Your warmth and generosity shone brightly through the year

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Leading by Example

The Giving Book lifts up the myriad ways our alumni stay involved and active with the College of Law, and again this year there is much to share and celebrate. In short, we look back on an extraordinary year of participation and generosity.

The numbers tell part of the story. As you’ll see illustrated on p4, we exceeded our overall fundraising goal for the year, saw increased giving to our priority funds, and endowed new scholarships. In this issue, you’ll also read how Orange Law alumni consistently and exceptionally support the College with their time, talent, and treasure. Throughout the year, you have responded to our requests for assistance with an enthusiasm that is inspiring.

As with previous issues of the Giving Book, in these pages you will read examples of alums hiring graduates, hosting interns or externs, teaching, assisting at orientation and residencies, serving on panels, and judging and coaching advocacy competitions. You will also see examples of alumni leadership in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within our community and energizing the College’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives.

Your purposeful engagement leads to positive career outcomes for our students. It’s that simple. Along the way, you lead by example, and the example you set is an integral part of the education our students receive from your alma mater:

On pg9, the Hon. Thérèse Wiley Dancks L’91 gives voice to the importance of modeling the right professional and ethical example for young lawyers:

“Mentoring young lawyers is so important to keeping our profession civil and respected, and in the long run, to help uphold the rule of law,” Judge Dancks says, noting that she urges interns in her charge to consider mentoring junior lawyers as soon as they are in a position to do so. “I tell them that we all enhance each other with our successes, so it is important for them to help other Orange alums succeed.”

Well said Judge Dancks. In the spirit of the holiday season, I thank our alumni family sincerely for your generosity, engagement, and leadership, and I wish you peace, happiness, and good health.

Very truly yours,

Craig M. Boise
Dean and Professor of Law
A CLASS AHEAD: THE ANNUAL GIVING LEADERBOARD

Our alumni family’s generosity continues to drive Syracuse Law’s success, enabling us to offer a forward-leaning legal education, recruit and retain the best and brightest students and an outstanding faculty, and build upon our traditions and strengths.

We couldn’t do it without you. Thanks to your gifts, each year we have new philanthropic successes to report:

- During a global pandemic that tested us all, we exceeded our overall fundraising goal by more than $1 million, and we saw increased giving to our priority funds: the Law Annual Fund and the Scholarship and Financial Aid Fund.
- We also successfully endowed new scholarship funds, including the Syracuse Black Law Alumni Collective William H. Johnson L’1903 Endowed Scholarship—named in honor of the College’s first African American graduate—and the Deborah and Sherman F. Levey ‘57, L’59 Endowed Scholarship. These two new funds represent a landmark step in our continued efforts toward increased diversity, for our law school and the legal profession at large.
- Moreover, our alumni consistently lead the University in giving participation when compared to their Orange peers and continue to lead the University in Forever Orange campaign participation (see p16). Our alumni family has much to be proud of!
- In this chart, we highlight the top 10 classes by giving participation for Fiscal Year 2021, as well as the top classes by giving participation for each decade. Congratulations and thanks to these classes for their outstanding contributions!

### TOP 10 CLASSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Participation Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 1962</td>
<td>31.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 1971</td>
<td>25.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 1968</td>
<td>23.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 1964</td>
<td>21.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. 1980</td>
<td>20.35%**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. 1966</td>
<td>18.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. 1960</td>
<td>17.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. 1975</td>
<td>17.12%**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. 1970</td>
<td>16.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. 1973</td>
<td>15.11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Giving data is compiled from among all living Syracuse Law alumni, as of Fiscal Year 2021 (July 2020 through June 2021).

** Includes reunion year class gifts

### TOP CLASSES BY DECADE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decade</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Participation Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 1960s</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>31.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 1970s</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>24.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. 1980s</td>
<td>1980</td>
<td>20.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 1990s</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>9.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. 2000s</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>8.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. 2010s</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Look for more information in this Giving Book about our other special annual giving initiatives: The Law Firm Giving Challenge (p14), Boost the ’Cuse (p15), and our 3L class giving campaign, Class Act! (p13).
Marty Feinman L’83, Director of Juvenile Justice Training, The Legal Aid Society, is shown visiting Dineen Hall in October 2021, where he had lunch with the executive board of the Syracuse Public Interest Network, met with students interested in public interest law careers through a dedicated “office hour,” and later visited Professor Lauryn Gouldin’s Criminal Justice Reform Seminar to discuss the evolving world of juvenile justice.

Feinman has more than 30 years’ experience in the field of social and juvenile justice, advocating for children and families, defended indigent adults, training young attorneys, and advising policymakers. For many years, he has supported student exploration of careers in public interest law through the Children’s Rights and Family Law Clinic and the Syracuse Public Interest Network, by encouraging The Legal Aid Society to host Syracuse interns and externs and to hire graduates, and in recent years by funding fellowships to help build a deeper bench of advocates for the field.

In addition to continuing his direct interactions with students as a mentor and guest lecturer, in fall 2021, Feinman will endow a special fellowship fund to support students who wish to pursue a career in the field he has so passionately represented.

Specifically, distributions from the fund will make available, on an annual basis, three fellowships in support of students who wish to pursue a career in public interest and who demonstrate a commitment to the field with a focus on criminal defense on behalf of indigent persons and juvenile justice. The annual Feinman Fellowship Awards seek to build the field by reducing the impact of the financial barriers an externship or job in certain positions present.

Two awards of $2,500 will be conferred to 3L students who select for their externship a public interest or public service position, and a postgraduate fellowship award of $5,000 will be made to a graduating student who chooses in their final spring semester to pursue and accept postgraduate employment in the field.

In considering applications, preference will be given to students who secure an externship doing (a) criminal defense work on behalf of indigent persons; and/or (b) legal advocacy on behalf of children in the juvenile justice system or direct representation of children in the welfare system; and/or (c) legal policy or research promoting criminal and/or juvenile justice reform on behalf of an organization whose mission it is to represent the rights of those populations.

As Feinman told Syracuse Law magazine in November 2020, “Social justice law work can be intimidating and emotionally overwhelming, but on the flip side, it’s just so extraordinarily rewarding. You are engaged in work that can be life-saving and difference-making.” With this new endowed fund, he is betting on Syracuse Law students to continue the important work of representing our most vulnerable populations and ensuring their equal access to justice.
The August 2021 Syracuse University obituary of alumnus W. Carroll "Nick" Coyne ’54, L ’57 illustrates the twin passions of the late University Life Trustee, who was a labor relations attorney for more than 40 years at Hancock & Estabrook LLP. A baseball and basketball letterman, who was honored with the 1977 Letter Winner of Distinction Award, Coyne loved sports and he loved the Orange. These passions helped spark a lifelong friendship with fellow law school alum and athlete Art Lussi L ’88.

Now, Lussi has memorialized their long friendship by creating an academic scholarship in Coyne's name, for deserving students entering Orange Edge, Syracuse’s summer pre-law program. Lussi, the President of Crowne Plaza Lake Placid, first got to know Coyne in the Adirondack resort town. Coyne’s daughter Christina '94 played tennis with Lussi, the President of Crowne Plaza Lake Placid, and they became good friends. “He encouraged me to broaden my legal horizons, so I became an Adirondack Park Agency commissioner, and later I joined the Olympic Regional Development Authority. Nick was a big fan of Lake Placid’s Olympic facilities.”

Addis Lussi, “I miss Nick’s company at football, basketball, and lacrosse games, my perfect study breaks during law school. I hope the recipients of this Orange Edge scholarship continue the tradition of studying hard and cheering hard for the Orange.”

Art Lussi L ’88 racing at the Vail Alpine Slalom Championship in 1989, which he won, recalls Lussi. “The course helped you to prove that you could hang with the regular admits, and it gave me the confidence that I could survive academically and do well as a law student.”

“Emil Rossi L ’72 and the late Samuel Donnelly taught my course,” Lussi continues. “Both of them got you thinking like a lawyer. Donnelly in particular was instrumental because he knew many of the LEO students were intimidated. He was a brilliant person, and we became good friends.”

