHICH ARE HIGHLIGHTED HERE



Washburn stands beside a bust honoring the late Willard "Sandy" Boyd, former law school dean, professor, UI president, and the namesake of the Boyd Law Building.

**[1]** Developed the "Writing Law School" vision and invested heavily in faculty and other resources to realize this unique mission for the College of Law.

**[2]** Landed the three most academically qualified entering classes in law school history based on LSAT scores and median undergraduate GPAs (in the fall entering classes in 2021, 2022, and 2023).

**[3]** Landed the most diverse class in the law school's history in 2020 and 2024.

**[4]** Increased the successful recruitment of UI grads to Iowa Law, retaining more of the very best Hawkeyes in Iowa City.

**[5]** Stabilized the Office of Career Services under the leadership of Associate Dean Carin Crain, helping to produce among the very best 10-month-out employment outcomes of any law school in the country, culminating in seventh best employment figures nationally for the most recent class, the Class of 2023.

**[6]** Developed record numbers of judicial law clerks, with graduates of the Class of 2023 earning five federal circuit court clerkships, six state supreme court clerkships, and 36 other state and federal judicial clerkships.

**[7]** Developed the Hubbell Environmental Law Initiative with the support of Fred Hubbell (76JD) and Charlotte

Beyer Hubbell (76JD), who made the largest cash gift in law school history to facilitate the work of the Initiative. Under the leadership of Professor Shannon Roesler, the Hubbell Initiative has reinvigorated Iowa Law's environmental law program.

**[8]** Developed the first mental health counselor position embedded in the Boyd Law Building, making Iowa Law one of the first law schools to make such a significant and sustained investment in student mental health.

**[9]** Established a new Diversity Alumni Council, chaired by Tiffany Ferguson (06JD), focused on supporting un- and underrepresented communities and first-generation students to enhance opportunity, access, and diversity at the College of Law.

**[10]** Developed a holistic new bar success program, led by Professor Dawn Anderson, that increased first-time bar passage scores markedly for 2023 and 2024 graduates.

students are winning “best brief” awards in moot court competitions; they are publishing more and more articles in law journals at other schools in addition to the usual notes and case comments published in our in-house journals. We are also seeing record numbers of graduates earning judicial clerkships upon graduation.

**Q: What have you learned as dean?**

**A:** My conviction about the importance of diversity has only increased during my time here. In 2020, we brought in the most diverse class in our history. When that class graduated in 2023, those students landed the most judicial clerkships in our history, including five federal circuit court clerkships, six state supreme court clerkships, and 36 other state and federal judicial clerkships. That class also produced our best overall employment numbers ever, ranking Iowa Law seventh best in the nation in employment outcomes in the most recent rankings. I don’t think that it is an accident that our most diverse class has also been our most successful class in employment.

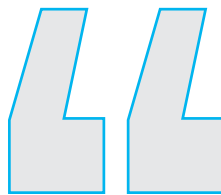
**Q: How much has the College of Law changed during your time as dean?**

**A:** A lot! There are myriad new programs and initiatives, including an embedded therapist, a dramatically expanded environmental law program, and new programs to support student bar passage.

We have brought in our strongest students academically in our history. On the faculty, we have seen a number of retirements, a few departures, and a lot of new faculty hired. Indeed, this year we have hired our largest crop of new faculty in many years, with eight new full-time faculty members joining us. That is almost 20 percent new faculty in one year. By the time I leave, the faculty will



Broadcast journalist Judy Woodruff, who gave the Spring 2024 Levitt Lecture, with Dean Washburn.



We have also made strides in embracing diversity. After bringing in the most diverse class of students in history, we established a Diversity Alumni Council ... which provides critical alumni connections to students from underrepresented communities and first-generation law students.” — [DEAN KEVIN WASHBURN](#)



Washburn hosted countless town halls and meetings over Zoom during the pandemic to keep the Iowa Law community engaged.

Kevin Washburn

have been substantially renewed.

We have also made strides in embracing diversity. After bringing in the most diverse class of students in history, we established a Diversity Alumni Council, chaired by alumna Tiffany Ferguson (06JD), which provides critical alumni connections to students from underrepresented communities and first-generation law students. We also restarted our Faculty Fellow program, which is designed to provide research opportunities, faculty mentoring, and career development for promising legal scholars and teachers. The first two fellows found faculty jobs, and the current fellow, our alum Vinita Singh (18JD), is showing incredible potential.

**Q: What challenges does the College of Law face?**

**A:** Like the rest of the world, we need to figure out successful ways to embrace generative artificial intelligence. It will be changing the practice of law dramatically. We also need to learn how best to prepare our students for the NextGen Bar Exam, which will begin in one of our neighboring states, Missouri, in 2026, and in Iowa in 2027.

Resources are increasingly an issue, as public support for higher education diminishes. We have more than three years left on a capital campaign which will help us build a stronger resource base, and I am pleased that we are more than half-way to our \$55 million goal.

**Q: Why have you decided to leave at the end of this year?**

**A:** Believe it or not, in more than 30 years since I graduated from law school, I have never been in any position for this long. Six years is a long time!

When a professor becomes a dean, the professor loses many of the advantages of being in academia. I miss getting to know a lot of students well and having close relationships with faculty colleagues. Another great privilege of being a faculty member is having the time to luxuriate in the world of ideas. I have kept my research agenda going, but I have always felt a little harried. That is not a recipe for producing the best ideas. I look forward to having more time with students and colleagues, and to focusing more fully on my scholarship.

The dean role is also hard on family life because it can be all-consuming. My wife, Libby, and I have a seven-year-old son, who has endured two parents with very demanding jobs. I have been dean for six of his seven years, and, during that time, Libby has worked in high-level positions in the White House and at the San Diego Zoo, among others. Libby keeps reminding me that it won't be long before he is a teenager and will become less interested in his dad. Several times

in the past few years, my family has gone on adventures without me. I hope to be able to join them much more often. By stepping down at the end of December, I can return to being a regular faculty member again before my son turns eight.

**Q: What will you miss about the job?**

**A:** I have enjoyed so much of it. What an honor it has been to lead this wonderful law school! I have made so many great friends, many of them our alums. I have worked with outstanding faculty and staff, and I have met incredible students who will go on to change the world in ways big and small.

One highlight has been the twice-a-year Levitt Lectures, which have been so impactful in our community by bringing in profound authors and thinkers. Meeting Doris Kearns Goodwin, Van Jones, the late Cokie Roberts, Woodward and Bernstein, and so many others, and sharing that experience with so many members of our community at the amazing Hancher Auditorium has been a very special experience. □



Washburn with political consultants James Carville and Mary Matalin, who gave the Fall 2023 Levitt Lecture.

# CRIMINAL JUSTICE

---

Three members of the  
Iowa Law community  
are driving change in  
the national parole and  
probation systems

[[ By Dan Fost ]]



# TRAILBLAZERS

---



The modern U.S. criminal legal system has made it all too easy to send people to prison. And once many of those incarcerated people finish their sentence and start community supervision or get released on parole, the system often seems designed to set them up for failure—and a return engagement behind bars.

This aspect of criminal law does not always get the attention it warrants. Yet reforming the parole, probation, and supervision systems could go a long way toward easing prison crowding, as well as helping formerly incarcerated people achieve success in society.

On the front lines, Professor Alison Guernsey (08JD) directs the law school's Federal Criminal Defense Clinic, supervising students as they represent indigent people charged with federal crimes in both the pre- and post-conviction spheres.

Professor Ryan Sakoda conducts empirical research on “community supervision”—the systems of probation and parole that often trip up people as they try to make their way after incarceration. Sakoda's data helps inform advocates and, he hopes, lawmakers, as they seek to make the system run more equitably.

Sana Naqvi (20JD), a special projects attorney with the Roderick and Solange MacArthur Justice Center's National Parole Transformation Project, files “impact litigation”—often class-action lawsuits aimed at enforcing the right to an attorney for people facing parole violation hearings.

Guernsey, Sakoda, and Naqvi don't often collaborate directly. But by attacking the problem from different

directions, their work can have a cumulative effect of bringing about change over time.

#### RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

When Alison Guernsey started at Iowa Law, she never dreamed she would become a criminal defense attorney.