In addition to motivating Lussi to apply for law school, Coyne encouraged him in other ways. “I continued to ski-race while in law school, and Nick was a big supporter of staying athletically involved as well as academically involved.”

And when it came to Lussi's career, Coyne inspired him to use his legal training to get deeply involved in his community. “He encouraged me to broaden my legal horizons, so I became an Adirondack Park Agency commissioner, and later I joined the Olympic Regional Development Authority. Nick was a big fan of Lake Placid’s Olympic facilities.”

Judge Dancks took time out of her busy schedule to discuss what externs can expect while working in her chambers, and about her rule for who buys lunch...

Why do you continue to support externship programs and host externs?

For two reasons. First, I believe all of us practicing and working in law careers have an obligation to train the next generation of lawyers. Second, it’s important that students also get practical experience. Here, they get to know the workings of the courts from backstage, so to speak, understand what goes into decision-making, learn how a good brief is written, and see what to do and importantly—what not to do in a courtroom or chambers.

My law clerks agree with me and buy in to this—including my Career Law Clerk Jill C. Levy L ’05—so I credit them for their willingness to help train the next generation of lawyers. Second, it’s important that the courts and other courts and see what other judges are doing. You expand your horizons, so I just ask that they plan to do the same for a student somewhere down the road in their careers. This goes for mentoring too, when they are at a place in their careers to do so. I tell them that we all enhance each other with our successes, so it is important for them to help other Orange alumni succeed.

Have any of your externs returned to you as clerks? None yet, but some have become clerks for other judges. We train them well for someone else, I guess! I know that they are much more attractive as clerks because they have seen what goes on in chambers and the backrooms of courts.

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A conversation with Dean Boise led to the suggestion that Jayachandran could teach in the College’s Interact program online law degree program, from his home in New Jersey.

However, while talking with Associate Dean of Online Education Kathleen O’Connor, in fall 2021, they concluded that Jayachandran’s proposed class—The Corporate Lawyer in a Sustainable World—would be perfect for an in-person, three-day JD residency course.

As lead counsel for Colgate-Palmolive’s global supply chain, Jayachandran oversees global commercial contracting and provides advice on legal issues related to logistics, international trade, and labor. He has served as the lead counsel for Colgate-Palmolive’s global supply chain and is responsible for the company’s supply chain compliance, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In introducing the JD residency students to the “growing and evolving area” of sustainability, Jayachandran touched on climate change, human rights, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

“The students were a hard-working group, many with full-time jobs and distinguished careers,” says Jayachandran.

“We opened the course by telling the students that they had been hired as sustainability counsel by a fictitious public company that is launching a global sustainability program,” explains Jayachandran. “We then covered various topics related to the sustainability program, with the students split into teams to analyze and debrief on key issues. I enjoyed it immensely.”

Jayachandran says he particularly appreciated teaching JD students whose journeys to law school are non-linear. “The students were a hard-working group, many with full-time jobs and distinguished careers, and some who traveled a long way to Syracuse, as far as from Hawaii and Europe,” he says.

Jayachandran is slated to teach the course again in spring 2022. But in fact, he again offered his expertise during Law Alumni Weekend 2021, as moderator of the Corporate Law Society panels addressing in-house counsel and corporate counsel practice.

Also sitting on the in-house counsel panel was PJ’s wife, Neena Patil, Chief Legal Officer and Senior Vice President at Jazz Pharmaceuticals, whom Jayachandran met while they both worked at the Syracuse-area law firm, Bond, Schoeneck & King.

“The panels were made up of very accomplished lawyers,” observes Jayachandran. “I hope that students feel that Syracuse law degree will offer them the same kind of opportunities to pursue success like the kind we witnessed on the panels.”

“The panels did a good job of explaining how an in-house corporate career differs from other legal careers,” Jayachandran adds. “As an in-house lawyer, you are a business advisor with a law degree, and that point was well-made. You need a good legal skill set, but you must have the curiosity and desire to understand the business you are in.”

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Once and Forever Orange

The College’s oldest living alumnus turned an amazing 103 years young in June, and to celebrate that milestone—not to mention his service to country, community, and profession—the College of Law honored Robert “Bob” Gang Jr. ’39, L’42 not once, but twice in 2021.

First—fittingly on June 6, 2021, the anniversary of D-Day—Dean Boise and other Syracuse Law representatives celebrated Gang’s birthday at his Syracuse home and presented him with a proclamation recognizing the day as “Bob Gang Day.”

Then, in September, Gang was invited back to his alma mater for Law Alumni Weekend 2021. The photo shows Gang at the Syracuse University National Veterans Resource Center cutting his cake with a ceremonial sword, surrounded by faculty, alumni, students, family members, and other honored guests. Gang also received a special citation from New York Rep. John Katko L’88.

Also pictured is Gang’s Army jacket, now on display in Dineen Hall. As an undergraduate, Gang served in the Syracuse ROTC. He cut his third year at Syracuse Law short to serve our nation from 1942 to 1951. As a US Army infantry officer, Bob used his legal training to represent soldiers charged with misconduct. After serving his country, he came back to Syracuse to begin a successful career in private practice.

“Thank you for your service, Bob. Once Orange, Forever Orange!”
When a student receives a scholarship, the bonds that are created can sometimes stretch far beyond the transactional. That is not to say that students don’t express their heartfelt thanks for the financial assistance that helps make their career dreams a reality. In fact, many scholarship stewards receive warm letters from recipients, and those letters are received with equal gratitude. Sometimes they are so cherished, they lead to unique bonds between generations of Orange lawyers.

That certainly was the case with letters that Bill Burrows L’55 has received over the years from Class of 1955 Scholarship recipients, a fund that Burrows has stewarded for many years. When former recipient Lauren G. Blau L’17 agreed to take over that task from Burrows, as part of the hand-over, he sent her a folder full of thank-you notes—and hers was on top.

“My letter told him how much the scholarship meant to me and how it allowed me to stay in Syracuse while I was dealing with that, as well as the stresses of my 3L year,” she explains. “It just took a burden off me.”

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“When Mr. Burrows was looking for someone from the next generation to be the steward of the Class of 1955 Scholarship, he was inspired that the scholarship had resonated with me,” says Blau.

Burrows agrees. “I think Lauren is perfect for this job. She was a great student, she has a good career ahead of her, and she’s dedicated to the alumni association.”

“As Burrows mentions, Blau continues to serve the College as Chair of the SULAA Engagement Committee, encouraging fellow alums to get involved with their alma mater, through philanthropy and other means.”

“I give back to the College not only through SULAA but also by donating to the Class of 1955 Scholarship that helped me,” Blau explains, adding that as part of her stewardship she wants to encourage other recipients to remember the fund that supported their law school career and support it in turn.

“I want to remind alums that someone helped them through law school, so please don’t forget the commitments that others have made in the past,” Blau adds. “The College needs alumni to remember those who gave to them and to give back, by donating to the College or by providing mentorship and career opportunities to students.”

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The 2022 Law Firm Giving Challenge is on! The fourth annual Challenge is a friendly competition that encourages Syracuse Law alumni at Central New York law firms to make a gift to their alma mater, in solidarity with their colleagues.

Once again, the challenge kickoff coincided with Boost the 'Cuse, Syracuse University’s Annual Day of Giving in October.

To show appreciation for the generosity of our area alumni, Syracuse Law staff visited participating firms with doughnuts in October. Pictured are Paul Lyons L’09, Member at Bottar Law, and Fritz Diddle, Assistant Director of Development, along with a box of Syracuse-based Glazed & Confused’s finest.

The Law Firm Challenge continues through June 30, 2022. To learn more, call Fritz Diddle at 315.443.1339 or email fjdidle@law.syr.edu.

Orange lawyers and staffers at Bousquet Holstein are pictured with their 2020 Law Firm Challenge Award. From left: Jeffrey Fasoldt L’20; Larry Bousquet L’80 (recipient of a 2021 Law Honors Award); Lori McRobbie; John Valentino L’87; and Philip Bousquet L’89. Congratulations to the other 2020 winners: Bond, Schoeneck & King, Hancock Estabrook, and Bottar Law.

Thank you to alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends who made gifts to Boost the ’Cuse on Oct. 7, 2021, the University’s annual day of giving.

Once again, this 24-hour campaign was a huge success. The College of Law ended the day with 466 donors, easily beating its 310-donor goal. For good measure, Syracuse Law helped the University beat its 5,000-donor goal—SU logged an incredible 5,109 donors!

Special gratitude goes to the Board of Advisors and the Syracuse University Law Alumni Association Board for renewing their $10,000 matching challenge, which was unlocked early on October 7, around 10:30 a.m.
We are in the home stretch of Forever Orange, a campaign that will help Syracuse Law continue to graduate Extraordinary Lawyers who will go on to lead Extraordinary Lives.

Led by your remarkable generosity, as of fall 2021, we have raised close to 70% of our $38 million goal. And with 28.7% of our alumni meaningfully engaged with their alma mater, we are within touching distance of our 30% campaign engagement goal, which exceeds the University’s 20% engagement goal.

Your gift to our Forever Orange campaign ensures that we can continue our forward trajectory. We are experts at innovating legal education for the 21st century—and with your support, we can do even more to...

→ Attract the best and brightest students and offer them appropriate financial aid to help make their career dreams a reality.

→ Recruit and support a world-class faculty whose practical experience and intellectual scholarship meet the needs of students and employers and advance the research and programs that are our hallmark.

→ Ensure we have financial stability and flexibility now and into the future.

The bottom line? Forever Orange is all about the extraordinary things that we can do together to take the College to the next level.

To donate to your alma mater and to learn more about volunteering, visit law.syr.edu/giving.

Did you know that Syracuse is one of the first universities to develop a way to measure both the number of alumni engaged with the University and the quality of that engagement? By creating this metric, the University and the College of Law recognize that volunteering—such as serving on a panel, teaching a class judging an advocacy competition, or hosting an extern—is vitally important to our mission.

We also know that strong financial participation follows robust alumni engagement. How do we know this? Well, for one thing, despite the economic challenges of 2021, last year the College raised more than $3.5 million from 1,400 donors, exceeding our target for the year and then some.

And there’s more! Thanks to the many ways you give back to your College, we can proudly say that among the 12 University schools and colleges, Syracuse Law ranks #1 in alumni engagement!

Thank you for all you do for the College of Law!
“Chiora is a burst of energy—engaged and responsive. She gets it.”

“I’m now working as a Senior Researcher at Policy Daily LLC, a policy consultancy company based in Tbilisi, where I help Georgian and foreign NGOs with organizational development training and non-discrimination policies,” says Taktakishvili, who also holds a law diploma from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University and a master’s in public law from Université Paris 8.

Taktakishvili’s current work leverages not only her knowledge and experience of human rights and American law but also her previous government experience. From 2004 to 2008, she was the head of the Georgian Ministry of Education and Science Legal Department, and from 2008 to 2016, she was a member of the Georgian parliament, and served as First Deputy Chairperson of the Legal Issues Committee, a Deputy Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee, and a member of the parliamentary delegation to the Council of Europe.

In addition to her research position at Policy Daily, Taktakishvili is a guest lecturer at Ilia State University, where she teaches a course on “Emerging Technologies from a Constitutional Law Perspective” to master of laws students.

Taktakishvili’s course is inspired by one she took at Syracuse from Hon. James. E. Baker. “That course was on emerging tech and global threats, but we also looked at artificial intelligence and its effects on human rights, collection of data, and privacy,” Taktakishvili recalls. Judge Baker’s class was so impressive to me. My opening lecture always acknowledges my experience at Syracuse Law and especially Judge Baker’s class.” Taktakishvili adds that her current combination of policy and academic work is “exactly what I wanted to do.”

“Really helped me”

Taktakishvili also benefitted from Syracuse’s writing instruction. “When I joined the LL.M. program, I wanted to bolster my writing and research skills, and I was always looking for classes with lots of papers to write. These classes have really helped me.”

Specifically, Taktakishvili’s training at the College of Law has helped her to co-author a new book (with Georgi Beriai, Davit Zedelashvili, and Maia Kopaleishvili) that further illustrates her extensive knowledge of rule of law matters. Funded by a USAID Promoting Rule of Law in Georgia (PROLOG) grant, Right to Fair Trial: Institutional Guarantees for the Independence and Impartiality of Judges (Free University of Tbilisi, 2021) is a comparative analysis of US Supreme Court, European Court of Human Rights, and Constitutional Court of Georgia case law concerning the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.

“Independence and impartiality standards for tribunals and judges is the most pressing issue in Georgia currently,” Taktakishvili explains. “I’m happy that lawyers and students will now be able to learn more about the American and European standards for fair trials in their own language.”

“She gets it”

Horsfall notes that Taktakishvili remains close to the master’s degree program in other ways. “This year, we tapped Chiora to help with an LL.M. Orientation Zoom call between program alumni and new students,” he says. “She’s always happy to give her perspective. Chiora is a burst of energy—engaged and responsive. She gets it.”

Notably this year, when two new Georgian students—Nino Elbakidze and Nana Gochishvili—joined the master’s degree program, they turned to Taktakishvili for advice.

“They asked about how to get settled, what to expect—and the Syracuse winter,” she recalls. “I was happy to share my experience. I told them I actually enjoyed the Syracuse winter, as well as the Finger Lakes and the fall colors. I didn’t really know Syracuse before I went, so I know how they were feeling.”

Taktakishvili’s perspectives are also critical for the Syracuse University Law Alumni Association, which she serves as both a board member and a member of the Law Honors Committee.

“Having master’s degree alumni on the SULAA Board offers a nice mix of experiences. After all, we had so many classes and professors with the J.D. students,” Taktakishvili observes. “It was also a great honor to be involved in this year’s alumni awards. It was an excellent opportunity for me to learn about so many of Syracuse’s bright alumni.”

“Despite living far from Syracuse now, Chiora remains enthusiastically engaged with SULAA and the College of Law, and we’re all the better for it,” says Director of Alumni Relations Kristen Duggles. “It’s important to have SULAA reflect the perspective of master’s degree students. I hope her involvement and counsel inspires future LL.M. graduates to do the same.”

Dean Craig M. Boise (right) and Georgian Bar Association (GBA) President David Asatiani sign a September 2021 Memorandum of Understanding to promote scholarly exchange and cooperation among Syracuse Law, Syracuse University, and GBA.

Chiora Taktakishvili

During the visit of members of the Georgian Bar Association (GBA) to Syracuse on September 15, it was inevitable that Chiora Taktakishvili’s name was mentioned.

After all, it was the LL.M. Class of 2019 alumna Taktakishvili who introduced GBA President David Asatiani and Executive Director Giorgi Tchekhani to Assistant Dean of International Programs Andrew Horsfall L’10. This introduction led to a fall visit to Syracuse and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to promote scholarly exchange and cooperation among Syracuse Law, Syracuse University, and GBA.

“Chiora was the linchpin of the connection,” says Horsfall. “GBA is a relatively young organization as compared to the American Bar Association,” explains Taktakishvili, who has worked with GBA on policy and legislative issues in the past. “To deepen ties to the United States and GBA’s understanding of the US rule of law and civil society functions, Executive Director Tchekhani is interested in a cooperation plan with American universities. I was happy to help introduce GBA to the Syracuse University College of Law, and I am pleased to see the fruits of that introduction.”

“What I wanted to do”

Assisting her nation’s bar association is just one of many initiatives Taktakishvili has pursued since returning to her native Georgia after graduating with her master of laws degree with a specialization in international human rights law, and completing her postgraduate work experience at Columbia University’s Institute for the Study of Human Rights.

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“An Orange Family”
How the Coles Keep their School Spirit Alive

In the first few days of law school, Lisa J. Cole L’21 G’21 entered her torts class knowing good and well that 40 years before her father had completed the same course with the exact same professor—Peter Bell, his first course teaching her father and one of his last teaching her.