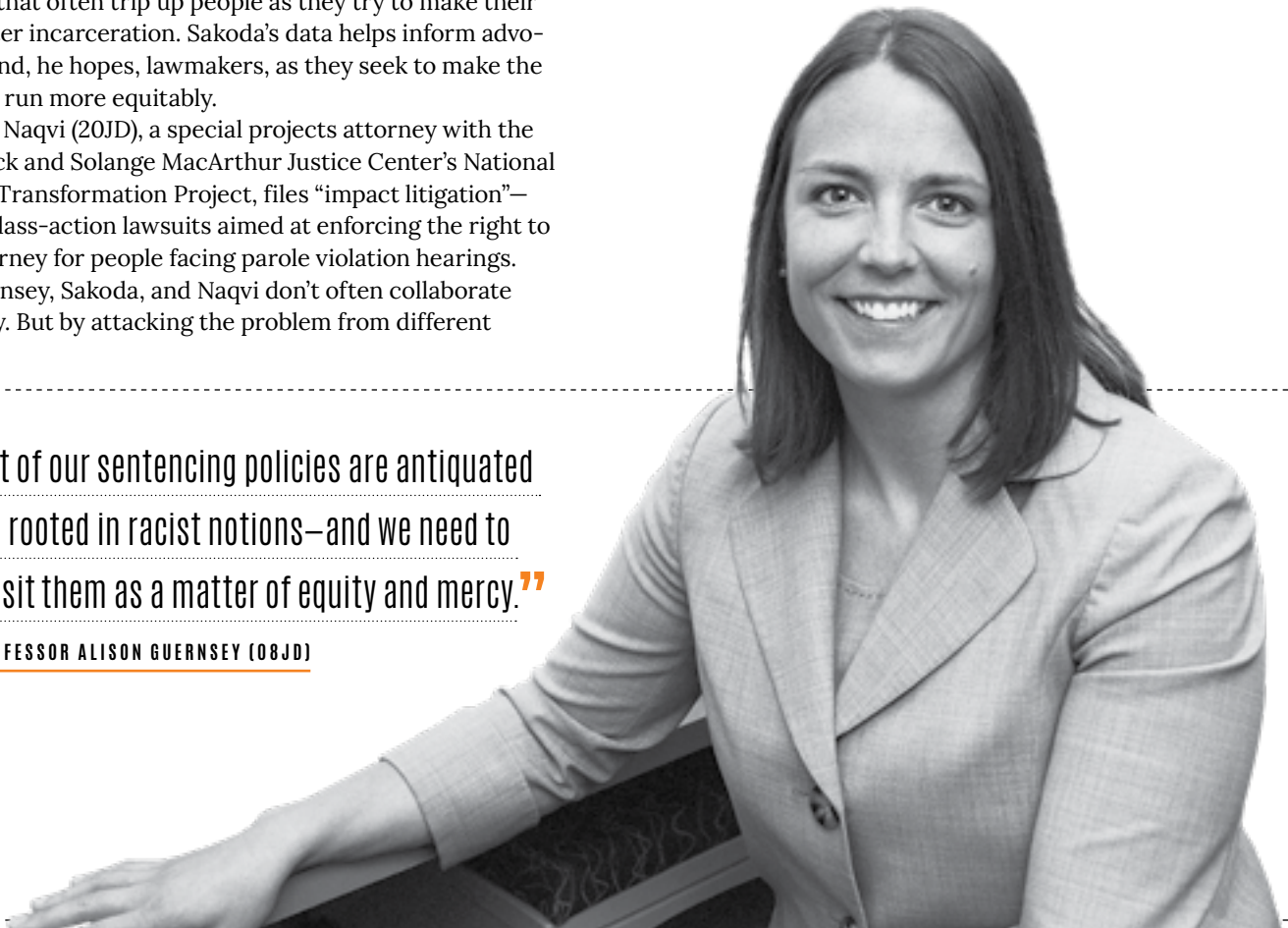
“I fancied myself to be an appellate lawyer where I would think about interesting problems. The intellectual puzzle of the law was what really motivated me.”

But things started to change when she enrolled in Professor John Allen's poverty-law clinic and saw the direct impact she could have on someone's life as a trial-level lawyer. “When I had my first client, I said, ‘This is what motivates me—the human element.’”

After clerking for two federal appellate judges and working as a federal public defender, Guernsey returned to Iowa Law to launch the law school's Federal Criminal Defense Clinic. The clinic handles two types of cases: trial-level

“A lot of our sentencing policies are antiquated and rooted in racist notions—and we need to revisit them as a matter of equity and mercy.”

—PROFESSOR ALISON GUERNSEY (08JD)



matters, in which students represent people charged with federal crimes; and “decarceration” cases, which she described as helping clients get relief from excessive sentences.

Those can be extremely long sentences or also what Guernsey called “unconscionable or difficult conditions of confinement.” For instance, at the federal women’s prison in Dublin, California, guards and prison officials sexually abused and raped many women prisoners. Seven officials have been sentenced, and the prison has been closed.

Guernsey and her students are seeking compassionate release for some of those inmates.

### **REVISITING RACIST LAWS**

Many laws mandating lengthy sentences date to tough-on-crime initiatives and are now understood to have racist underpinnings.

“The classic example is crack cocaine,” Guernsey said.

“Based partly on racist notions of criminality, we used to punish crack cocaine 100 times more severely than powder cocaine. We now recognize that that was wrong.” According to the Leadership Council on Human and Civil Rights, more than three-quarters of the people sentenced under crack cocaine laws were Black. According to the Council, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 “established a racially discriminatory 100:1 sentencing disparity between crack and powder cocaine ... [under which] possession of 5 grams of crack cocaine, which was disproportionately consumed by African Americans, triggered an automatic five-year jail sentence—whereas 500 grams of powder cocaine, which was mostly consumed by richer, white demographics, merited the same punishment.”

While those guidelines have changed, “there are still people who are serving sentences for drug and other offenses that are much more severe than they otherwise would have received today,” Guernsey said.

Guernsey said federal sentencing needs further reform, but both the executive branch, in the form of the Biden administration, and the legislative branch are “resistant to large-scale reform, in large part because they are afraid of recidivism,” she said. “And the data doesn’t support that.”

She notes that federal prisons released 11,000 people on electronic home detention during the pandemic, and only 17—an incredibly tiny percentage—were arrested for new crimes, one for aggravated assault, and the rest on drugs and other nonviolent charges.

“There is this weird tension between recognizing that a lot of our sentencing policies are antiquated and rooted in



---

“Research shows the harmful effects of solitary confinement, so the fact that such large populations are subject to solitary confinement is a major area of concern.” — **PROFESSOR RYAN SAKODA**

---

# INSIDE THE FEDERAL DEFENSE CLINIC

## STUDENTS GAIN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES WITH COMPASSIONATE RELEASE CASES

Iowa law is one of two law schools in the country to run a trial level, in-house federal criminal defense clinic, a distinction it shares only with the University of Chicago Law School.

Professor Alison Guernsey (08JD) started Iowa's clinic in late 2017, returning to her alma mater after working as the supervising attorney at the Federal Defenders of Eastern Washington and Idaho.

In the clinic, students do everything a practicing attorney does, with close supervision from Guernsey. They represent indigent individuals charged with federal offenses in the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of Iowa, and practice before the various U.S. Courts of Appeals across the country.

In a typical criminal law class, students read appellate opinions, Guernsey said. In the clinic, however, they acquire real-world skills. "There is a lot of client-facing work, investigative training, and case-theory brainstorming," she said.

Guernsey said students immediately see the gravity of the situation when their clients are facing or serving long prison terms. "It is intimidating to have the stakes be so high," she said. "But when you set the bar high, the students meet it."

Not only do students get excellent experience, but the clients benefit as well. "Some cases are big and complex, but with the right collaboration and support, you can have robust, quality representation at a law school," Guernsey said.

Jaycie Owens (23JD), who will start this year as a public defender in Minneapolis, said the clinic gave her valuable experience. For the past few years, in addition to trial work, the clinic has focused on compassionate release and sentence-reduction cases, and Owens had two such cases this year.

One was a woman who was sexually abused at a federal prison in Dublin, California, where guards and prison officials abused inmates in what became a national scandal. Owens' other client was a man from St. Louis convicted of trafficking crack cocaine, who had received a 30-year sentence—far more time than today's guidelines would have given him.


During spring break, Owens and her case partner traveled to California to meet her Dublin client, and to the client's family home on a Native American reservation in Arizona. "We prepped our client for giving her victim impact statement at her abuser's sentencing," Owens said. "It was surreal going into Dublin after hearing all these horrific stories."

Owens and her case partner also drove five hours from Iowa City to the federal prison in Greenville, Illinois, to meet her other client. "I spent my spring break traveling to see clients, and it was definitely worth it," Owens said.

"When you see how the legal system impacts people, it makes you angry at the system and how it treats people, specifically people of lower economic status and people of color," she said. "If I am going to contribute to that system, I want to help people at the same time."

Guernsey can't say enough about the job her students do.

"My students are nothing but phenomenal," she said. "They show up and do the work. They understand the stakes. It's been spectacular to watch."



racist notions—and we need to revisit them as a matter of equity and mercy—and this other side that's pushing back and saying this makes the community less safe, even though the data shows otherwise," she said.

## DIGGING INTO THE DATA

Professor Sakoda delights in digging into the data, especially if it can shine a light on trends and inform discussions about legal policy.

His work represents the convergence of several major developments in the past decade or two, starting with the explosion of digital data and the tremendous growth in computing power.

In addition, Sakoda said, economists have taken an interest in criminal law, particularly in studying what works.

Sakoda seems made for the moment. He not only has worked as a public defender, but he also has a master's from the London School of Economics and a PhD in economics from Harvard University.

"I was always interested in social justice issues—issues of inequality and racial justice in the United States," he said. "I knew that I wanted to work on those broad issues."

Sakoda focuses on two areas of the criminal justice system that don't attract a lot of attention: solitary confinement and community supervision.

He began looking for places that could provide data that might lead to insights, and he found it in one of Iowa's neighbors: Kansas. Like much of the rest of the country, Kansas began imprisoning more people during the 1980s and '90s and then building more prisons, so Sakoda viewed the state as a good example to study.

"Kansas is a microcosm of the broader criminal legal system," he said. "They built new prison capacity during the early 1990s and quickly filled it."

Sakoda added that society now needs to reckon with the prison-building boom, which went hand-in-hand with longer sentences. "The policies of the '80s and '90s not only led to rapidly rising prison populations across the country, but to more individuals spending time in solitary confinement as well. Research shows the harmful effects of solitary confinement, so the fact that such large populations are subject to solitary confinement is a major area of concern."

## RETHINKING PROBATION AND PAROLE

Mass incarceration also plays a part in Sakoda's other major focus: community supervision. The term essentially refers to probation sentences as well as the main channels



through which incarcerated people are released into society: post-release supervision and parole.

“It is something that has not gotten a ton of attention by a lot of researchers in the scope of the criminal legal system,” Sakoda said. Yet it is incredibly important.

“There are a lot of aspects of community supervision that are very punitive,” Sakoda said. “As a public defender, when I had clients facing probation violation hearings, I got a really good sense of how punitive the system of probation is, and how much it is part of this cycle of people moving in and out of incarceration, and how much it contributes to mass incarceration.”

The system sets people up to fail, he said. People with felony convictions often have a hard time finding work; they tend to have lower incomes and inadequate access to transportation. Yet they may need to travel long distances to meet with their probation officer, or they may have to comply with an order to drug test on short notice, on a day when they don’t have time, money, or transportation.

Sakoda said there is a long list of standard conditions, including check-ins, restrictions on travel, maintaining residency, prohibitions on owning weapons or associating with others convicted of criminal activity, maintaining or seeking employment, paying restitution, and participating in certain drug and alcohol treatment programs.

“It would be hard for the most organized person who has resources to comply with all of those things,” Sakoda said.

If people don’t do as ordered, it does not necessarily mean they have broken a law, but they can be returned to prison.