“He pulled me aside after to say he remembered my dad—Vincent J. ‘Vinny’ Cole L’81,” Lisa recalls. He even had a seating chart from that year. “He showed me exactly where my dad used to sit. It was special that we had that continuity four decades later.”

But Lisa didn’t always know she wanted to be a lawyer. “I think because my dad was a lawyer, I grew up thinking I wanted to do something totally different.”

While studying business at Babson College, a required business law course shifted her mindset. “This was when I was first exposed to business law, and it piqued my interest.”

Next, Lisa completed a summer internship at Cerberus, a private equity firm, where her work straddled the border of business and law. “I became really interested in the legal side of it. That’s when I decided on law.”

Before her final year of undergrad, Lisa told her father she wanted to apply to law school. Needless to say, the former Board of Advisors member hoped for Syracuse. “Obviously, she was free to go wherever she wanted, and she had choices,” Vinny recalls. “I was just absolutely thrilled when she decided to go to Syracuse.”

For Vinny, his passion to study law was motivated by two things: Perry Mason and a prominent lawyer working in his Pennsylvania town who had graduated from the College of Law. “He’s long since deceased—Mike DeStefano L’41—but all three of his daughters attended Syracuse University. There’s a long heritage of connection with Syracuse University.”

Coles Family Connection
As a family, visits to Syracuse were frequent because of a long history with Syracuse. Vinny not only graduated from the College of Law but attended Syracuse University as an undergraduate. His son Joey Cole, also attended SU for computer science, graduating in 2019. Vinny’s cousin Janine Stover Yates, was a few years ahead of Vinny at SU and his goddaughter, Sarah Sherpon, attended as well.

“We used to go back frequently for homecomings and various events,” Vinny says. “We’ve maintained that connection with the school and lasting friendships.”

“We’re an Orange family,” adds Lisa, describing the many times she’s cheered on SU in a big, crazy orange wig holding a pair of metallic pom poms. “I grew up coming to campus a lot as a kid. I remember seeing the school and meeting all of the lifelong friends that my dad had made.”

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While Lisa says her father has provided a lifetime of mentorship and guidance, Vinny also has served as a mentor too. “I think because no one coming out of law school really has a clue what they want to do,” he adds. “Until you get in there and do it, you really don’t know.”

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Staying Connected & Helping Students
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In Vinny’s final year with a job offer already in hand, he says his final months were quite social, with many hours spent at Varsity Pizza and Faegan’s Pub. “I kicked back a little bit and enjoyed my year, but unfortunately for Lisa wrapping up during the COVID-19 pandemic, she was socially distant from everyone and didn’t have that same luxury.”

“I’ve made an appearance or two at both Faegan’s and Varsity,” Lisa says with a laugh. “But yes, for me, a lot of my law school experience was virtual because of COVID.” The pandemic impacted almost half of her time in law school, but there were still highlights during her law school experience, such as participating in Advocacy Honor Society trials, which provided her invaluable mentorship from fellow students and coaches and gave her exposure she could not have gotten in the classroom.

“A highlight of my law school experience was when my trial team got to travel to Washington, D.C. to compete in the Tournament of Champions — we finished as semifinalists.” Lisa and her team went on to Lexmark International, started in the field doing both litigation and corporate work.

“Utilizing my vague memory, my first year out of law school was exciting as hell,” Vinny recalls. “It was very intense, but so was law school. I enjoyed working long hours, but what I was most thrilled by in my first year, is how well I thought Syracuse prepared me to participate in that work environment.”

He says Syracuse graduates should not be intimidated as they move into a career and face colleagues who may have attended Ivy League schools. “I feel Syracuse prepared me well,” he said, stressing he competed perfectly on par with others and felt adequately prepared. “And not just theoretical preparation, but also a good, practical, common-sense level of training.”

Feeling thoroughly prepared from her time at Syracuse Law, Lisa is now embarking on a new chapter of her life as an attorney, following in her father’s footsteps in proud Syracuse Orange fashion.

Nearly 100 Years After Graduation, Irving S. Devorsetz L’1924 is Still Making an Impact

When Irving S. Devorsetz L’1924 graduated from the College of Law, little did he know how his career in law and service to the Syracuse community would resonate for generations.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1900, Devorsetz moved with his family to Syracuse as a teen. After serving in World War I, he attended Syracuse University for his undergraduate and law degrees.

After graduation, he established his solo private practice in Syracuse and provided general legal services—from family law to criminal defense work—for clients from all walks of life. In addition to his solo practice, Devorsetz was deeply involved in public service. He was an examiner for the Public Service Commission, a member of the Syracuse Housing Authority, Secretary of the Citizens Committee of the Board of Supervisors, which recommended state acquisition of the Onondaga Sanatorium, and on the board of the Onondaga Bar Association.

“He became close friends with many of his clients, including African Americans. He took me with him on many occasions when he visited with them in their homes,” remembers his son, Sidney Devorsetz. “He was supportive and sympathetic with their fight against discrimination.”

“My father foresaw that to pursue justice for all people, there needed to be more attorneys from underrepresented populations, and he knew that the cost of a legal education would be a barrier. Therefore, he was determined to start a scholarship fund to help pay tuition for underrepresented law students,” says Amy Elezer, Irving Devorsetz’s daughter.

Recognizing a need to diversify the legal profession to serve all constituents, Irving established the Irving S. Devorsetz Scholarship in 1960 to provide legal education funding to a student from an underserved population. The scholarship was fully endowed after his death in 1963.

Since that time, the Scholarship has met Devorsetz’s desire to diversify the legal profession with students receiving financial awards for nearly 50 years.

“It’s always heartening to hear from a student and how the scholarship has helped in their studies.” —Sidney Devorsetz

In a letter to the Devorsetz family, Kenneth Knight L’21, a recipient of the Scholarship, stated, “Thank you for your pledge to the College of Law and the leaders of the future. I hope this is only the introduction to a life-long bond that will continue well beyond my time at the College.”

“He was always a champion of inclusivity and very assertive in that regard,” says Sidney. “It’s always heartening to hear from a student and how the Scholarship has helped in their studies. The family is happy that the Scholarship is doing good in our father’s memory.”
Making a Lasting Impression
Clee Malfitano’s L’21 Mentorship Initiative Inspires New Program

Clee Malfitano’s L’21 experienced the importance of mentorships and making lasting professional connections early in her collegiate career. While an undergraduate at Vanderbilt University, she founded Women in Business, a student organization focused on empowering women. Through its Mentorship Program, Women in Business connected undergraduates with Nashville businesswomen, who helped guide the undergraduates’ educational and career decisions.

When Malfitano arrived at the College of Law in 2018, she realized the doctrinal 1L courses were not structured to provide exposure to different legal career paths. “Not all students know during their 1L year what direction they want their careers to go,” she says.

Seeing a gap in providing first-year law students with more insight into what they could do with their law degree, Malfitano approached Assistant Dean of Advancement and External Affairs Sophie Dagenais and the Office of Career Services staff with an idea to apply her Women in Business model to the law school’s Corporate Law Society (CLS).

“When I met with Dean Dagenais and the career services team, they were enthusiastic and supportive in getting the initiative started,” relates Malfitano, who was initially able to match 17 alumni with CLS members based on responses to a survey.

“The survey helped pair students with the right alum based on the knowledge and connections of Dean Dagenais,” Malfitano says. “As with all relationships, some pairings were deeper than others, but I know some students who are still in contact with their alumni mentor on a weekly basis.”

The small-scale CLS mentorship pilot helped jump-start the College’s Mentoring in Action Program, which began in fall 2020 by matching participating 1L students first with Syracuse Law faculty. Once 1Ls become 2Ls, they are matched with alumni mentors.

Malfitano, now a Corporate and Commercial Litigation Associate at Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP in Wilmington, DE, is excited to see that—thanks in part to her CLS initiative—all Syracuse Law students have the opportunity to work with faculty and alumni mentors. “As with all relationships, some pairings were deeper than others, but I know some students who are still in contact with their alumni mentor on a weekly basis.”

—Clee Malfitano L’21

One Leader to Another
Clee Malfitano’s L’21 success at the College of Law comes as no surprise to one of her biggest fans, her uncle, Marc Malfitano L’78.

The former Board of Advisors Chair and catalyst behind the Dineen Hall building project says, “Clee is a leader and she’s exhibited that since high school, through team sports, high school trial teams, and at Vanderbilt where she established with five other students the Women in Business program that has continued beyond her tenure. I’m not surprised at all she’s been a leader and am proud of what she’s accomplished.”

Further cementing their bond was a gift that Clee gave Marc after she graduated. “She was able to get a print of my class picture and combined it with her class picture in a frame with our class years. She is my legacy, and that gift is a daily reminder. The gesture moved me and my wife Jeanette a lot, as does the knowledge that she was able to accomplish so much at the College of Law.”

Marc is fully supportive of the mentorship initiatives at the College of Law. “Many students have not had the benefit of having a lawyer in their family to give guidance, so the more we can connect students who have experienced the same thing as they have is a great thing. It develops a legacy, and it offers perspective and a comfort level.”

Marc is a long-time adjunct professor who teaches a course in advanced real estate law each spring. Marc Malfitano was back in the classroom a semester early this year. He was invited by Chancellor Kent Syverud to co-teach the Chancellor’s popular seminar in negotiation.

“I was honored to be asked by the Chancellor based on my business and teaching and life experience background to co-teach negotiation during the first weekend of law school classes,” Marc observes. “It was a great opportunity, a lot of fun, and many of my experiences and thought processes dovetailed into what the Chancellor teaches. We plan to co-teach next year, and I am committed to doing so.”
Sherm's spirit is embedded in this endowed scholarship.

An Exceptional Lawyer

Born in Rochester, NY, on July 4, 1935, Levey earned a full scholarship to Syracuse University. After graduating in 1957, he enrolled in the College of Law, where he graduated with honors in 1959. He also was active on Syracuse Law Review, the Fall 1958 (Vol. 10, No. 1) masthead lists Levey as an associate editor.

After graduating from law school, he formed the tax law firm of Rubin and Levey in Rochester, with Sydney R. Rubin. The firm eventually merged with Harris, Beach and Wilcox to form Harris, Beach, Wilcox, Rubin and Levey.

“What I like about practicing law is dealing with real people and real problems,” Levey once told Syracuse Law magazine. “I never quite believed in the grandeur of the law. But I do believe in the rule of law trying to solve problems in a civilized way by an orderly process. The law is basically a framework by which society attempts to solve, or hopefully avoid, problems among people.”

Later in his distinguished career in tax law and estate planning, Levey joined the Rochester firm Boylan Code as Counsel. In his passing, his friends and colleagues at the firm remembered Levey as “an exceptional lawyer and a great man who will be missed by so many.”

Proudest Accomplishment

Levey was also passionate about teaching the law, serving as an adjunct professor at Cornell University Law School, the Simon Business School of the University of Rochester, and Syracuse University College of Law.

He noted in a Syracuse Law feature that—as a teacher—his proudest accomplishment was establishing and co-directing the College’s Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, which continues its work to this day. Levey helped to secure the clinic’s original funding through a Congressional program.

Levey’s daughter—Lynn Levey L’94—followed her father to the College and then on to the faculty roster in 2006. She taught legal writing until 2017, when she joined Clark University in Worcester, MA, as its Title IX Coordinator and Assistant Dean for Wellness.

Another important contribution to his alma mater saw Levey establish a lecture series in his name in 1999. The Levey Lecture Series brings distinguished practitioners to Syracuse, including former American Bar Association president Robert MacCrate, the inaugural lecturer, and William E. Kennard, former Chair of the Federal Communications Commission.

A Great Friend

Lifelong supporters of music and dance, Levey’s and Ronnen’s philanthropy has enhanced multiple artistic projects in their hometown, where Ronnen is proprietor of Deborah Ronnen Fine Art.

Among the Rochester organizations that have benefitted from the couple’s generosity are the George Eastman Museum, the Memorial Art Gallery, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Eastman School of Music, and Garth Fagan Dance.

Levey was generous with his time, serving as Chair of the Jewish Home Board of Trustees and Vice Chair of the George Eastman Museum. He also worked with the Rochester Area Community Foundation, and he was on the board of Rochester public media company WXXI.

Class of 1959 graduates George Bruckman, Art Sherman, and Alan Herman remember their classmate as “an exceptional student and a great friend.”

“He was a proud alum and very generous to the College, including as an investor in the Class of ’59 Endowed Scholarship,” say the classmates, in union. “Deborah’s extraordinary contribution in Sherm’s memory is not only fitting of his lifelong record of generosity and excellence, it also will complement the endowed scholarship we established together.”

The Class of 1959 poses together during its 25th anniversary in 1984. Sherman Levey is back row, fourth from left.

Levey Scholars will bring wide-ranging perspectives to our classrooms, continuing Syracuse Law’s firm commitment to diversifying legal education and the legal profession just as Sherm imagined it should be.”
Law Alumni Weekend Returns to Dineen Hall!

Thank you for making Law Alumni Weekend 2021 a tremendous success. After last year’s 100% online gathering, this year’s event returned to Dineen Hall, with most events also available online.

Across the weekend, more than 400 attended 19 events, featuring dozens of alumni and guest presenters, 10 honorees, and nine student organizations. “It was a joy to reconnect with so many of you in Dineen Hall after such a long absence, and from my perspective, the energy, enthusiasm, and sense of renewal were palpable,” says Dean Boise.

Of course, we couldn’t have done it without you. Thank you to all who attended an event or get-together in person or online, moderated or served on a panel, engaged with students and fellow alums, or worked with us behind the scenes.

Many thanks also to our sponsors, including Lowenstein Sandler LLP (title sponsor); Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC; the Institute for the Study of the Judiciary, Politics, and the Media; Mackenzie Hughes LLP; the Northern District of New York Federal Court Bar Association; the Syracuse Civics Project; The Tully Center for Free Speech; and Wladis Law Firm.

If you missed any of the programs, videos of Dean Boise’s State of the College Address, the annual United States Supreme Court Preview, and the Law Honors Awards and Alumni of Color Awards ceremonies are posted at alumn weekend law.syr.edu.

And it’s not too early to start planning for LAW 2022. Be sure to visit law.syr.edu/honorsaward to submit candidates for the next Law Honors and Alumni of Color awards.

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 The College of Law’s fifth annual United States Supreme Court Preview featured a keynote address from David G. Savage, Supreme Court Correspondent, The Los Angeles Times. The keynote was followed by a panel discussion that featured (L to R): Savage; Professor Gary Kessler; Bond, Schoeneck & King Distinguished Professor Cora True-Frost L’03; the Hon. Glenn T. Suddaby L’85, Chief US District Judge, US District Court of NDNY; Jesse Poth L’14, Media Associate, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP; Associate Dean for Faculty Research Kristen Barrenechea; and Vice Dean Keith Bybee.

 The 2021 Law Honors Award Ceremony honored five recipients. Seated in the front row are: Professor and Director of the Caud Case Justice Initiative Paula Johnson; Corry Ng L’02, Assistant District Attorney, Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office; Laurence Bouquet L’80, Partner, Bouquet Holbien PLLC; and Melanie Gray L’81, Partner (Ret.), Winston & Strawn LLP. On screen is recipient Joanna Geraghty L’97, President and Chief Operating Officer of Judlyncare, who could not attend the ceremony. Standing at back are Mark O’Brien L’14, SU Law President; Richard Levy Jr. L’77, Co-Chair, SU Law Syracuse Law Honors Committee; Director of Alumni Relations Kristen Duggleby; and Dean Boise.

 The Law Honors Award reception is always a time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones, including this group of current students pictured with Law Honors recipient Melanie Gray L’81 (center right).