Kansas provided Sakoda with another policy he could use to study community supervision. In 2000, wrestling with prison crowding, the legislature knew that many people on post-release supervision ended up back in prison because of violations. So lawmakers eliminated post-release supervision for a segment of the prison population convicted of less serious offenses.

That decision created two groups: one with supervision and one without. “The law change created a natural experiment to study the effect of post-release supervision,” he said. “After this law change, reimprisonment decreased by 80 percent for the group no longer required to serve post-release supervision.”

Sakoda used several other measures to study whether the group without supervision was committing new crimes and could find no evidence that they were.

In 2013, Kansas lawmakers reversed the 2000 reform as part of a criminal justice reform bill. Sakoda studied this

2013 reinstatement of post-release supervision and found, predictably, the rates of reincarceration went back up—not as high as they were before 2000, but almost.

“There are so many people on supervision, but there is not really evidence that it’s doing anything to protect public safety, and instead it’s contributing to mass incarceration,” Sakoda explained. “The big policy question has to be asked: Do we really need to have so many people on community supervision?”

#### IMPACT LITIGATION

Sana Naqvi (20JD) was struggling at law school when Alison Guernsey took her under wing. The professor and student formed a bond that continues to this day.

Naqvi worked in Guernsey’s Federal Criminal Defense Clinic, and then took a summer internship with the federal public defender in Yakima, Washington, where Guernsey had worked. She spent another summer at the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta. Upon graduation, she worked as a public defender in West Palm Beach, Florida.

“I loved being a public defender,” Naqvi said. “It’s a great job, but it was also devastating, because there is only so much you can do to help someone. If my client has a better outcome, that does not mean the next person in that court will have a good outcome. It is just so arbitrary.”

Naqvi reflected on her experience at the human rights center, which engaged in what she called “impact litigation,” and decided that was what she wanted to do in her career.

“That is why I went into impact litigation, so it could hopefully lead to more systemic change,” she said. “We are trying to get more widespread change through the courts.”

Naqvi now works as a special projects attorney in the National Parole Transformation Project at the MacArthur Justice Center in Chicago. Her work focuses on reducing mass incarceration by challenging post-conviction supervision practices across the U.S.

As a public defender, she had a front-row seat to the perils of the probation system.

“That’s where I saw this post-release world of having clients get out of jail, but then probation and any sort of supervision is a trap,” she said. “It is very difficult to comply with [all the rules], and then you are just brought back to prison.”

Supervision is supposed to help people reintegrate into society, she said, but instead it is often a fast track back to prison. As many as 40 percent of the people in Illinois prisons today, and more than a quarter of people in prison nationwide, are there on a parole or probation violation.



“It’s this endless cycle,” Naqvi said. “Instead of looking at it as a failure of the supervision system, which is supposed to help this person, it’s viewed more as a personal failure.”

The MacArthur Center has litigated two cases in Illinois and Missouri about due process violations in the parole revocation process. In her current role, Naqvi is working with people affected by parole laws to see how to best challenge the system. For instance, when people are initially charged with a crime, they have a right to a lawyer. But several states have no system for appointing lawyers for people charged with parole violations, even though there is a limited constitutional right to representation and even though the result is often the same: prison.

“A lot of these revocation hearings are done in secret,” Naqvi said. “There are instances where you should have an attorney. You should be advised of your rights. If you have violations, you should be able to disprove them or

call your own witnesses. But state parole boards don’t honor your basic due process rights.”

She would also like to see people have the right to a meaningful appeal of a finding that they violated parole. “In many states, the appeal just goes to the same people who decided the violations.”

**INTELLECT AND EMOTION**

Guernsey said Naqvi taught her something important about practicing criminal law.

“I am not a particularly emotional person,” Guernsey said. “I tend to be pretty reserved, and I can maintain composure, even in circumstances that are objectively really difficult. It is a coping mechanism that a lot of public defenders develop over time.”

In contrast, she said, “Sana will wear her emotions on her sleeve. I loved having her as a student, because she would often question my demeanor and my approach to certain things because they were sterile. She would often say, ‘Doesn’t this upset you?’”

“She has a nice combination of the intellect and the emotion,” both of which are needed to practice law, Guernsey acknowledged. “It was a pleasure to teach her, because she would remind everyone around her that this was a very human endeavor and the law is not static. The law is not objective. The law is all about the people.”

Guernsey, Naqvi, and Sakoda are each fighting a different battle against a large, entrenched system. But as Naqvi reminded Guernsey, they are doing it for a common purpose: to help people. □



“I saw this post-release world of having clients get out of jail, but then probation and any sort of supervision is a trap. It is very difficult to comply with [all the rules], and then you are just brought back to prison.” — SANA NAQVI (20JD)



Michael Ketchmark (90JD)

# REAL ESTATE REFORMER

➔ MICHAEL KETCHMARK (90JD) RADICALLY TRANSFORMED THE WAY REALTORS' COMMISSIONS ARE DETERMINED [By Scott Lauck]

SCOTT LAUCK



“It was significantly and profoundly important to change this industry, but I didn’t have a widow sitting next to me who lost their spouse in a tragic accident and lost the breadwinner of their family.”

– MICHAEL KETCHMARK (90JD)

asked rhetorically. “He didn’t become ordained as the police of the way commissions are paid in real estate transactions when he became a lawyer back in the early 1990s.”

The intense interest and occasional enmity of the mortgage and real estate industry is something that Ketchmark, Missouri Lawyers Media’s Lawyer of the Year, expects these days. After all, Ketchmark and his team seek nothing less than to totally transform how houses are bought and sold in America.

In October, he and his trial team went up against a fleet of defense lawyers for the National Association of Realtors and several real estate companies and won a verdict of nearly \$1.8 billion. Their class-action lawsuit attacked a long-standing practice codified in the association’s rules: that home sellers pay a 6 percent commission that is split between their own agent and that of the buyer.

“Name a single industry where you have to pay the other side,” Ketchmark said.

After approximately 100 depositions, 30,000 hours of attorney time, and some \$7 million in costs by the time of trial, the case is far from over. Federal antitrust law permits the plaintiffs to recover treble damages,

which could lead to a final judgment of about \$5.4 billion. While NAR and one other defendant are contesting the verdict and demanding a new trial, three real estate companies that were defendants in the case have settled out for a combined \$208 million and have agreed to change the way they charge commissions.

Meanwhile, Ketchmark and his team have filed a separate suit making nearly identical claims on behalf of a nationwide class. Similar actions have been filed across the country and could result in a multidistrict litigation designation, which Ketchmark hopes to lead.

The damages from such a case could be staggering, as would the discovery needed to prove it. But in the end, Ketchmark said, the argument is easy for juries to grasp.

“Most people have never been hit by a truck,” Ketchmark notes. “Thankfully, most people haven’t been harassed at work. Most people have never had a product destroy their life. But a whole bunch of people have bought and sold houses.”

#### ‘A PIT IN YOUR STOMACH’

In some ways, Ketchmark’s past successes made him an unusual choice for the real estate suit. While he is adept at relating to juries, his practice has focused almost exclusively on employment and personal injury claims, where a loss at trial could very well leave the plaintiff in dire financial

**ON** a recent Friday afternoon, Michael Ketchmark appeared by video in a debate hosted by the trade publication *HousingWire*, facing off with a real estate professional in Massachusetts who was none too happy with the Kansas City lawyer’s most recent court victory.

“Who is Mike Ketchmark?” Ketchmark’s opponent, Anthony Lamacchia,

Note: This article was originally published on Feb. 14, 2024, in Missouri Lawyers Media (molawyersmedia.com) and has been republished here with permission. Please see Q&A for updated information.

straits. While the suit against the real estate industry potentially affected the finances of thousands of home sellers, none stood to lose their homes if the jury ruled against them.

“It was significantly and profoundly important to change this industry, but I didn’t have a widow sitting next to me who lost their spouse in a tragic accident and lost the breadwinner of their family,” he said.

Ketchmark’s status as one of Missouri’s top plaintiff’s lawyers probably would have surprised his younger self. He attended the University of Iowa with vague plans to become an astronomer until that major’s math requirements prodded him into getting a philosophy degree instead. After graduating in 1987, he enrolled at the University of Iowa College of Law, he said, because “I wasn’t ready to grow up and be an adult, and it pretty much was a continuation of school.”

He earned his degree in 1990 and got a job as an employment defense attorney with Shughart Thomson & Kilroy, a predecessor to today’s Polsinelli. He gained valuable experience, but as a lawyer who’d been inspired by *To Kill a Mockingbird*, he said, it was “pretty far away from being Atticus Finch.”

Ketchmark opened his own firm in 1995 and spent two penniless years until a fateful case fell into his lap. On the recommendation of a friend, he filed suit just before the statute of

limitations had run for a man who’d suffered a work-related brain injury. Despite being inexperienced to the point that the judge had to explain to him what the Missouri Approved Instructions were, he won a \$2.1 million verdict in Platte County. It was one of three of the top 10 verdicts of 1997, as tracked by *Missouri Lawyers Weekly*.

He hasn’t lost a trial since, and his most recent victory isn’t even his first billion-dollar win. In 2002, working with fellow plaintiffs’ lawyer Grant Davis, he achieved a \$2.2 billion verdict for a woman whose cancer drugs were diluted by Kansas City pharmacist Robert Courtney. Recent cases include a \$74.1 million verdict for the wife of a man crushed to death at Ford’s Claycomo plant. His client refused to settle the case, even during the appellate process, resulting in a rare \$10 million payment to the state’s Tort Victims’ Compensation Fund out of the award’s \$38 million in punitive damages.

“When the jury goes out, there’s this pit in your stomach,” he said. “And then when they come back and you win, there’s this tremendous feeling of joy and triumph. To know you’re doing it on behalf of somebody is absolutely awesome.”

## STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

The real estate lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri in April 2019

by the Kansas City firms of Boulware Law and Williams Dirks Dameron. Attorneys Brandon Boulware, Jeremy Suhr, and Eric Dirks added Ketchmark and his partners Scott McCreight and Benjamin Fadler to the case in 2021 to bolster the trial team.