 Alumni, faculty, staff, and students convened at SU’s new National Veterans Resource Center for the event “Supporting Veterans in Our Community.” Attendees met student attorneys and learned about the work of the Betty and Michael D. Wohl Veterans Legal Clinic (VLC). Also—in a special ceremony—Robert J. Gang L’42, the College’s oldest living alumnus, was honored with a proclamation from Rep. John Katko L’88 recognizing his Army service in World War II and the Korean War and his long dedication to the legal profession. He is pictured with VLC Executive Director Elizabeth Kubala and Holly Gang.

 LL.M. alums from across the years and around the globe reconvened with each other at the annual LL.M. Reunion and heard program updates from Assistant Dean of International Programs Andrew Honorfell L’10.

 Members of the classes of 2020 and 2021 get back together for a casuallunch/dinner reunion.

 LAW 2021 concluded with the Fourth Annual Alumni of Color Awards Ceremony. The Hon. Ramon Rivera L’94, second from left, New York State Court of Claims, received the LALSA Legacy Award and standing next to him is the Hon. Rodney Thompson L’93, Presiding Judge, Family Division, Superior Court of New Jersey. BLSA President and Herbert Johnson Legacy Award. On the screen is Su Jeon Lee L’99, Senior Foreign Counsel, Yulchon, the recipient of the inaugural Asian Pacific Islander Legacy of Excellence Award. Standing next to Rivera is SU Law Board member and Inclusion Network chair Astrid Quiñones L’18, G’18 and next to Thompson is SU Law Board member Bethia R. Miller L’96.

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Law Alumni Weekend Returns to Dineen Hall!

Thank you for making Law Alumni Weekend 2021 a tremendous success. After last year’s 100% online gathering, this year’s event returned to Dineen Hall, with most events also available online.

Across the weekend, more than 400 attended 19 events, featuring dozens of alumni and guest presenters, 10 honorees, and nine student organizations. “It was a joy to reconnect with so many of you in Dineen Hall after such a long absence, and from my perspective, the energy, enthusiasm, and sense of renewal were palpable,” says Dean Boise.

Of course, we couldn’t have done it without you. Thank you to all who attended an event or get-together in person or online, moderated or served on a panel, engaged with students and fellow alums, or worked with us behind the scenes.

Many thanks also to our sponsors, including Lowenstein Sandler LLP (title sponsor); Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC; the Institute for the Study of the Judiciary, Politics, and the Media; Mackenzie Hughes LLP; the Northern District of New York Federal Court Bar Association; the Syracuse Civics Project; The Tully Center for Free Speech; and Wladis Law Firm.

If you missed any of the programs, videos of Dean Boise’s State of the College Address, the annual United States Supreme Court Preview, and the Law Honors Awards and Alumni of Color Awards ceremonies are posted at alumn weekend law.syr.edu.

And it’s not too early to start planning for LAW 2022. Be sure to visit law.syr.edu/honorsaward to submit candidates for the next Law Honors and Alumni of Color awards.

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 The Corporate Law Society’s “Inside the Minds of Inside Counsel” panel featured (L to R): Scott P. Bayliss L’85, Partner, StoneTurn Group LLP; Lisa K. Levine L’86, General Counsel, National Women’s Soccer League; Aaron M. Tidman L’07, Global Compliance Counsel, Pinterest; and Assistant Dean of Career Services Lily Yan Hughes, Neena M. Paril, Chief Legal Officer and Senior Vice President (az Pharmacamentals) joined via video.

 Michael Kaplan L’11 (far right), Partner at Lowenstein Sandler LLP hosted a timely CLE on “Virtuality Litigating: Pros and Cons of Litigation Practices Developed During COVID-19.” Other panelists were (L and Cons of Litigation Practices Developed Lowenstein Sandler LLP, hosted a timely CLE (far right), Partner at Michael Kaplan L’11, and Neena M. Paril, Chief Legal Officer and Senior Vice President (az Pharmacamentals) joined via video.

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Last year, we celebrated the 125th anniversary of the founding of the College of Law. Although we all had the opportunity to celebrate and recognize the many achievements of the College over those 125 years, for many it remained a time of anxiety, stress, and uncertainty.

While much has changed over the past year, issues that challenged us then continue to evolve even as new issues have arisen. Not surprisingly, the College has met them head-on.

For example, historical shortcomings in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) among our political, civic, legal, and other institutions are in sharper focus. Recognizing the impact a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment can have, the College launched a cultural competency curriculum this Fall. Residential and online students will be required to take a cultural-competency course as a requirement for graduation. This effort will expand and deepen as the College community works to better understand the role of DEI in legal education and beyond.

Artificial intelligence (AI) has been the stuff of science fiction for many years. More recently, it has become a focus of the College’s Institute for Security Policy and Law (SPL). National security decision-making long has been the province of human effort. Increasingly, however, AI not merely supports those efforts but, in fact, it may supplant those efforts. SPL explores the legal and policy boundaries between the benefits provided by AI and the need for human (ethical) control.

As the College continues to rise to meet existing and new challenges, it continues to deliver a high-quality legal education. Faculty are always advancing their knowledge in their respective fields through teaching and writing, generating an extraordinary number of scholarly books and other publications.

Bolstered by externship opportunities, the College’s clinics offer proving grounds for our students who deliver much needed representation across the disciplines of bankruptcy law, criminal defense law, disability law, tax law, transactional law, and veterans law—and who gain meaningful practical skills as student attorneys.

Finally, the Advocacy Program provides extensive and rigorous opportunities for students to develop their trial, appellate, and negotiation skills. I am especially proud that the College is now ranked #11 nationally in Trial Advocacy by U.S. News and World Report.

What the College is today and where it will go in the future is in no small measure driven by the engagement and support of the alumni and friends of the College. Your generosity enables us to lean into the challenges that lie ahead. On behalf of the Board of Advisors, faculty, and students, I thank you for your support and hope that you’ll remain engaged with your alma mater well into the future.

With gratitude,

Robert M. Hallenbeck L’83
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  Syracuse, New York

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  Assistant Dean for Advancement and External Affairs
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  Syracuse, New York

*Member of Syracuse University Board of Trustees

A Tax-Saving Way to Help Syracuse University College of Law

Make a gift tax-free with your IRA!

If you’re age 70½ or better and are required to make annual withdrawals from an IRA account, you can take advantage of a simple way to support the College of Law and receive tax benefits in return.

What are the benefits of making a gift from your IRA account?
A gift of any amount up to $100,000 per year from your IRA will:

- Not be included in your taxable income. IRA transfers are not included in your gross income for federal income tax purposes. (No charitable deduction is available, however.)
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.
- Be put to work today, allowing you to see the difference your donation is making.
- Provide meaningful support to the College of Law.

Learn more ...

Read about how to make an IRA gift to the College of Law and download wire transfer instructions at foreversyracuse.syr.edu/ira-charitable-rollover. You can also download the sample letter you can send to your plan administrator to initiate a rollover.

Questions? Contact the Syracuse University Planned Giving Team at 888.352.9535 or email giftplan@syr.edu.
Message from SULAA Board President
Mark O’Brien L’14

Dear Alumni and Friends of the College of Law:

You don’t need me to tell you that so much has changed in legal education during the last year, let alone the last five years that Dean Boise has been at the helm of our College of Law. When I think about the adaptation that law schools and other institutions of higher learning have had to make during the pandemic, I cannot help but take pride in knowing many of them were turned to Syracuse as a leader in that realm.

Frankly, it’s easy to see why. For one J|D|eractive has set the bar for the future of legal education. The growth of our online option for J.D. has been phenomenal, from hosting 32 students in the first cohort in 2019—who will graduate this coming spring!—to 97 students this year. Online options for a J.D. has been busy, too. See how you can help.

In April, outraged by the torrent of anti-Asian racism and acts of violence around the country, SULAA issued a statement in solidarity to stop Asian hate and called on all alumni to condemn the discrimination and xenophobia.

My question to our alumni family is: How can we use our influence to take a stand for justice and healing?

In May, SULAA welcomed the Class of 2021 to our alumni family. Like the Class of 2020, these graduates faced remarkable circumstances, including the inability to celebrate together in person their hard-earned accomplishment of graduating law school and having to take socially distanced, remote bar exams. We are proud of their accomplishments and look forward to their impacts on the legal profession, their communities, and our law school. We also recognize the challenge of launching a career is far from over.

How can you help young alumni land that first job or make the transition to a more meaningful career path?

In June, SULAA hosted “Tips for Tackling a Remote Bar Exam,” a special panel discussion for the Class of 2021 featuring Aubre Dean L’20, Natalie Switzer Maier L’20, and Delaney Rose Moore L’20, organized and moderated by Lauren Blau L’17.

What experiences can you share with fellow alumni to help smooth the path for those who follow in your footsteps?

“How can you help young alumni land that first job or make the transition to a more meaningful career path?”

Also in June, SULAA welcomed six accomplished alumni to its Board of Directors: Sonia Worrell Asare L’06, BreAnna Avery L’17, Brittani Jones L’14, Benita Miller L’96, Sean Palmer L’01, and Kathleen Turland L’95. Additionally, throughout the year, we have welcomed alumni participation across our many committees and initiatives.

There are many ways to get involved in our alumni network—how will you participate?

In September, SULAA, the SULAA Inclusion Network, and the College honored eight distinguished alumni and faculty during the annual Syracuse Law Honors and Alumni of Color awards ceremonies during Law Alumni Weekend. They included Seuk Joon Lee L’99 as the inaugural recipient of the Asian Pacific Island Legacy of Excellence Award. This award would not have been possible without the vision and leadership of SULAA Board Members Kimberly Lau L’06 and Aseid Quilones L’18, Professor Mary Soto, and the student leaders of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, the Korean Law Students Association, and the South Asian Law Students Association.

Nominations for next year’s recipients are already being received (email Director of Alumni Relations Kristen Duggleby at kduggle@syr.edu to learn more).

How will you reconnect and reengage with the law school and your former classmates?

In October, building on the success of our partnership in 2020, SULAA and the College of Law Board of Advisors launched another dollar-for-dollar fundraising challenge, to match the first $10,000 donated by law alumni during Boost the ‘Cuse.

Which College of Law programs or initiatives will you support through your financial generosity?

SULAA is committed to engaging and empowering our alumni through communication, knowledge, and resources.

How would you like to see SULAA advance our mission of linking the past, present, and future of our College of Law family?

I don’t ask these questions rhetorically. On the contrary, I welcome your input and participation. SULAA is your law alumni association (remember, all alumni become members upon graduation).

If you have not done so already, please join the conversation on our LinkedIn page (search for Syracuse University Law Alumni Association), and please don’t hesitate to reach out to any Board member at any time. We would love to hear from you.

Go Orange,

Mark O’Brien L’14
President, Syracuse University Law Alumni Association

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President, Syracuse University Law Alumni Association
Nominations are Open for Law Honor Awards and Alumni of Color Awards

**Law Honor Awards**

The Syracuse Law Honor Awards are presented on behalf of the Syracuse University Law Alumni Association (SULAA) and the College of Law during Law Alumni Weekend to celebrate the distinguished achievements in any field of endeavor by living members of the Syracuse Law family—alumni, current and former faculty and staff, students, parents, and friends—for service to the College of Law, the legal profession, Syracuse University, or the world at large.

*Past recipients:*
- Richard M. Alexander L’82
- William C. Banks
- President Joseph R. Biden Jr. L’68
- Laurence G. Bouquet L’80
- Lt. Thomas M. Caruso L’14
- Vincent H. Cohen Jr. L’95
- Hon. Theresa Wiley Dancks L’91
- Louise E. Dembeck L’65
- Alexandra C. Epsilon L’92
- Hon. Jonathan W. Feldman L’81
- William J. Fitzpatrick Jr. L’76
- Joanna L. Geraghty L’97, G’97
- Thomas Maroney L’63
- Hon. Theodore A. McKee L’75
- Lee Michaels L’57
- Eileen D. Millert L’74
- Carey W. Ng L’02, G’02
- M. Catherine Richardson L’77
- Frank W. Ryan IV L’94
- Hon. Frederick J. Scullin Jr. L’64
- David P. Weber L’98
- Koert Webberg L’08
- Susan C. Yu L’96

Nominations are collected through our online nomination form.

**Alumni of Color Awards**

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There are three Alumni of Color Awards:
- There are three Alumni of Color Awards: The BLISA William Herbert Johnson Legacy Award is named in honor of Mr. William Herbert Johnson, the first African American graduate of the College of Law. The award is granted to an outstanding individual or organization who in the course of their career or endeavors has been a trailblazer and achieved excellence in the areas of legal service, legal education, and/or social justice. Recipients have made extraordinary contributions to the legal profession, legal education, the legal system, or social justice through activism, leadership in diversity and equality, support for continuing legal education, and mentoring to colleagues, students, and members of the community.
- Law Student Association. The Asian Pacific Islander (API) Legacy of Excellence Award recognizes Asian American and Pacific Islander alumni of the College of Law who have demonstrated service to the API community or valuable representation of the API community; 2) achieved distinguished accomplishment in their chosen field; and 3) empowered and inspired the API community through their mentorship or work they do. This award is co-sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, Korean Law Students Association, and South Asian Law Students Association.

Past Recipients:
- Seuk Joon Lee L’99

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- Ruxbury, Massachusetts
The Hon. Carl J. Mugglin ’61

The Hon. Carl J. Mugglin practiced general law and served as a confidential law secretary to a judge and one term as Delaware County District Attorney. In 1965, he was elected a Supreme Court Justice for the Sixth Judicial District and was re-elected in 1999. He retired from the bench in 2007.

What inspired you to study law?
From 1954 to 1958 I was enrolled in the Syracuse University School of Business Administration. During this time, I took several courses in political science in the Maxwell School, and as a result of these studies, I was inspired to apply to law school. I scored well on the law aptitude exam and was accepted at the University of Chicago Law School.

Then why study at the College of Law?
When I found out that my wife, who was entering her senior year at SU, could only transfer enough credits to be a second semester freshman at Chicago, I went to visit Syracuse’s law school dean. This was about two weeks prior to the fall semester. He accepted my verbal application, and he enrolled me that day.

What part of law school made a lasting impact?
My memories of law school revolve around long hours of studying, which I came to see as good preparation for private practice, and the different methods of instruction used by the professors. This ranges from the instillation of fear of failure to friendly helpfulness, which was good preparation for trial practice.

Looking back, what are some career highlights?
After graduation, I worked for a firm in Endicott, NY, for about one year. I then returned to my hometown of Walton, NY, where I engaged in general practice. How could I not do the same for the next generation?

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1961

Barry Slotnick L’71

Barry Slotnick is a partner and Chair of the Intellectual Property and Entertainment Practice Group at New York City-based Loeb & Loeb LLP. His areas of focus include copyright, rights of privacy, and publicity and entertainment law. He is also a member of the board of the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts.

What inspired you to study law?
As a kid, I had a propensity and a talent for arguing with people. I was also terrible in math and science, so med school was out of the question!

What brought you to Syracuse Law?
I chose to attend SU because of the quality of education it offered. I also had friends who were at or were going to the College of Law, which was a draw, and I received a scholarship.

What law school memories stand out?
I recall feeling totally lost and overwhelmed the first few weeks of law school. That feeling eventually went away. Now, if I have such feelings—and they still do come back on occasion—I just ask an associate to give me the answer I am looking for!

Did you attend the most recent reunion?
I did not get to attend the 50th reunion because of COVID-19. I’m really not sure I wanted to see how old everyone else got! I find it hard to imagine it’s been 50 years. The time went by so quickly, but time flies when you are having fun.

Did a particular law professor have a lasting impact?
Professor Thomas Maroney L’63, seemed to really love what he was doing. He taught at the school for 43 years.

Why is philanthropy important to you personally?
I started giving to the school a few years after graduation. It would have been difficult for me to attend law school without the financial assistance I was given. I also try to give of my time, because of the mentoring I received both at school and once I began practicing. How could I not do the same for the next generation?