Ketchmark said he typically tries cases alone and insisted that he take the lead. But in the end, he said, a collaborative approach among the three firms won the case.

“It taught me that the way I used to try it was wrong, that you’re so much better having strength in numbers,” he said.

Still, he said, “If I knew back then what I know now about how much work it would be, how consuming it would be, I would have been a little more hesitant to get involved.”

“Sometimes it’s easier to just jump out of the airplane and worry about pulling the parachute later,” he said.

The complaint focused on a 1996 rule by the National Association of Realtors that, it alleged, “requires all seller’s brokers to make a blanket, unilateral, and effectively non-negotiable offer of buyer broker compensation.” According to the suit, compliance with the Realtors association’s rule is mandatory for properties to appear on the Multiple Listing Service databases through which nearly all homes are sold. That, the suit argued, constituted a restraint on competition, violating state and federal antitrust laws as well as Missouri’s Merchandising Practices Act.

In the run up to the trial, the team of attorneys rented a spacious apartment a few blocks from the federal courthouse, moving in copiers, computers, and enough binders of discovery material to fill seven long folding tables. The trial began Oct. 16. Two weeks later, on Halloween, the jury found that the defendants had engaged in a conspiracy that “had the purpose or effect of raising, inflating,

“[When] you win, there’s this tremendous feeling of joy and triumph. To know you’re doing it on behalf of somebody is absolutely awesome.” — MICHAEL KETCHMARK (90JD)

## Q&A WITH MICHAEL KETCHMARK (90JD)

Iowa Law spoke with Ketchmark in April 2024 about his landmark case, career path, and education.

### Q: YOU RECENTLY WON A MAJOR REAL ESTATE CASE. CAN YOU SHARE ANY UPDATES?

**MK:** After our federal jury verdict, the defendants dropped their appeals and settled. We now have more than \$1 billion in settlements. We also spearheaded massive changes to the way homes are sold. The days of fixed six percent commissions are gone. Home sellers no longer have to pay the buyer's agent. Economists predict this will save homeowners between \$30 billion and \$50 billion in yearly commissions. Eric Dirks, another Iowa Law grad (03JD), was part of our winning trial team. A team of three Iowa law grads won the largest antitrust jury verdict in our country's history. This will change people's lives, which is precisely why we all went to Iowa Law.

### Q: DID YOUR EDUCATION PREPARE YOU TO HIT THE GROUND RUNNING AS AN ATTORNEY?

**MK:** I was a lot more confident when I graduated. I realized that I had more practical experience upon graduation than lawyers at 150-person law firms, even after they'd been working for several years; some of them had never been in front of a judge and jury. Iowa Law gave me the confidence to start my own firm in 1995 and make a go for it. In fact, I partnered with another Iowa Law grad and longtime best friend, Scott McCreight (90JD), to establish our firm Ketchmark and McCreight.

### Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY FAVORITE MEMORIES FROM LAW SCHOOL?

**MK:** I remember my first class, with Professor Sheldon Kurtz. It was on property, and it was everything I thought it would be. I remember thinking, man, this is very different from undergrad, and it's kind of like drinking out of a firehose, but in hindsight it did a wonderful job of preparing me to practice law. Another experience that helped me was the school's legal clinic, which I took as a 3L. I worked in the Johnson County prosecutor's office and got to do a jury trial. I went in front of a judge, called witnesses, argued motions, all while still in law school. The clinic was very supportive, and the prosecutor spent a tremendous amount of time training me. And nobody had to do that, but these were people who really cared. That's what stands out as unique about the school: the people. There is a real, genuine sense of caring, which I think makes the practice of law that much better.

### Q: WHY DID YOU CHOOSE IOWA LAW?

**MK:** I am from Des Moines and went to the University of Iowa for my undergrad. Iowa Law was the only law school I ever wanted to go to and the only place I applied to. I was super happy to get in. It was an awesome experience.

or stabilizing broker commission rates paid by home sellers," causing the plaintiff class "to pay more for real estate brokerage services when selling their homes than they would have paid absent the conspiracy."

The jury returned the full \$1,785,310,872 the plaintiffs sought. An economist calculated that massive figure based on sales data for 265,000 home sales during a seven-year period. Ketchmark said the nationwide damages potentially could be more than \$100 billion.

### FIGHT CONTINUES

In addition to NAR, the suit also named several major real estate companies—HomeServices of America, Keller Williams Realty, Anywhere Real Estate (formerly known as Realogy), and RE/MAX—alleging that they required their franchisees to adopt and enforce NAR's rules and influenced local real estate associations to do the same.

Though the defendants all denied the claims, prior to trial Anywhere agreed to settle for \$83.5 million, and

RE/MAX soon followed in settling for \$55 million. Keller Williams agreed to a post-trial \$70 million settlement. All three companies also agreed to make compensation arrangements more transparent to buyers and sellers and to make clear that commissions are not set by law and are fully negotiable.

The Realtors association and one other defendant, HomeServices, continue to contest the verdict. In post-trial motions that remained pending as of press time, they asked the court to grant a new trial or to reduce the award, arguing that their commissions are specifically permitted by Missouri law and that it was individual Realtors, rather than the association, who actually charged those fees. No one is forced to hire a Realtor, they argue, and any fees are subject to negotiation.

"The result of the trial in this case defies precedent, logic, and the evidence," NAR wrote.

The defendants also continue to deny the claims to the wider public. In a video statement posted on NAR's website on Jan. 31, the association's interim CEO, Nykia Wright, said the industry has been "vilified by certain plaintiffs' lawyers."

"The notion that the National Association of Realtors controls what real estate professionals get paid is wholly untrue," Wright said, adding that the association "does not set commissions—it never has and it never will. Period. End of story."

Ketchmark insists that the litigation will make it easier, not harder, to buy and sell a home, putting thousands of dollars back into the pockets of home sellers and allowing market forces and the internet to determine how buyers' agents are compensated.

"The day of accountability will come for them," Ketchmark said of the industry. "It may be a couple of years off, but it will happen." □

# SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS

A SELECT LOOK AT THE LAW FACULTY'S MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

- Professors **Mihailis Diamantis** and **Shannon Roesler** were elected as new members of the American Law Institute (ALI).
- Professor **Mary Ksobiech** was named the inaugural Jack and Dee Wilome Award winner for faculty excellence in legal analysis, writing, and research, made possible by a generous gift to the law school.
- Associate Dean **Adrien Wing** received the 2023 Iowa National Bar Association (INBA) Journey Award for her commitment to diversity in Iowa's legal community.

## SELECTED SCHOLARSHIP

- Professor **Diane Lourdes Dick**, "Debt Tokens," *University of Pennsylvania Law Review* (forthcoming). The article analyzes debt tokens, a new category of digital asset arising from crypto bankruptcies, which promise to liquidate claims but raise concerns about legitimacy and investor exploitation.
- Professor **Andy Grewal**, "The President's Criminal Immunity," *SMU Law Review* (2024). The article argues the president should have criminal immunity for official acts and explains that this protection is supported by past court decisions and is not as broad as some critics claim.
- Professor **César Rosado Marzán**, "Personal and Political: How the Illinois Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights Connected Lives," *UC Davis Law Review* (2024). The article discusses why domestic workers lack protections due to cultural perceptions of the differences between private and economic spheres.
- Professor **Todd Pettys**, "The First Amendment Speech Rights of College Student-Athletes," *George Mason Law Review* (2024). The article explores the

potential tension between student-athletes' free speech rights and the authority of coaches to limit speech for the purported goal of maximizing team success.

- Professor **Anya Prince**, "The Genetic Information Privacy Act," *Journal of American Medical Association* (2023). The article assesses genetic privacy bills and finds that many concerns about this new legislative focus remain unaddressed.
- Professor **Vinita Singh**, "Louboutin Lawfare: Exploring Conceptions of

Sanctions Utility Through Export Controls on Luxury Goods," *Northwestern Law Review* (forthcoming). The article argues that the prevailing view of the utility of international sanctions fails to capture the broader benefits that these sanctions often provide.

- Professor **Cristina Tilley**, "A New Private Law of Policing," *Brooklyn Law Review* (2024). The article argues that personal injury law, specifically the intentional infliction of emotional distress (IIED) tort, has untapped potential to influence the private bias of police officers and the communities they serve.
- Dean **Kevin Washburn**, "Landback as Federal Policy," *UCLA Law Review* (forthcoming). The article explains myriad federal initiatives to restore land to tribal nations in the United States.

## FACULTY WORKSHOPS 2023-2024

Iowa Law maintains an active calendar of faculty workshops and scholarly presentations that focus on a wide array of contemporary legal issues. This program not only fosters constructive dialogue but also actively engages faculty with the work of their peers from Iowa and institutions across the U.S.

- **Sept. 7** – June Tai (Iowa Law) presented an overview of the upcoming report from the Center for the Study of Applied Legal Education's ("CSALE") triennial survey on clinical program design in law schools.
- **Sept. 14** – Diane Lourdes Dick (Iowa Law), "Tactical Restructuring"
- **Sept. 21** – Andy Grewal (Iowa Law), "Billionaire Taxes and the Constitution"
- **Oct. 5** – Anya Prince (Iowa Law), "Food for Thought on Sociogenomics"
- **Nov. 9** – Tommy Bennett (Missouri Law), "Breaking Kayfabe"
- **Feb. 8** – César Rosado Marzán (Iowa Law), "Alt-labor's Legal Norms in Chicago (and How Utilitarianism Showed Its Face)"
- **Feb. 22** – Chris Odinet and Diane Lourdes Dick (Iowa Law), "Debt Tokens"
- **March 21** – Sarah Fox (Iowa Law, visiting), "Soil Governance and Private Property"
- **March 28** – Ryan Sakoda (Iowa Law), "Abolish or Reform? An Analysis of Post-Release Supervision for Low-Level Offenders"
- **April 4** – Vinita Singh (Iowa Law), "A De-Risking Opportunity Through Tax Immunity? A Framework for Wielding Tax Immunity as a National Security Tool"
- **April 18** – Anita Bernstein (Brooklyn Law School), "Anywhere It Wants to Go"
- **April 25** – Maryam Jamshidi (Colorado Law), "Reimagining National Security"

## REAL-WORLD IMPACT

The scholarly work of Iowa Law faculty continues to shape significant legal decisions across the country. This year, Professor Diane Lourdes Dick's scholarship, "The Chapter 11 Efficiency Fallacy," *BYU Law Review* (2013), was cited in the U.S. Supreme Court ruling of *Truck Insurance Exchange v. Kaiser Gypsum Co.* The article emphasizes the importance of a broad definition of "party in interest" in Section 1109(b). This inclusive approach enables a diverse range of stakeholders to participate in Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases, preventing dominant interests from monopolizing the restructuring process and ensuring a more equitable representation and outcome.

Additionally, Professor Mihailis Diamantis' scholarship, "How to Read a Corporation's Mind" in the book, *The Culpable Corporate Mind* (Elise Bant ed., 2023), was cited by the Delaware Court of the Chancery in *IBEW Local Union 481 v. Winborne*.



DIANE LOURDES DICK



MIHAILIS DIAMANTIS

- Professor **Joseph Yockey**, "The Fiduciary Duty of Dissent," *Villanova Law Review* (2024). The article explains that organizational leaders often mistakenly overlook dissent as a facet of their corporate fiduciary duties, a dynamic that leads to knowledge loss.

### GRANTS

- Professor **Alison Guernsey** was awarded a Byrne JAG Criminal Justice Enhancement Grant for the Iowa MD-JD Collaboration Project in partnership with Dr. Alison Lynch, clinical professor of Psychiatry and Family Medicine. The grant will help expand mental-health and substance-abuse treatment access to people in Iowa jails and prisons and train UI medical and law students to engage in cross-disciplinary collaboration.
- Professor **Anya Prince** received a 2023 Bridging Bioethics Research & Policymaking Grant from the Greenwall Foundation.

### NATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE

- Professor **Andy Grewal** was quoted in "One Supreme Court Case Could Mess Up Chunks of the Tax Code" by *The Wall Street Journal*. "If they say realization is required and it's satisfied here, then it's probably going to be satisfied nearly everywhere at least under existing law," said Andy Grewal, a University of Iowa law professor.

- Professor **Sean Sullivan** was quoted in "Google court trial on search dominance set to begin in US" by *The Financial Times*. "The case against Google is the largest monopolisation case since Microsoft," said Sean Sullivan, professor at the University of Iowa College of Law. It could be the kind of landmark trial that produces "judicial opinions that provide new or better ways of understanding and applying antitrust law," he said.
- Professor **Cristina Tilley** was quoted in "House Democrats push for televising Trump trials on classified documents, 2020 charges" by *The Washington Post*. "If their objective is that they want people to accept the outcome, whatever it is, I'm not sure that televising the trial accomplishes that," she said.

### GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

- Professor **Brian Farrell** gave a public seminar at the University of Galway in Ireland, entitled "Science and the Law: Learning from Wrongful Convictions." He discussed the phenomenon of wrongful convictions and the impact of evidence-based reform.
- Associate Dean **Adrien Wing** presented at the Annual Judges Colloquium, hosted by the Kenya Judiciary Academy (KJA). She also had meetings with the Justices of the Supreme Court of Kenya and other courts and visited two law schools in Nairobi—the University of Nairobi Law School and Strathmore Law School.



Adrien Wing, associate dean for international and comparative law programs and the Bessie Dutton Murray Professor of Law (second from right), visited University of Nairobi Law School on her recent trip to Kenya.

# WELCOME OUR NEW FACULTY

MEET EIGHT ACCOMPLISHED PROFESSORS WHO RECENTLY JOINED IOWA LAW'S DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

## Samantha Barbas, Aliber Family Chair in Law



» Samantha Barbas joined the faculty as the Aliber Family Chair in Law in August 2024. She is a prominent scholar and presenter of legal and media history with a focus on journalism, privacy, defamation, and the First Amendment. She is the award-winning author of seven books. Her most recent book, *Actual Malice: Civil Rights and Freedom of the Press in New York Times v. Sullivan* (University of California Press), made *The New Yorker's* list of the best books of 2023. Barbas received the Public Scholar Award from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 2020. She comes to Iowa Law from the University at Buffalo School of Law, where she joined the faculty in 2011.

## Bethany Berger, Alan D. Vestal Professor of Law



» Bethany Berger, an expert in federal Indian law, joined the faculty in August 2024. She is co-author of *American Indian Law: Cases and Commentary* and co-author and editorial board member of *Felix S. Cohen's Handbook of Federal Indian Law*. She has served several appointments at Harvard Law School as the visiting Oneida Indian Nation Professor. From 2005 to 2011, she served as judge for the Southwest Inter-Tribal Court of Appeals. She is co-author of *Property Law: Rules, Policies, and Practices*. Most recently, she was the Wallace Stevens Professor of Law at the University of Connecticut School of Law. Berger was a visiting professor at Iowa Law in 2005.

## Lorraine Gaynor (11JD), Assistant Professor of Legal Writing, Research, and Analysis



» Lorraine Gaynor joined the faculty as assistant professor of legal analysis, writing, and research in August 2024. She most recently was senior staff attorney for Iowa Legal Aid. Prior to joining Iowa Legal Aid, Gaynor served from 2011 to 2013 in the U.S. Attorney General's Honors Program as a judicial law clerk and attorney adviser in the Executive Office for Immigration Review. "Strong legal writing is critical to good lawyering and effective client advocacy," said Gaynor. "I am honored to join the Iowa Law community and to have the opportunity to support students as they learn and practice these crucial writing and analysis skills."

## Kate Melloy Goettel (07JD), Clinical Associate Professor



» Kate Melloy Goettel, a leader in immigration law and federal court practice, joined the faculty in August 2024. She will lead a federal civil rights clinic with an immigration focus. She most recently served as senior legal director for the American Immigration Council; previously she was associate director of litigation for the National Immigrant Justice Center. She is a member of the Executive Board of the Federal Bar Association's Immigration Law Section and was its 2022-2023 section chair. "I'm thrilled to return to the clinical program, which was instrumental in my legal education," she said. "I'm excited to work with students as they walk through that learning process."



### Megan Graham, Clinical Associate Professor



» Megan Graham joined the faculty as clinical associate professor and director of the Technology Law Clinic. She is a nationally recognized expert in technology and surveillance issues as they relate to the criminal legal system. Previously, Graham was a clinical supervising attorney for the Samuelson Law, Technology & Public Policy Clinic at the School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley. She also clerked in the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota and completed a year-long research fellowship at the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center. Graham was the Privacy, Security, and Technology Fellow and assistant managing editor for *Just Security*, an online forum that focuses on security, democracy, foreign policy, and rights.

### Jill Wieber Lens (05JD), Dorothy M. Willie Professor in Excellence



» Jill Wieber Lens, an expert on reproductive justice, joined the faculty in August 2024. Lens' research encompasses multiple legal facets including health law, tort law, remedies, bioethics, informed consent, criminal law, and reproductive rights; she is also a leading legal expert on stillbirth. Lens spent several years in St. Louis practicing commercial and appellate litigation before being appointed to the faculty at Baylor University School of Law. In 2018, she joined the University of Arkansas School of Law, where she served as the Robert A. Leflar Professor of Law and Associate Dean of Research and Faculty Development. Her recent work has appeared in the *Michigan Law Review*, *Georgetown Law Journal*, *Vanderbilt Law Review*, and *UC Davis Law Review*, and her popular writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Slate*, and *Time*.

### Hope Metcalf, Clinical Associate Professor



» Human rights scholar Hope R. Metcalf will join the faculty in January 2025. Metcalf comes to the University of Iowa after more than 15 years at Yale Law School. From 2014-2024, she served as executive director for the Orville H. Schell, Jr. Center for International Human Rights Law; she also co-taught in the Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic. The Schell Center enables students, faculty, visiting scholars, and the broader institution to conduct research and engage in pressing human rights issues and discussions. Prior to Metcalf's work at the Schell Center, she was director of Yale Law's Arthur Liman Center for Public Interest Law. She began her Yale Law career as a fellow there in 2007–2008. Before joining academia, she was an associate attorney at the firms of Debevoise & Plimpton and Wiggin and Dana.

### James Toomey, Associate Professor of Law



» James Toomey—an expert in health law, bioethics, elder law, and private law—joined the faculty in August 2024. Toomey's research applies philosophical and empirical methods to essential questions in his areas of expertise. His work has been published in the *Virginia Law Review*, the *North Carolina Law Review*, the *Harvard Journal on Legislation*, the *Elder Law Journal*, the *Journal of Law and the Biosciences*, and the *American Journal of Law and Medicine*, among others. Previously an assistant professor at the Elizabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University and the Climenko Fellow and Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School, Toomey won the Harvard Distinction in Teaching Award in 2018.

# PAYING IT FORWARD

ROB YOULE (76JD) HAS SPENT DECADES SUPPORTING TWO INSTITUTIONS THAT CHANGED HIS LIFE FOR THE BETTER—THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AND IOWA LAW **By Deborah Kirk**

In 1981, when Rob Youle (76JD) was 29 years old, he experienced a debilitating backache. As an antitrust litigation attorney accustomed to toting heavy trial briefcases, he assumed the heavy lifting was the cause of his pain. After consulting his primary care doctor, Youle was referred to a specialist who gave him life-changing news: He had stage IV metastatic testicular cancer and was given only 90 to 120 days to live.

“Because the prognosis was so dire, my immediate goal was just to make it to my 30th birthday, which was only a few weeks away,” Youle recalled. But he learned about a researcher at Indiana University who was developing new drug therapies. The research, funded by the American Cancer Society [ACS], resulted in a treatment that has since saved the lives of hundreds of thousands of young men. Youle was fortunate to be one of them.

In addition to giving Youle many years to live an active and productive life—he is now 72—the breakthrough treatment opened his eyes to the importance of serving others. “That’s when my thinking about volunteerism and philanthropy began to evolve,” he said. “I came to understand that our lives are enriched by people who volunteer and do things to benefit others.”

With that recognition, Youle began to volunteer for the ACS in the mid-1980s, work that over time became an increasingly meaningful part of his life. In the 43 years since his own cancer diagnosis, he has held leadership positions at every level of the ACS, including serving as national board



Rob Youle (76JD)

“My thinking about volunteerism and philanthropy began to evolve. I came to understand that our lives are enriched by people who volunteer and do things to benefit others.” — **ROB YOULE (76JD)**

chair. Today he remains involved with the ACS through its partnership with the National Association of Basketball Coaches, which engages with NCAA basketball coaches, players, and fans in efforts to help fight cancer.

“I realized early on that without my law degree, I probably would not have become board chair of the world’s largest health charity, one with an annual budget exceeding \$1 billion,” Youle said. “My education at Iowa Law made it possible for me to serve the ACS the way I was able to.”

Several years after graduating from Iowa Law, Youle, who grew up in the Chicago suburbs, relocated to Colorado to join the law firm of Sherman & Howard, where he practiced in the area of complex commercial litigation. Shortly thereafter, he became litigation counsel to Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, a not-for-profit power supplier that provides electricity to the Rocky Mountain West. Youle is now a solo practitioner, advising Tri-State on litigation strategy, strategic planning, and issues of corporate governance.

Looking back, Youle credits the support he received at Iowa Law with helping him thrive in his work. “If it hadn’t been for the financial support I received while at Iowa, I would never have been able to attend law school and go on to have a satisfying professional career,” he said. “Many

of today’s students are unable to attend law school without financial support. Private philanthropy is increasingly important to providing that support, and the more money we raise, the more scholarships we can provide.”

To that end, Youle gives back by serving the Iowa Law School Foundation [ILSF], the nonprofit foundation that raises money to benefit Iowa Law. Over the years he has held various volunteer roles at ILSF, including Development Committee chair, co-chair of ILSF’s Iowa Inspired campaign that raised \$52.6 million,

and most recently a four-year term as ILSF’s president.

“Rob loves the College of Law and understands its impact in the world,” said Iowa Law Dean Kevin Washburn. “As ILSF’s president, he was a volunteer, but he treated ILSF like his most important client. I saw him regularly spend 20 or more hours a week crunching data, developing presentations, holding meetings, and negotiating with the UI Center for Advancement. When I have had a disappointment or a minor setback as dean, I can call Rob, and he can put everything in perspective by reminding me how important our work at the law school is. His enthusiasm can change my whole outlook.”

Youle’s enthusiasm may be infectious, but it remains rooted in his abiding gratitude for the help he received along the way.

“If you’d asked me at age 29 if I’d still be here today, doing all the things I love, I never would have believed you,” Youle said. “But I made it, and now I enjoy the additional years I’ve been given while trying to do what I can for others.”



Katie Couric, Rob Youle, and Sharon Percy Rockefeller at a 2015 screening of *Cancer: The Emperor of All Maladies*.

# FAMILY MATTERS

THE HAWKEYE ROOTS OF JOHN F. WICKS (98JD, 98MBA) RUN DEEP

By Nic Arp



Left: Nedra Morgan Wicks (62BA) and John R. Wicks (59BA, 64JD). Below: John F. Wicks (98JD, 98MBA).



John F. Wicks' (98JD, 98MBA) parents, John R. Wicks (59BA, 64JD) and Nedra Morgan Wicks (62BA), grew up in Iowa City and met at a party above the Airliner bar. His maternal grandfather, Philip F. Morgan, was a University of Iowa engineering professor and the mayor of Iowa City. And although he grew up in Minnesota, his parents took him each year to Iowa City for Homecoming.

He cherishes those memories—"Iowa City was kind of like a second hometown for me," he said—so choosing Iowa for a joint JD-MBA program was a no-brainer.

Now vice president and general counsel for California apparel company 5.11 Tactical, Wicks serves on the Iowa Law School Foundation (ILSF) Board of Directors and its Alumni Relations Committee. That role is itself a family tradition—his

father, who died in 2023, was a founding member and one-time president of the ILSF.

After graduating from Iowa Law, the elder Wicks joined Dorsey & Whitney LLP in Minneapolis. His expertise in helping families with their most important and intimate financial and legal decisions led to

his being tapped as a member of the firm's management committee and, later, as the founding CEO of Dorsey & Whitney Trust Company, a still-thriving estate administration and wealth management firm based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

"My dad's clients would often tell me that they appreciated my dad's integrity and discretion," the younger Wicks said. "I don't think there are two more important qualities in an attorney."

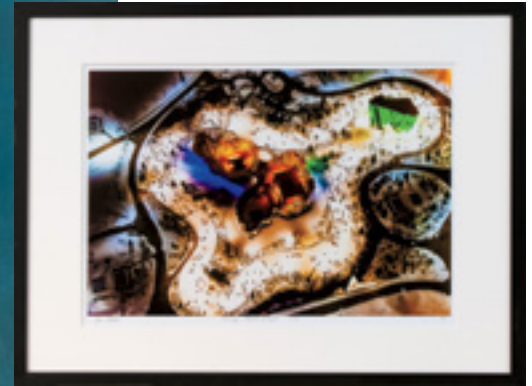
Today, through their service to the ILSF—including the establishment and sustainment of the John R. Wicks Scholarship Fund—the Wicks family is helping to expand the Iowa Law family. Each year, promising students receive the Wicks Scholarship.

One of several recipients, Patrick Fontana (24JD) summed up the impact of the family's support. "Rather than stressing about how I would pay for law school, the Wicks Scholarship allowed me to focus on finding the right career path and building friendships and connections that will last for life," he explained. Fontana, of Littleton, Colorado, is starting his legal career as an associate in corporate law at the international firm Davis Polk.

The younger John Wicks understands Fontana's feelings well. "The friends I made at Iowa Law are still my best friends," he said.

And now this third-generation Hawkeye is helping new generations grow their own roots at Iowa Law.

**"My dad's clients would often tell me that they appreciated my dad's integrity and discretion. I don't think there are two more important qualities in an attorney."** — JOHN F. WICKS (98JD, 98MBA)



Left: "Galloping Indian After Leigh," a 1978 painting by Fritz Scholder, was a gift to Iowa Law from Jim and Deba Leach. Above: "Chicago Skaters at Night," a photograph by Jim Spizzo (74JD), was a gift from the artist.

# ARTFUL GIFTS

DONATED ARTWORKS ENRICH THE LAW SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT AND WILL INSPIRE STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS FOR GENERATIONS TO COME **By Nic Arp**

When you visit the Boyd Law Building, home of Iowa Law, you might be surprised to find an original sculpture by French master Auguste Rodin (1840-1917), regarded as one of history's greatest artists, in the courtyard.

But the University of Iowa has deep roots in its appreciation for and creation of fine art, and Iowa Law reflects that ethos. Throughout the Boyd Law Building, works of art inspire and inform the study, teaching, research, and service of the Iowa Law community.

Iowa Law senior scholar Jim Leach and his wife, Deba, know about the power of art to ignite the imagination. Jim served as chair of the National Endowment for the

Humanities from 2009 to 2013 (after 30 years representing Iowa in the U.S. Congress), and Deba is currently pursuing her PhD in art history at the UI School of Art and Art History.

Avid art collectors since they were a young couple, they donated a piece by American painter Fritz Scholder (1937-2005) to Iowa Law. It is on display in the Office of the Dean.

"It gives us great pleasure to make this gift inspired by the leadership of Dean Washburn, and to imagine law students at Iowa being inspired by the achievements of artists like Scholder as they navigate the corridors of the school and the rigors of their own endeavors," Jim said.

Among the school's collection are original works donated by alumni who have developed careers as artists.

Marvin Hill (70BBA, 72MA, 76JD, 76PhD), professor emeritus at Northern Illinois University, gifted his watercolor paintings of Boyd Law Building and other subjects. With shimmering color and unique perspective, the pieces capture the intellectual energy of Iowa Law.

After retiring from his law career, Jim Spizzo (78JD), is pursuing his passion for photography full time. With a keen eye for architectural spaces, his award-winning work has been chosen for multiple juried exhibitions. Spizzo donated "Chicago Skaters at Night" to Iowa Law.

Iowa Law is grateful for the many ways in which our alumni and friends give back. **Learn how you can make the greatest impact at the College of Law: [law.uiowa.edu/give](http://law.uiowa.edu/give).**



Left: A watercolor of Boyd Law Building by Marvin Hill (76JD, PhD) was a gift from the artist.

# ALUMNI NOTES

STAY CONNECTED:    

[[ 1967 ]]

**Charles H. Dick, Jr.** received the San Diego American Board of Trial Advocates' 2023 George McClenahan and Peter Hughes Civility Award. The George McClenahan and Peter Hughes Civility Award is a lifetime achievement award and the San Diego chapter's top honor for lawyers and legal practitioners, recognizing professionalism and civility.

[[ 1979 ]]

**Randal Caldwell** co-authored a new book, *Iowa Estate Planning: Will Drafting and Estate Administration with Forms*.

[[ 1983 ]]

**Stephen Belay** joined the Iowa Center for Children's Justice as an attorney. He is a regular speaker on family law issues for the Iowa State Bar Association and the Iowa Association for Justice.

**Thomas R. Zinkula** was appointed archbishop of

Dubuque. He was installed as the archdiocese's eleventh archbishop on October 18.

[[ 1984 ]]

**Alejandro M. Sanchez** was appointed as director on the Republic Bank Corporation's board. He previously served as president and CEO of the Florida Bankers Association from 1998 to 2023.

Colonel **Kevin Techau** was awarded the Hawkeye Distinguished Veterans Memorial Award. Techau served for seven years in the U.S. Air Force and 19 years in the Iowa Air National Guard. He also served as the U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Iowa from 2014 to 2017.

[[ 1988 ]]

The Honorable **Samuel A. Thumma** of Division One of the Arizona Court of Appeals received the Arizona State Bar Association's 2023 Outstanding Jurist Award. Thumma



Patricia Harris (83BA, 88JD) and Barbara Burch Franklin (88JD) show the world their Hawkeye pride during a trip to the Great Pyramids of Giza.

was also elected a trustee of the National Judicial College.

**Grant Dugdale** joined the Baird Holm law firm in Omaha, Nebraska, as an attorney practicing in the labor and employment law group.

**Luz M. Frias** was awarded the MHBA Lifetime Achievement Award for the Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association and recognized for her dedication to bettering her community and profession through her leadership in legal nonprofit, government, and philanthropy.

[[ 1990 ]]

**Jake Holdreith** became a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is a partner at Robins Kaplan LLP's Minneapolis office, leading the health and life sciences industry group and acting as a member of the firm's executive board.

[[ 1991 ]]

The Iowa Court of Appeals elected **Mary Tabor** as chief judge. She is the eleventh chief judge since the state legislature established the Iowa Court of Appeals in 1976.

[[ 1993 ]]

Gov. Kim Reynolds appointed **Jeffrey McDaniel** as a district judge in Judicial District 7. He serves as shareholder and president of Brooks Law Firm, P.C.

[[ 1994 ]]

**William Hefner** joined Fredrikson & Byron as an

officer in its environmental law, energy and natural resources, and energy litigation group. He has experience in the manufacturing, mining, and agribusiness industries, as well as experience with state and federal regulatory agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

[[ 1996 ]]

The Honorable **Dean Eyler** was appointed to Minnesota's Fourth Judicial District. Prior to his appointment, Judge Eyler was a partner at Lathrop GPM, where he litigated complex commercial and intellectual property disputes and served as the firm's pro bono partner.

**Greta Truman** was appointed to city attorney of West Des Moines. She served as West Des Moines' counsel and assistant city attorney since 2014.

[[ 1997 ]]

**Kathryn Atkinson Overberg** joined Fredrikson & Byron in the employment, labor and benefits, and internal investigation groups. Overberg has a background in counseling business and higher education organizations on employment and personnel matters, discrimination and harassment, Title IX, and other compliance concerns.



Heidi McNeil Staudenmaier (81BA, 85JD), a partner at Snell & Wilmer in Phoenix, continues to reach new heights. She recently climbed to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

# 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)
- Bill Boyd (84JD)\*
- Elizabeth R. Boyd (87JD)
- Craig A. Cook (89JD)
- Jeff W. Courter (87JD)
- David Day (77JD)
- H. Mitchell D'Olier (71JD)
- Renee Dotson (06JD)
- Angela L. Fontana (89JD)
- Katie Funk (92JD)\*
- 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)
- Joel S. Telpner (83JD)
- Winnie Uluocha (18JD)
- John F. Wicks (98JD)
- Amy Taylor Wilson (09JD)
- Gretchen Wolf (02JD)

\*New to the board. Started their term on July 1, 2024.

Nathan Frederick (04JD) summited Mt. Everest on May 23, 2024. Mt. Everest is the fourth of the Seven Summits he has completed.



Bus Division of the Regional Transportation Authority.

The Honorable **Kristen Marttila** was appointed to Minnesota's Fourth Judicial District. She was previously partner at Lockridge Grindal Nauen PLLP, where her practice focused on litigating complex antitrust and other consumer-oriented class actions. She was chair of the firm's pro bono committee.

**Soon Chul Huh** (06LLM/21SJD) was appointed as dean of the College of Public Services at Kyungnam University in South Korea.

**Farid Khosravi** was promoted to shareholder at Chamberlain Hrdlicka. Khosravi is a member of the tax controversy and litigation section in the Atlanta office.

**Raymond R. Rinkol** returned to the Miller Law Office in Decorah as managing partner.

Rinkol's first job after graduating from Iowa Law was at the Miller Law Office.

**Dr. Tess Barker** was selected as the Association for Student Conduct Administration's (ASCA) executive director. In her role, Barker serves as chief executive officer of ASCA and is responsible for its management and operation.

**Evan Leitch** joined Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck as a shareholder in the firm's Denver office. Leitch will focus on advising clients on corporate transactions.

**Hudson Kingston** was honored as a 2023 Minnesota Attorney of the Year by the *Minnesota Lawyer* magazine. Hudson is CURE's legal director and has spent his career working at the interface of public health, environmental protection, consumer protection, and corporate and government accountability.

**Jacob Peterson** joined Winthrop & Weinstine PA as counsel in the corporate and transactions practice.

**Hassan Beydoun** accepted a position as group executive of Economic Development at the Office of the Mayor for the City of Detroit. He previously

**2001**  
The Honorable **Griselda Vega Samuel** was appointed as a judge in the 14th Subcircuit of Cook County. She previously served as Midwest Regional Counsel for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund. She has 22 years of experience as a civil rights lawyer, litigating complex discrimination cases in both federal and state court for low-wage workers.

**2003**  
**Cherish De la Cruz** joined the Manely Firm, P.C. as managing estate planning attorney. Her practice includes estate planning, probate, and business law, and she has experience in collaborative work with financial advisors and CPAs.

**2004**  
**Melvin O. Shaw**, a solo practitioner in Coralville, became the second African American president of the Iowa State Bar Association in its 150-year history. He succeeds **Ian Russell** (05JD) as ISBA president.

**2005**  
The Honorable **Mary Sevandal Cohen** was appointed as a judge in the 13th subcircuit of Cook County. Prior to her appointment, Judge Cohen served as in-house legal counsel for Pace, the Suburban



Jill Wieber Lens (05JD) is proud to rock the Tigerhawk once again. She joined the Iowa Law faculty this fall as the Dorothy M. Willie Professor in Excellence.

served as senior advisor and counsel to the mayor.

### [[ 2013 ]]

**John Cycon** was promoted to partner at Holtzman Vogel Baran Torchinsky and Josefiak PLLC. Cycon focuses his practice on governmental and internal investigations, commercial litigation, constitutional law, and white-collar defense.

Gov. Kim Reynolds appointed **Elizabeth O'Donnell Reist** as a district judge in Judicial District 7. O'Donnell Reist serves as senior assistant county attorney for the Scott County Attorney's Office.

### [[ 2014 ]]

The Honorable **David Brooks** was appointed as a district associate judge in Judicial Election District Four. Brooks previously served as assistant public defender at the Office of the Iowa State Public Defender. He also serves as a Judge Advocate General (JAG) for the Iowa National Guard.

**Alyssa Gonnerman** was promoted to shareholder at Littler in Kansas City. She counsels and represents employers in various aspects of labor and employment law.

**Wade Hauser** was promoted to partner at Lathrop GPM LLP in Minneapolis. Hauser assists with nonprofit mergers and acquisitions, governance and structures, tax-exempt status, and campaign finance.

### [[ 2015 ]]

**Zachary Hermesen** was named a fellow of the Iowa Academy of Trial Lawyers. He is a member attorney at Whitfield & Eddy Law in Des Moines.

**Jordan Jackson** was promoted to deputy bureau chief in the

Crime Strategies Bureau at the Bronx County District Attorney's Office.

### [[ 2016 ]]

**Ashley Glecker** was elevated to partner at Polsinelli in Phoenix. Glecker's practice focuses on private equity, specifically with behavioral health law; health care M&A; and mergers, acquisitions, and divestitures.

**[Danitza] Valerie Loya** was recognized by *The Indiana Lawyer* as a Diversity in Law honoree. Loya's practice at Hensley Legal Group P.C. focuses primarily on personal injury.

**Shelby Wood** was elected as a partner at Spencer Fane in Kansas City. Wood practices in their Real Estate division.

### [[ 2018 ]]

**John J. Waters** presented his debut novel, *River City One*, at Prairie Lights in Iowa City.

**Megan Gorham** was promoted to partner at Lane & Waterman in Davenport. Gorham's practice focuses on general business matters, employment, and education law.

### [[ 2019 ]]

**Carrington Buze** presented her panel, "How We Win: Lessons Learned from Policy Change," as part of the How We endUP 2023 Convening in Houston.

**Shane E. Schmidt** was appointed to a statewide initiative by the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on professionalism to assess the prevalence and impact of bullying in the legal profession.

**Austin Weaver** was recognized by the Modern Counsel in its 35-under-35 list in the Sports Law category. He is general counsel for the Association of



Taylor Soule (20JD) and husband Alex Gelhar added a future Law Hawk to the family. Meet Landon Felix Gelhar-Soule, born March 2024.

Pickleball Players.

### [[ 2020 ]]

**Joseph Bauer** joined Fish & Richardson as a lateral associate in their intellectual property practice. Bauer's practice focuses on patent prosecution in the electrical and computer technology industries.

**Thomas Bright** was promoted to section chief of the Real Estate Litigation Section of the Indiana Attorney General's Office.

### [[ 2021 ]]

**Ryan Tunink** joined Lamson Dugan & Murray's West Des Moines office as a litigation associate.

**Samuel J. Gray** joined the litigation practice group at Simmons Perrine Moyer Bergman PLC in Cedar Rapids.

### [[ 2022 ]]

**Yue (April) Li** joined Mika Meyers PLC in Grand Rapids as an associate. Li specializes in business and commercial

law, entity formation, mergers and acquisitions, real estate, and commercial litigation.

**Stacy Massey, Marcus Weymiller, and Amber Crow** (23JD) joined Faegre Drinker in Minneapolis as a member of their 2023 associate class.

### [[ 2023 ]]

**Apoorva Gokare** joined Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP's corporate counseling group as an associate attorney after her admission to the Delaware bar in December.

**Luke Kennedy** joined Foulston Siefkin LLP in Wichita as an associate in the firm's transactional and business law practice group.

**Breanna Kingyon** joined Shook, Hardy & Bacon in Kansas City as an associate in the intellectual property litigation practice.

**Eweosa A. Owenaze** was recognized by the National Black Lawyers as a top 40 Under 40 Black Lawyers in Illinois.

## 2024 COLLEGE OF LAW ALUMNI AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2024 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](http://law.uiowa.edu/awards).*

- **McCeil Johnson (99JD)** — Alumni Achievement Award
- **The Hon. Michael Melloy (74JD)** — Alumni Service Award
- **Michelle Ramirez (09JD)** — Emerging Leader Award
- **Carolyn Jones (79JD)** — Iowa Law Review Award



# IN MEMORIAM

IOWA LAW PAYS SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE FOLLOWING ALUMNI,  
WHO PASSED AWAY BETWEEN JULY 1, 2023, AND JUNE 30, 2024.

## [[ 1949 ]]

- William A. Bergman
- Donald A. Wine

—

## [[ 1952 ]]

- The Hon. Albert L. Habhab

—

## [[ 1955 ]]

- Lloyd A. Epley
- Daniel T. Flores
- William J. McNertney

—

## [[ 1956 ]]

- Robert B. Vollmar

—

## [[ 1957 ]]

- Byron G. Riley
- Denis J. Sullivan

—

## [[ 1958 ]]

- Robert D. Fulton
- Robert J. Loots
- Keith E. Putbrese
- Rodney C. Schroeder

—

## [[ 1959 ]]

- Byron J. Beck
- Thomas F. Crane
- Frederic L. Goreham
- Philip A. Leff
- Marvin Winick

—

## [[ 1961 ]]

- Dorothy M. Kaplan Light
- Kenneth L. Moss

—

## [[ 1962 ]]

- Richard J. Boyle
- William A. Conzett
- Judd E. Truax
- Frank J. Waldburger

—

## [[ 1963 ]]

- Samuel S. Killinger III

## [[ 1964 ]]

- John E. Beamer
- Robert C. Shearer
- Richard L. Wilson

—

## [[ 1965 ]]

- Jerald R. Bronemann
- Charles L. Davis
- Donald L. Johnson
- John C. Lovett

—

## [[ 1967 ]]

- The Hon. Clarke C. Barnes
- David E. Funkhouser
- Carl A. Saunders
- J. Bryan Schulte

—

## [[ 1968 ]]

- Benjamin W. Blackstock

—

## [[ 1969 ]]

- Daniel L. Carr
- Brent G. Harstad
- Richard G. Santi

—

## [[ 1970 ]]

- Gordon A. Cochrane
- Craig C. Nelson
- Dr. John R. Wunder

—

## [[ 1971 ]]

- Edward D. Irwin

—

## [[ 1972 ]]

- Melvin L. Ford
- Ford C. (Chet) June III

- Lafayette J. Lamb
- Lawrence R. Oliver

—

## [[ 1974 ]]

- James J. Callahan
- G. Jeffrey George
- Richard W. Vickers

—

## [[ 1975 ]]

- Richard G. Brown
- Thomas E. Burlingame
- Daniel Y. Rathjen

—

## [[ 1976 ]]

- Vicki R. Danley
- Thomas E. Gustafson
- The Hon. Anders J. Norgaard
- Steven P. Swanson
- Jeffrey T. Williams

—

## [[ 1977 ]]

- Tim Yeager
- Richard H. Zimmermann

—

## [[ 1978 ]]

- Dennis W. Coleman
- Bob C. Creasey
- Timothy J. Pabst

—

## [[ 1979 ]]

- Steven G. Norby

—

## [[ 1981 ]]

- Crystal L. Usher
- Mary W. Wahrenbrock Vavroch

—

## [[ 1982 ]]

- Patrick W. Hall
- Robert J. Hearity
- Randy M. Larson

—

## [[ 1983 ]]

- Dr. Rosemary F. Carroll

## [[ 1984 ]]

- Dr. Robert J. Hegeman

—

## [[ 1985 ]]

- Prof. Jerry R. Parkinson

—

## [[ 1987 ]]

- Robert J. Johnson
- PJ Mortenson Rundall

—

## [[ 1989 ]]

- John A. Burds

—

## [[ 1991 ]]

- Marc B. Castaneda
- April L. Smith

—

## [[ 1994 ]]

- Susan L. Bottorff Ahlers  
Leman
- Patrick B. Moore

—

## [[ 1997 ]]

- Rick A. Haberman

—

## [[ 2001 ]]

- Rachel L. Blake

—

## [[ 2002 ]]

- Evan R. Seamone

—

## [[ 2003 ]]

- Cori L. Marx

—

## [[ 2009 ]]

- Michael E. Zinkula

—

## [[ 2011 ]]

- Charles E. Brasington

—

## [[ 2014 ]]

- James W. White

—

## [[ 2015 ]]

- Nicholas M. Fohey



**William G. Buss**, the O.K. Patten Professor Emeritus, passed away at the age of 91. He served on the Iowa Law faculty for more than 40 years. His teaching and scholarly writing focused on constitutional law, especially comparative constitutional law and constitutional law related to public education.

# 25 YEARS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS CELEBRATES A QUARTER CENTURY OF MAKING A VITAL DIFFERENCE

**I**n a world facing ongoing conflicts and critical human rights concerns, the University of Iowa Center for Human Rights (UICHR) is key in educating and advocating for human rights at local, state, and global levels.

For the past 25 years, the UICHR has played a vital role in educating students and the broader public, as well as fostering scholarship around these pressing issues. The center was originally conceived by a dedicated group led by Professor Burns Weston and began with “Global Focus: Human Rights ’98.” This initiative commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and featured lectures from Nobel Laureates such as South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

The UICHR’s interdisciplinary focus connects faculty and educates students across the University of Iowa. Since 2013, it has been a unit of the College of Law, enhancing its role as a hub for human rights education statewide. Under the leadership of Associate Dean Adrien Wing, six staff members contribute to the center’s work, including two Iowa Law alumni—Professors Brian Farrell (98JD) and Amy Weismann (00JD).

Education is central to the center’s mission. It offers undergraduate courses in human rights and administers the UI Human Rights Certificate, the only undergraduate

credential awarded by the College of Law. The certificate program recently reached an all-time high of 77 declared students from various majors. Many certificate students aspire to legal careers and often apply to law schools nationwide, including Iowa Law.

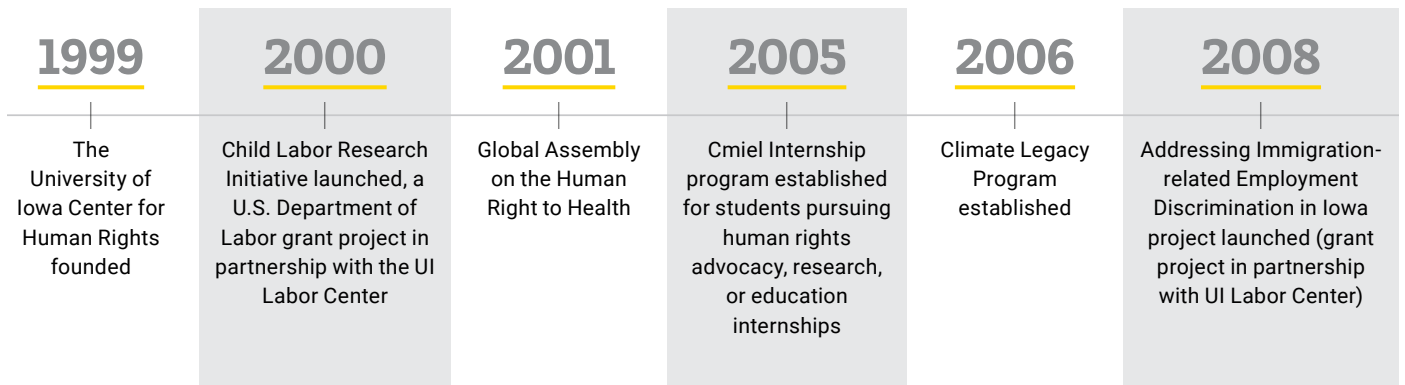
The UICHR is also a catalyst for research and scholarship. Its early projects, such as a federally funded major child labor initiative, set a high standard for impactful work. More recently, research assistants have conducted research on international human rights, international humanitarian law, and international criminal law, including the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh. The center routinely hosts scholarly conferences and is a co-organizer of the annual Iowa Human Rights Research Conference, which features presentations from students across Iowa. The 2024 conference, hosted at the Boyd Law Building, attracted over 125 registered attendees.

Additionally, the center furthers the College of Law’s mission of public service. Its public programs reach thousands annually. In 2022, the UICHR began administering a federal grant to establish the Afghan Legal League of Iowa, which provides legal services to Afghan nationals in Iowa.

As the UICHR celebrates its 25th anniversary, it remains dedicated to its mission while looking to the future.

**To learn more, visit [uichr.uiowa.edu](http://uichr.uiowa.edu).**

## MILESTONES IN UICHR HISTORY





Above: UICHR founder Burns Weston (third from left), with the organization's early board members. Left: Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu, UICHR director Adrien Wing, and former University of Iowa President Mary Sue Coleman, during the archbishop's 1999 campus visit.

The UICHR's interdisciplinary focus connects faculty and educates students across the University of Iowa. Since 2013, it has been a unit of the College of Law, enhancing its role as a hub for human rights education statewide.

**2009**

Courage of Conviction Award initiated

**2011**

UI Certificate in Human Rights established for undergraduate students

**2013**

UICHR became a unit of the College of Law

**2014**

Iowa Network of Human Rights Academics established

**2017**

Addressing Mental Health Care Challenges of Immigrants and Refugees project launched, a grant project in partnership with UI College of Public Health

**2022**

ALL Iowa project established, a \$1.5M grant project from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services, and several partners around the state, including Drake Law School Refugee Clinic, Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice, Catholic Charities, and Iowa Law Legal Clinic



## THE IMPACT OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships enable students to pursue their passions without financial strain. This support allows law students to dedicate themselves fully to their studies and personal growth, preparing them to excel in their future legal careers. Learn more about the Wicks Scholarship on Page 34 and consider contributing to support our student success funds.

*“This summer I was able to take an unpaid internship helping self-represented litigants, which I would not have been able to do without the financial help of [the Wicks] scholarship.”*

—BRENDAN FRITZ (26JD)

*“The Wicks Scholarship has allowed me to freely pursue an education and career in public interest law. I am so grateful I can do what I am passionate about without financial pressure.”*

—JAY ZAKSEK (25JD)



# THANK YOU!

Iowa Law is grateful for the many ways in which our alumni and friends give back. Learn how you can make the greatest impact at the College of Law: [law.uiowa.edu/give](http://law.uiowa.edu/give)