Do you have a message to recent graduates about giving back?
My advice is to do what you can. Make an effort and stay involved.
Joseph M. DiOrio L'81

Joseph M. DiOrio runs a boutique firm—DiOrio Law Office—in Providence, RI, with practice areas focusing on commercial finance, bankruptcy, and creditors' rights. Before following his entrepreneurial calling in 2005, he worked for more than two decades at large firms. In 2020, he was honored by the Hall of Fame of the Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly Excellence in the Law, receiving a special lifetime achievement award for senior leaders of the profession.

What brought you to study law?

It's interesting. I majored in chemistry at Boston College. I feel very fortunate that BC had a strong liberal arts requirement. I was able to study much of the same material that those who studied political science or philosophy studied. As I considered my next steps, I felt my choices were to pursue a Ph.D. in organic chemistry or polymer chemistry, or a law degree. My roommate and several others I knew were going to law school, and I wasn't in love with chemistry. I thought law would be a good fit.

At the end of the day, working for a large chemical company that could relocate me and my family was not as appealing as earning a law degree, and I wasn't in love with chemistry. I thought law would be a good fit. At the end of the day, working for a large chemical company that could relocate me and my family was not as appealing as earning a law degree, and I wasn't in love with chemistry. I thought law would be a good fit.

The most interesting was the extent to which students became friendly with professors outside the classroom at social events, dinners, or the occasional card games held at students' houses.

When and why did you start to give back to the Syracuse Law?

It started while I was still a student. Back then, I wanted to help make the law school experience better for everyone. I volunteered or served in many capacities and enjoyed being part of student organizations. When Donna and I started our legal careers and could do more, we gave back for many reasons, not the least of which is that the great education we received along with the opportunities that followed. My public grade school education, my undergraduate degree and my legal education built for me a strong foundation for success, and I want these institutions to thrive and provide the same for others.

Of course, Donna and I also met at law school and had an amazing time in Syracuse. We love the College of Law, Syracuse University, Syracuse, and the surrounding areas and happily support them. Over the years, we have returned to visit often and brought our children as well.

Do you have a message to recent graduates about giving back?

Stay involved and support those who have supported you and contributed to your success. I think it is important for students to keep in mind that no matter how they feel while in school, they don't know where they will be in five, 10, 20, or 30 years. If you want to make a difference and help others, you don’t need to be wealthy or have a special career, you can make it part of your life now. Supporting institutions, charities, and people can begin at any time. It is being part of the community and supporting the community that has meaning. Perhaps over time what you do and how you give will change, but the help you provide today and the feeling you get from giving will always be worth it.
Michael A. Kaplan L’11

Michael Kaplan is a partner at Lowenstein Sandler LLP focusing on litigation in the areas of bankruptcy and restructuring litigation, business litigation, products liability, and specialty torts. As a student, you helped to implement important changes in the Advocacy Honor Society—what were they?

When I took over, I felt there was little organization in the Advocacy Honor Society, and, in my view, there was nothing distinctive about it—purely just people who were good at arguing, and there were a lot of us who met that standard. This seemed absolutely wrong. So we did a complete reinvigoration. First, we set a GPA minimum. This was because I hold the firm belief that academics are the most important thing when you go to Syracuse. Then we created the 1L advocacy competition, now called the Hancock, Estabrook First Year Oral Advocacy Competition to give first years an opportunity to hone their skills and establish credentials. It is rewarding to see it still thriving.

We also changed the Mackenzie Hughes LLP Edmund H. Lewis Appellate Advocacy Competition in a couple of ways. We stopped using a ready-made problem from a book that also delivered the answers. A classmate Jared Mason, volunteered that year and wrote the problem, and he set the precedent! We also packed the final round with some serious judicial firepower. We brought in seven actual judges (i.e., members of the judiciary), reaching out to alums who were good at arguing, and there were a lot of us who met that standard. This seemed absolutely wrong. So we did a complete reinvigoration. First, we set a GPA minimum. This was because I hold the firm belief that academics are the most important thing when you go to Syracuse. Then we created the 1L advocacy competition, now called the Hancock, Estabrook First Year Oral Advocacy Competition to give first years an opportunity to hone their skills and establish credentials. It is rewarding to see it still thriving.

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With respect to the Lionel O. Grossman Trial Competition, we assigned one presiding judge and then two judges in the jury box. It always bothered me intensely that there were three judges sitting up on the panel for what was a trial. We wanted to model reality but also wanted the benefit of additional evaluators, so that solution seemed as simple as it was appropriate and realistic.

Lastly, we created the Frank H. Armani L’56 Advocacy Award, another collaboration between the honor society and the alumni relations team. The award was established for a deserving competitor who would embody the character of advocacy that Frank showed throughout his career. I was glad that he could present the initial award. And to this day, he and his family often attend the final round.

Which law professors had a lasting impact on you? Lisa Dolak L’88 who I had for civil procedure. For four solid four weeks every time I raised my hand, she told me I was wrong. She really made me work and taught me that a cursory level understanding wasn’t enough to be successful. The other was Lucille Rignanese L’99 who was my LCR professor. She was a huge supporter of mine and just an unbelievable human being who really understood the art of legal writing. I owe the entirety of my legal writing ability to her.

When and why did you start to give to the College of Law?

It was pretty much right away. At first, I donated my time, because that’s all I really could give when I was a judicial law clerk. When the building campaign started, that’s when I made a meaningful financial contribution, which extends to this day, also in support of the Law Annual Fund.

How did it feel to celebrate your 10th class reunion and have your firm sponsor Law Alumni Weekend 2021 as the first-ever title sponsor of a Law Annual Weekend?

Being the first is always great; having others follow suit and expand a platform is even more rewarding. The idea to sponsor that weekend started as an off-the-cuff comment, but good on our alumni engagement team for following up on that because why not have my firm become the first title sponsor? I think it was fantastic for the College of Law and fantastic for the firm. And, I would be remiss if I did not thank Lowenstein Sandler LLP for its unwavering support. I hope to see someone take up the mantle next year. This was a great marketing platform for the firm and me personally. Anyone interested, can call me and I’ll tell you how to do it!
Do You Remember? Help Us Caption Our Mystery Photos!

The College of Law’s photo archive is a fascinating visual history of your alma mater, full of nostalgia, anecdotes—and a few mysteries. That is, some of our prints and slides lack information or captions.

That’s where you come in. In this feature, we challenge you to help us recall the people and scenes in our mystery photos.

For our new mystery, we head “across the pond” to Law in London in 1993. Although we know the year this group photo was taken, we’d like to caption as many names as possible (including the student who appears to have gone shopping locally for an English cricket sweater!)

If you know any of the students pictured, please email Director of Alumni Relations Kristen Duggleby at kiduggle@syr.edu, and we’ll publish what we discover in a future issue.

Many thanks to Francis R. Rivette L’77 and Helen Zamboni L’77 for helping us with the mystery photo published in the 2021 Stories Book.

Wrote Rivette, “The photo was brought to my attention by Helen Zamboni. I think I am the person with my back to the photo, with my then roommate Mike Rosh L’77 and [now the Hon.] John Nesbitt L’77 to the right of the photo, looking sideways. No guarantee!”

The 2021 Yearbook mystery was solved by Alphonso A. Collins L’95, who wrote to us via Instagram, identifying this group as (L to R) Youn J.L. Oh, Brett S. Director, Kyle S. Kotake, and Jennifer M. Lee.

And thank you also Jay Brown L’95, who confirmed that “those students are definitely class of 1995,” and James V. Fazio L’95, who seconded that “the male student pictured with eyeglasses is Brett Director.”
Your Gifts Fuel Our Success

The immeasurable impact of alumni philanthropy on the College of Law is evident throughout the Giving Book. In particular, support from our alumni family is woven into the fabric of our achievements.

Thank you. Your support makes all the difference.

There is no better time to renew your gift to Syracuse Law. A gift in any amount ensures that the Orange lawyers of the future receive a world-class legal education that prepares them for extraordinary careers.

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY.