Professor Mark Nevitt on
“The Three Global Hotspots of the Climate-Security Century”

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When I became Dean of this great College five years ago, one of my goals was to amplify and promote the thought leadership of our extraordinary faculty. I witnessed professors and researchers whose scholarship in critical and emerging areas of the law was already exemplary, but not as well-known or understood as it could be.

As our roundups on p48 and p50 illustrate, our faculty’s scholarly reputation is not only as robust as ever, it is sought-after, visible, and rising.

For instance, the two main features in this Yearbook exemplify our faculty’s status as influential scholars. As I write this in midsummer, two stories that remain in the news cycle are the rising death tolls from climate disasters in the Pacific Northwest, Germany, and China and the push for long-term care reform in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Our lead authors—professors Mark Nevitt and Nina Kohn—are highly in-demand scholars and commentators on the security implications of climate change and elder care, respectively.

In this issue, Professor Nevitt widens the lens on the impact of climate change, offering a portrait of three global “hotspots” that will dominate the “climate-security century.” One of his research questions—’What is the true pace of climate change in the Arctic?’—is especially prescient given the recent Pacific Northwest “heat dome” pushed as far north as Canada’s Yukon Territory. In “Long-Term Care After COVID,” Professor Kohn addresses “the dangers of the current system” and offers her own prescriptions for reform.

Of course, our students benefit immeasurably from a faculty who are thought leaders, dynamic educators, and productive scholars. As demonstrated in this year’s review of our Strategic Research Institutes and academic programs, an engaged faculty provides many meaningful applied learning opportunities for students.

Whether writing intellectual property reports for startups (p34), advocating for vulnerable populations through our clinics (p42), earning praise for their professionalism from externship hosts (p40), or excelling in advocacy competitions (p26), our students are guided toward a bright future by professors whose intellectual rigor is matched by their expertise and care in the classroom and beyond.

I am grateful to our staff who have worked diligently throughout the coronavirus pandemic to support our learning community and to ensure that our operations continued as smoothly as possible. We look forward to being back in Dineen Hall for the new academic year ahead, and I’m certain the positive lessons of the last year will make us stronger still. I hope as you read these pages, you are as proud and as inspired as I am by the remarkable accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff.

Go Orange!

Craig M. Boise
Dean and Professor of Law

“Our students benefit immeasurably from a faculty who are thought leaders, dynamic educators, and productive scholars.”
Humanity is waging war on nature. This is suicidal. Nature always strikes back, and it is increasingly doing so with growing force and fury – we must use 2021 to address our planetary emergency.

—António Guterres, State of the Planet Speech, Columbia University (December 2020)

The Three Global Hotspots of the Climate-Security Century

By Professor Mark Nevitt

Adapted from an article first published in the Tufts Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy’s Fletcher Security Review.
The climate-security century is here. With global temperatures rising, climate change is poised to massively destabilize the physical environment.1 This century may well be defined by our ability (or inability) to reduce our collective greenhouse gas emissions. We must adapt and respond to climate change’s multivector security impacts. From raging wildfires in Australia and California to melting ice sheets and permafrost in the Arctic, climate change acts as both a threat accelerant and a catalyst for conflict.2

Climate change is also unlike any other traditional security threat. It accelerates and exacerbates existing environmental stresses, such as sea level rise, extreme weather, drought, and food insecurity, leading to greater instability.3 Climate change impacts are already taking center stage this century, forcing us to think more broadly about climate change’s relationship with human security and national security.4

Complicating matters, climate-driven temperature increases do not rise in a neat, uniform fashion around the globe. The pace of climate change unfolds unevenly and erratically. Some parts of the world—such as the Arctic—are warming at a rate two to three times faster than the rest of the world.5

Three specific climate-security “hotspots” foreshadow greater destabilization and serve as climate “canaries in a coal mine”—a sneak preview of our climate-destabilized future.

**HOTSPOT #1: A CLIMATE-TRANSFORMED ARCTIC**

Due in large part to the pace of climate change, the Arctic is quickly emerging as a region of increasing military and economic importance. The Arctic is warming faster than the rest of the planet, driven by a self-reinforcing feedback loop known as the albedo effect, which accelerates the melting of polar ice caps and permafrost. In turn, melting polar ice sheets are forming new trade routes through Canada (the Northwest Passage) and along the Russian border (the Northern Sea Route). Along the Arctic’s continental shelf, climate change is renewing interest in natural resource extraction, where close to 30% of the world’s untapped natural gas resides. The “Law of the Arctic” is largely governed by the work of the Arctic Council, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and an assortment of laws and bilateral agreements among the eight Arctic states.6

In contrast to its South Pole cousin—governed by the comprehensive Antarctic Treaty System (ATS)—there is no Arctic Treaty. The Arctic Council is characterized by an evolving “soft law” system of collaboration among the eight Arctic Council states: Canada, Denmark (via Greenland), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States. Critically, China is not a voting member of the Arctic Council, although China has declared itself a “near Arctic” nation and has increasing ambitions in the region.7 Of these eight members, Denmark, Russia, United States, Norway, and Canada are Arctic “coastal states”—with a continental shelf in the Arctic Ocean—and can potentially extract natural resources. Despite the potential for conflict and tension, the Arctic Council has enjoyed some success in managing competing Arctic interests. It has demonstrated a remarkable capacity to tackle increasingly complex issues, such as an agreement addressing unregulated fishing and Arctic search and rescue. However, in the face of climate change, tension points are starting to emerge. By its own mandate, the Arctic Council is prohibited from addressing matters of military security.8 This is largely left to NATO and individual nations to navigate. Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, and the US are original NATO members, providing a counterweight to growing Russian militarization. As Russia has invested heavily in Arctic military infrastructure, so has the NATO membership of the Arctic Council have shown a renewed interest in military exercises in the region.

While the Arctic Council’s 2008 Ilulissat Declaration reaffirmed the Arctic Council’s commitment to the Law of the Sea framework, one key Arctic Council member—the United States—remains an outlier as a non-party to UNCLOS.9 This international treaty, often referred to as the “Constitution of the Oceans,” largely governs maritime issues in the Arctic Ocean to include the increasingly important rights of Arctic innocent and transit passage.10 Additionally, UNCLOS establishes the Commission for the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), which provides technical expertise to help ascertain the breadth of each individual nation’s continental shelf claims.11 Four of the five Arctic coastal states have submitted information to CLCS in support of continental shelf claims. The United States has not made a similar submission for its enormous Alaskan continental shelf. As a non-party to UNCLOS, the US likely will not be able to avail itself of the CLCS process. In 2007, Russia shocked the world by planting its flag on the North Pole. This was an act of no legal significance but nevertheless signaled broader Russian ambitions in the Arctic. Today, Russia claims an outer continental shelf that extends to the Lomonosov Ridge—an enormous area with vast untapped oil and natural gas resources that overlaps with the North Pole. While remaining a non-party to UNCLOS, the US has nevertheless served as a good law of the sea partner. For example, the US views UNCLOS’s key navigational provisions as binding customary international law. Additionally, the US Navy has complemented and enforced many key UNCLOS provisions via freedom of navigation operations and diplomatic assertions around the world. Despite the US Senate’s failure to provide its advice and consent to UNCLOS ratification, a remarkably diverse coalition of American national security experts, environmentalists, and business interests support the US becoming a party to the convention. US should ratify UNCLOS as it is contrary to our long-term national security and economic interests in the Arctic and elsewhere.12

Outside of natural resource extraction, two seasonal waterways—the Northwest Passage and the Northern Sea Route—are both found in the Arctic. Canada has long viewed the Northwest Passage as their regional waterway, with both China and Russia having submitted information to CLCS in an attempt to ascertain the breadth of each individual nation’s continental shelf claims. Out of the five Arctic coastal states, the US is the only non-party to UNCLOS, which extends to the Lomonosov Ridge—an enormous area with vast untapped oil and natural gas resources that overlaps with the North Pole. Russia, China, and Canada are all original UNCLOS states and have submitted information to CLCS, while Brazil and India are “Non-Party depositary States,” which provides technical expertise to help ascertain the breadth of each individual nation’s continental shelf claims. Four of the five Arctic coastal states have submitted information to CLCS in support of continental shelf claims. The United States has not made a similar submission for its enormous Alaskan continental shelf. As a non-party to UNCLOS, the US likely will not be able to avail itself of the CLCS process. In 2007, Russia shocked the world by planting its flag on the North Pole. This was an act of no legal significance but nevertheless signaled broader Russian ambitions in the Arctic. Today, Russia claims an outer continental shelf that extends to the Lomonosov Ridge—an enormous area with vast untapped oil and natural gas resources that overlaps with the North Pole. While remaining a non-party to UNCLOS, the US has nevertheless served as a good law of the sea partner. For example, the US views UNCLOS’s key navigational provisions as binding customary international law. Additionally, the US Navy has complemented and enforced many key UNCLOS provisions via freedom of navigation operations and diplomatic assertions around the world. Despite the US Senate’s failure to provide its advice and consent to UNCLOS ratification, a remarkably diverse coalition of American national security experts, environmentalists, and business interests support the US becoming a party to the convention. US should ratify UNCLOS as it is contrary to our long-term national security and economic interests in the Arctic and elsewhere.12

“**The melting permafrost in Greenland and Arctic tundra increases the possibility for cataclysmic ‘green swan’ events.**"
Far away from the Arctic, scientists predict that four Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) may become uninhabitable by mid-century due to climate change-driven sea level rise and wave-driven flooding. The specter of potentially “stateless” UN member states—Kiribati, Maldives, Republic of Marshall Islands, and Tuvalu—stokes at the core of the UN Charter system, raising novel questions of both international law and environmental justice. It also exposes a governance gap in international law, which does not adequately protect climate migrants fleeing from climate-driven weather impacts and unhabitability. The 1954 World Refugee Convention, for example, is silent on migrants fleeing environmental systems, raising novel questions of both action and inaction. The plight of global climate migrants is an issue of increasing grave concern. By one estimate, more than 150 million people will be displaced by rising sea levels by the year 2050. One recent study found that two-thirds of the world’s population faces severe water shortages, a catalyst for cross-border human migration. In addition, many small island nations are uniquely vulnerable to extreme weather patterns. Scientists now link climate change, rising temperatures, and the increased likelihood of extreme weather, to which small island nations often lack the capacity to adapt and respond. In 2020, when Cyclone Harold struck several Pacific island nations, it triggered an estimated 99,500 displacements. Finally, critical US national security infrastructure in the region is increasingly at risk. The US operates a key military installation and radar facility at Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands that helps protect the US from North Korean missiles. Rising seas may cause parts of the Marshall Islands to become uninhabitable as early as 2035.

In a cruel twist, climate change is warming in the Sahel far faster than the rest of the world. Climate hotspots such as the African Sahel will increasingly bear the brunt of climate change’s impacts. This includes both SIDS and the poverty-stricken African Sahel, an area already suffering from climate-worsened food insecurity and conflict. The Sahel region of West Africa, for example, is one of the poorest regions in the world with 40% of the population living on less than US$1.90 per day. The region’s population is growing at an astonishing rate, expected to double by 2045, yet the climate is warming in the Sahel far faster than the rest of the world. In a recent Security Council debate on climate and security, the World Meteorological Chief Scientist stated that climate change has a multitude of security impacts “increasing the potential for water conflict; leading to more internal displacement and migrations . . . it is increasingly regarded as a national security threat.” There is a growing body of scholarship that connects climate change’s multivariate impacts and violent conflict. In 2020, the International Committee of the Red Cross estimated that 12 of the 20 most vulnerable countries to climate change were in a state of conflict. An estimated 2.25 million people have been displaced in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger due to extreme rainfall and flooding. Climate change’s destabilizing role in the African Sahel is forcing international legal institutions to reimagine what role they might play in addressing underlying causes of conflict and instability. Consistent with its mission to maintain international peace and security, the UN Security Council (UNSC) has begun to address climate change. It first recognized the link between environmental security and international security in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War (1992) and the destruction of oil fields. Recognition of other non-traditional security threats followed, such as HIV/AIDS (2000) and Ebola (2014). In 2017, UNSC took the historical step of linking climate change with the deteriorating security situation in the African Sahel. In Resolution 2349, the “adverse effects of climate change and ecological change” in destabilizing the security situation in the Lake Chad Basin is specifically highlighted. Since this Resolution was issued, the Council followed up with additional resolutions for Somalia, Darfur, West Africa and the Sahel, and Mali. While it has yet to make the formal determination that climate change affects its authorities to address non-traditional security threats. As the earth warms, climate hotspots such as the African Sahel will increasingly bear the brunt of climate change’s impacts. In the coming years, the UN will be under increasing pressure to address climate-driven security matters in some fashion. An Article 39 declaration serves as the legal key, opening the door for the Council to use its awesome Chapter VII authorities. •

“In a cruel twist, climate change disproportionately harms nations that contributed the least to global greenhouse gas emissions and have the fewest resources to adapt to climate change’s impacts.”
Within a month of taking office, President Joseph R. Biden Jr. L’68 released two important executive orders on climate-security matters: (1) “Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad” and (2) “Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs to Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration.”

“Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad” makes clear that the world faces a “founded climate crisis” and that US international engagement “is more necessary and urgent than ever.”1 In the EO, President Biden makes it clear that climate considerations “shall be an essential element of US foreign policy and national security.” In re-energizing climate-security matters, the new Administration understands that it is simply too important to be left solely in the hands of the defense or state departments.

By elevating several people within his Cabinet who have deep experience in climate change and security matters, and by favoring a whole-of-government approach, President Biden acknowledges that climate change requires integrated national security planning. For example, Special Envoy for Climate former Secretary of State John Kerry will have a seat on the National Security Council—a historic first. Additionally, former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy serves as the nation’s first National Climate Advisor, leading a new interagency National Climate Task Force. President Biden’s EO on resettling refugees emphasizes that human migration is often due to climate change impacts. This order reinvigorates the role of the United States Refugee Assistance Program throughout the immigration process “in a manner that furthers [American] values as a Nation.”

This EO also requires that National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan develop a comprehensive report for the President on climate change’s impact on migration as well as its international security implications. While it remains unclear how results of this report will be implemented, this signals an important willingness to think broadly about the relationship between climate change and immigration patterns.

Relatively, a revigorated role for climate-security matters in the forthcoming National Security Strategy (NSS) is expected, a document that sets the tone for the new administration’s national security policies.

Since President George H.W. Bush, every US president has issued an NSS that squarely addresses climate change and national security. For example, President Barack Obama’s 2015 NSS stated that, “The present-day effects of climate change are being felt from the Arctic to the Midwest. Increased sea levels and storm surges threaten coastal regions, infrastructure, and property. In turn, the global economy suffers, compounding the growing costs of preparing and restoring infrastructure.”2

In a prescient nod to the importance of recognizing non-traditional security threats, the 2015 NSS made clear the high priority of “meeting the urgent challenges posed by climate change and infectious disease.”3

While climate change was omitted from the Trump Administration’s 2017 NSS, the Biden Administration’s Interim NSS states that, “The climate crisis has been centuries in the making … if we fail to act now, we will miss our last opportunity to avert the most dire consequences of climate change for the health of our people, our economy, our security, and our planet.”4

Questions for the Climate-Security Century

As we look ahead to the challenges of the climate-security century, the most salient questions that arise include:

1. What is the true pace of climate change in the Arctic, and how will this impact both US interests and Russia and China’s ambitions in the High North?

2. How can the US renew climate science efforts at the Arctic Council?

3. Does the US have the necessary relationships and authorities to prepare for an uptick in food insecurity and increasing natural resource conflicts in the African Sahel?

4. Is the US prepared for massive migration in the Pacific and other parts of the world?

By identifying, planning for, and resourcing the three climate hotspots, the US will find itself in a much better position to revitalize the interagency process and reclaim US leadership in addressing the challenges of climate change across the globe.

“A CLIMATE-SECURITY RESET FOR THE UNITED STATES?”

Between May 2020 and January 2021, 94% of US nursing homes experienced at least one COVID-19 outbreak. And nursing home residents—isolated from family and friends, dependent on staff often tasked with providing care to far more residents than feasible, and sometimes crowded into rooms with three or more people—succumbed to the virus at record rates. By March 2021, nursing home residents accounted for a quarter of all US COVID-19-related deaths.

The poor conditions in nursing homes that have been exposed by the pandemic are symptomatic of long-standing problems in the industry. Fortunately, as I discuss in the Georgetown Law Journal Online, there are a series of practical reforms that could readily improve the quality of nursing home care, in large part by changing the incentives for nursing home providers.

“

A key problem exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic is the danger of chronic understaffing in nursing homes.”

By Professor Nina A. Kohn

Professor Nina Kohn has become a leading voice for reforming long-term care in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. Her recent articles on regulating nursing homes and other forms of long-term care have been published in The Washington Post, The Hill, Georgetown Law Journal Online, and elsewhere. She has been quoted in more than 600 news stories in the past year, and has testified on long-term care issues before the New York legislature. Also the Solomon Center Distinguished Scholar in Elder Law at Yale Law, Kohn is the author of Elder Law: Practice, Policy, and Problems (Wolters Kluwer, 2d ed. 2020). At Syracuse Law she teaches torts, elder law, and trust and estates. This short article was originally published in Spring 2021 in Bill of Health, the blog of Petrie-Flom Center at Harvard Law School.
The Danger of Chronic Understaffing

A key problem exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic is the danger of chronic understaffing in nursing homes. Low staffing levels—and especially low levels of nursing staff—predict facilities’ inability to control COVID-19 outbreaks and avoid fatalities.1

The dangers of understaffing were an open secret long before the pandemic. Even before the pandemic, researchers had shown that most facilities lacked the staff necessary to avoid systemic neglect.2 Likewise, pre-pandemic nursing homes’ inspection reports provided ample evidence of facilities lacking the staff needed to care for residents, such as those needed to help residents eat without choking, maintain mobility, or simply stay clean.3 ProPublica’s database of nursing home inspection reports, for example, turns up scores of cases of residents with malnourished wounds and skin in the two years preceding the pandemic.4

Chronic understaffing doesn’t just result in bad care; it can be lethal. For example, when staff members are not available to assist residents who need help to stand or walk, residents may fatigue, injure themselves attempting to get up, or die.5 A 2018 Human Rights Watch report found that US nursing homes routinely overmedicated residents with dementia to make them docile and easier to control.6 This practice can increase the risk of death and to residents of their personal lives—as one daughter put it, her mother became “a zombie.”7 Nevertheless, as one daughter put it, her mother became “a zombie.”8

Two years preceding the pandemic,8 maggots-infested wounds and skin in the homes’ inspection reports provided evidence of the danger of understaffing.9 In addition, regulators could require facilities to use psychotropic medication as a “cost-saving alternative to hiring additional RNs.”10

Understaffing is commonplace because while federal regulations set expected outcomes for facility staffing levels, understaffing is commonplace because they are simply directed to correct the deficiency.11 Therefore, unscrupulous providers can increase profits by short-staffing facilities.12 Indeed, private equity firms continue to buy low-quality nursing homes13 because of the profit such facilities can generate—even when owners are willing to sacrifice resident safety to maximize profit.14

The Power of the Federal Waiver

To address this issue, federal regulators could change the way nursing home penalties are assessed and enforced, imposing more significant fines and using the full range of penalties that federal statutes already authorize. This includes not only monetary fines but also holds on new admissions and suspensions of payment.15

Regulators also could require facilities to have minimum direct care staffing levels that accord with what researchers have found necessary to provide a “sustained care” (slightly over four hours per resident, per day).16 In addition, regulators could require facilities to use a substantial portion of their revenue to care for residents. For example, New Jersey has adopted legislation requiring nursing homes to spend 90% of aggregate revenue on direct resident care. This approach could prevent unscrupulous providers from pocketing funds needed for resident care.

The key will be to require financial transparency so that facilities cannot hide profits as expenses and to set spending minimums high (such as New Jersey’s 90% requirement and unlike the 70% threshold New York adopted as part of its 2021 Budget Bill).17

The federal government—the primary payer for long-term care services in the US—could use the power of its wallet to incentivize better care. It could pay nursing homes that provide high-quality care more than those that provide substandard care. Elsewhere in the US healthcare system, pay-for-performance is the norm. But nursing homes that provide excellent care are generally still paid the same as those that provide shoddy care.

The federal government also could improve long-term care by fixing a fundamental market failure that it has created. The federal statute governing Medicaid requires states to cover long-term care services provided in nursing homes to Medicaid beneficiaries, but it allows states to choose whether to cover those services in more integrated settings.

States that wish to provide home and community-based services (HCBS) to Medicaid beneficiaries needing long-term care services, but rather to protect nursing home residents, not to protect nursing home residents. But to protect nursing home residents, not to protect nursing home residents, not to protect nursing home residents. But to protect nursing home residents, not to protect nursing home residents.

As a 2017 review found, understaffed facilities are more likely to have federal claims against nursing homes to protect residents. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services initially responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by waiving a series of regulatory requirements for nursing homes and suspending most enforcement actions. Arkansas even rolled back its minimum staffing requirements in response to industry lobbying.

That said, there are some promising measures under consideration. For example, at the federal level, there is the Dingell proposal, as well as a Senate bill introduced by Pennsylvania’s senators that would expand the number of poorly performing nursing homes subject to additional inspections.18 Similarly, the Biden Administration has proposed an additional $400 billion (over eight years) for HCBS, which would help increase access to alternatives to nursing home care, although it would not eliminate Medicaid’s bias in favor of institutional care.

States are also considering reform. For example, proposed legislation pending in Rhode Island would require nursing homes to provide the 4.11 hours of care per resident, per day20 that research has indicated is necessary to avoid neglect (see footnote 13). In short, policymakers interested in improving long-term care have a variety of straightforward options available to them. According—as suggested in The Washington Post, examining the politics of nursing home reform21—the key question is whether there is the political appetite to make the changes that are so clearly needed.
Dean Boise Joins Governing Advisory Council of ABA Legal Education Police Practices Consortium

In October 2020, Dean Boise joined a 10-member Advisory Council to govern the newly formed ABA Legal Education Police Practices Consortium. As a member of the Advisory Council, Dean Boise will help lead Consortium efforts to leverage expertise across the ABA and among collaborating law schools to develop projects that promote better police practices throughout the United States.

“Syracuse is fully committed to helping the Consortium use the combined power of the bar association and law schools to effect change to police practices,” said Dean Boise. “Syracuse is fully committed to helping the Consortium use the combined power of the bar association and law schools to effect change to police practices.”

First-Time and Ultimate Bar Passage Rates Released

First-time and ultimate bar passage rates for Syracuse Law graduates were posted in March 2021. Of first-time bar exam takers in the New York jurisdiction, 81.31% passed (compared to the state average of 85.93%).

The Ultimate Bar Passage rate for students graduating in the 2018 calendar year was 94.08%.

College of Law Rises Nine Places in U.S. News Rankings

The College of Law rose nine places in the 2022 edition of the U.S. News & World Report law school rankings, released in April 2021. Among drivers of this improvement, the College’s median LSAT rose one point to 155 and the Undergraduate GPA increased from 3.33 to 3.53. In fact, Syracuse Law was among just 25% of law schools that improved both LSAT and USPA, tying for the largest increase in USPA.

The College’s selectivity improved by seven percentage points, the bar passage rate climbed from 85% to 88%, and the influential Judges/Lawyers Assessment Score went from 2.9 to 3.0. Notably, the Advocacy Program climbed from #15 to #11, marking a 26-place rise in the rankings in the last two years.

“The U.S. News rankings are just one way to measure our success,” noted Dean Boise. “Despite our persisting focus on our mission, which is to graduate extraordinary law students who go on to lead extraordinary lives enriched by all they learn and experience at Syracuse Law.”

Celebrating Classes of 2020 and 2021

On May 7, 2021, Syracuse Law celebrated the graduation of both the classes of 2020 and 2021 with a virtual Commencement ceremony featuring an address by Joanna Geraghty L’97, President and COO of JetBlue.

“The rule of law can never have enough friends across the globe, where it can appear to be under siege at different times and in different circumstances,” Geraghty told the graduates. “Syracuse taught you that, be a friend to the rule of law wherever and whenever you come across it—and you will.”

Class of 2021 President Troy D. Parker, and SBA LL.M. Senator Filadus Hamil of Natchez, MS, Professor Paula Johnson and students in the Cold Case Justice Initiative helped launch the Wharlest and Exerlena Jackson Legacy Project with a two-day virtual symposium for public junior and senior high school students in both Natchez and Syracuse on March 26-27, 2021.

To honor the sacrifice and memory of two civil rights activists from Natchez, MS, Professor Paula Johnson and students in the Cold Case Justice Initiative helped launch the Wharlest and Exerlena Jackson Legacy Project with a two-day virtual symposium for public junior and senior high school students in both Natchez and Syracuse on March 26-27, 2021.

In addition to honoring the Jacksons’ service and sacrifice (both were active in the NAACP and in 1967 Wharlest was killed in what the FBI considers a Ku Klux Klan attack), the Legacy Project aims to provide resources to enable students to achieve their life and career goals and to continue the Jacksons’ dedication to civic engagement.

To assist the project, Syracuse Law students have volunteered as “Life Buddies”—or mentors—to help school students navigate the next steps in their lives. Junior high and high school students who register in the Life Buddies program will be assigned a law student who can answer questions about the path to college and other career decisions.

Disability Rights Luminaries Speak at DLPP/Syracuse Law Review ADA Symposium

The College hosted a star-studded Americans with Disabilities Act Symposium in April 2021, commemorating the ADA’s 30th anniversary, as well as the Disability Law and Policy Program’s 15th anniversary and a special ADA volume of the Syracuse Law Review.

Guest speakers included disability law luminaries Alison Barkoff, Acting Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging, US Department of Health and Human Services; international disability rights activist Judy Heumann; and Arlene Mayerson, Founding Director Attorney Emerita, Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund.

Many of the papers discussed during the symposium will be published in a future edition of the Law Review, focusing on the past, present, and future of disability rights domestically and internationally.

Syracuse Law Hosts Policing Reform Panel Discussion

Exploring policing reform efforts in Onondaga County and connecting those local and community efforts to the broader national conversation about policing practices, Syracuse Law hosted the “Policing and Reform in Onondaga County and Beyond” panel discussion in April 2021.

Sponsored by the Syracuse Civic Initiative and hosted by Dean Boise and Professor Lauryn Gouldin, the discussion featured featured Syracuse Police Chief Kent Buckner, Lisa Kurtz, Innovative Policing Program, Georgetown Law; Jimmy Oliver, Syracuse Police Director of Community Engagement; Sarah Racketo L’09, Director, Center for Court Innovation-Syracuse Office; and Onondaga County Legislator Vernon Williams Jr. The panel addressed key provisions of the Police Reform and Reinvention Plans recently developed by Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse, including use-of-force policies, police-community relations, and alternatives to arrest.
Professor Kanter Moderates Fulbright ADA Panel
Professor Arlene Kanter, Laura J. and L. Douglas Meredith Professor of Teaching Excellence and Director of the Disability Law and Policy Program, moderated a panel discussion in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Part of the Fulbright Impact in the Field Panel Series, the discussion convened more than 300 Fulbright alumni scholars with disabilities, accessibility and inclusion advocates, and legal experts.

Beth Kubala Appointed US Army Civilian Aide
Teaching Professor Beth Kubala, Executive Director of the Betty and Michael D. Wahl Veterans Legal Clinic, was named one of six civilian aides to the Secretary of the Army at an August 2020 swearing-in ceremony.

Professor Johnson Appointed to Judicial Commission
Professor Paula Johnson, Co-Director of the Cold Case Justice Initiative, was appointed the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission. The Commission advises decision-makers throughout the New York court system on issues affecting both employees and litigants of color. All members are appointed by the Chief Judge of the New York Court of Appeals.

September 2020

Professor Barnes Named Associate Dean for Faculty Research
Kristen Barnes—an expert in property and housing law, anti-discrimination, and civil rights—succeeded Professor Lauryn Gouldin as Associate Dean for Faculty Research.

“As Associate Dean, Professor Barnes leads the College’s continued placement of faculty scholarship in top-tier law journals, brings noted law experts to Dineen Hall to facilitate the exchange of ideas, encourages grant-funded research projects, and broadens our faculty’s involvement with noted institutions around the world,” says Dean Boise.

November 2020

Professors Ghosh and Gouldin Appointed as Crandall Melvin Professors
Recognizing their significant scholarship and thought leadership, as well as their excellence in teaching, Dean Boise appointed Professor Shubha Ghosh as Crandall Melvin Professor of Law and Professor Lauryn Gouldin as Crandall Melvin Associate Professor of Law, each for a five-year term.

December 2020

Professor Dorfman Publishes 2020 Israeli Municipal Accessibility Index
For the second year—in his capacity as an affiliated researcher at aChord Social Psychology for Social Change Professor Doron Dorfman led a study on attitudes toward disability in Israel and the state of disabled Israelis. The Municipal Accessibility Index also examines Israeli public opinion about experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic.
January 2020
Faculty Participate in Society of Socio-Economists Annual Meeting
Several College of Law faculty members participated in the 2021 Society of Socio-Economists Annual Meeting, hosted by the College of Law and titled “Pressing Social Issues.” Joining Professor Robert Ashford, Program Co-Chair for the AALS Section on Socio-Economics, were professors Christian Day, David Driesen, and Shubha Ghosh.

May 2021
Wentworth-Mullin Appointed to NYSSBA Committee on Veterans
Chantal Wentworth-Mullin, Managing Director of the Betty and Michael D. Wohl Veterans Legal Clinic, was appointed to the New York State Bar Association Committee on Veterans. Wentworth-Mullin will assist her colleagues in program development, advocacy, and strategic collaborations that address the legal issues and needs of military servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

June 2021
Professors Berger and Gouldin Promoted
Dean Boise announced that—with the concurrence of Chancellor Syverud—and the University Board of Trustees, professors Todd Berger and Lauryn Gouldin have been promoted to the rank of full professor.

April 2021
Professor Gardner Receives Meredith Teaching Recognition Award
Teaching Professor Shannon Gardner was awarded a Syracuse University 2021-2022 Meredith Teaching Recognition Award for Continuing Excellence in Teaching, recognizing her contributions to teaching and learning. The award is one of the highest teaching honors bestowed by the University.

Lisa Cole Honored with Ms. JD Fellowship

Lisa Cole was among 12 law students from around the country honored with a Ms. JD Fellowship. According to Ms. JD—a non-profit, non-partisan organization that seeks to support and improve the experiences of women law students and lawyers—fellows are selected based on their academic performance, leadership, and dedication to advancing the status of women in the profession.

Powers Awarded Scullin Scholarship

At a December 2020 ceremony, rising 3L Leita Powers was awarded the Northern District of New York Federal Court Bar Association Scullin Scholarship. The award—named for the Hon. Frederick J. Scullin Jr. L’64—is given each year to an exemplary College of Law student who shows a keen interest in federal practice.

The Father-Daughter Duo Taking on the College of Law

In August 2020, 3L Lisa Cole was among 12 law students from around the country honored with a Ms. JD Fellowship. According to Ms. JD—a non-profit, non-partisan organization that seeks to support and improve the experiences of women law students and lawyers—fellows are selected based on their academic performance, leadership, and dedication to advancing the status of women in the profession.

Yanez Chosen for Prestigious AAPD Summer Internship

In January 2021, rising 2L Matthew Yanez—recipient of a Dean’s Scholarship and a JK Wonderland Scholarship—was chosen to be an American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) summer intern. “This is a prestigious summer internship that receives hundreds of applications each year from undergraduate and graduate students with disabilities from all academic fields within the US,” explains Professor Arlene Kanter, Director of the Disability Law and Policy Program. “Only a fraction of those students are selected each year.”
Frimpong Becomes the First Black Student to Lead Syracuse Law Review

In February 2021, rising 3L Hilda Frimpong was elected by her peers as the first Black student to lead the Law Review as Editor-in-Chief since it began publishing in 1949. "I am honored to break down barriers as the first person of color and first Black woman in this role," says Frimpong. "My expertise and unique perspective will be added to the legacy of the Law Review." Added Law Review Faculty Advisor Professor Robin Paul Malloy, "This is wonderful news for Hilda, the Law Review, and the College. I am proud to serve as Advisor during this groundbreaking and overdue moment in its history."

Thevenin Trades Her Running Spikes for Law Books

In her March 2021 Syracuse Stories profile, rising 2L Tia Thevenin ’18—a former standout Syracuse University hurdler—discusses picking herself up from the disappointment of not competing for Team Canada in the 2020 Olympics due to the coronavirus pandemic. "I had planned to go to law school anyway, so I sped up my timeline. Walking away from the sport—and Team Canada—was one of the hardest decisions I’ve ever had to make. It’s also exciting to do something new.” Thevenin adds, “Studying law is not so different from running track. My goal is not to compete with my classmates but to inspire them to reach their fullest potential.”

Jasper Pursues His Dream of a Law Degree Online

In his March 2021 Syracuse Stories profile, Joseph Jasper—a rising 2L and US Army Chief Warrant Officer—spoke about how the “stars aligned” after transferring to Fort Drum in Upstate New York and learning about Syracuse Law’s JDinteractive program. “I was enticed by the hybrid format and the fact that it was accredited by the American Bar Association.” For Jasper, attending law school is a “dream come true.” “I have not stopped being excited about the opportunity to attend such a reputable university in pursuit of my legal education.” Read more about Jasper’s story at http://law.syr.edu/news_events/news/joseph-jasper-pursuing-the-dream-of-a-low-degree-online

A Powerful Voice for Justice

In the third March 2021 profile, Syracuse Stories turned the spotlight on rising 3L Mazaher Kaila, an immigrant from Sudan who is driven by civic engagement: “It’s a core value for me. I have always aspired to help the communities I’m from.” Kaila is not waiting until she graduates to assume the role of advocate and change-maker. She serves as President of the Black Law Students Association and is leading efforts to help the University administration address issues of diversity and inclusion. Read more about Kaila’s story at http://law.syr.edu/news_events/news/mazaher-kaila-a-powerful-voice-for-justice

Spikes for Law Books

Marquette Receives Best for Vets Award

At its May 2021 awards ceremony, rising 3L Ryan Marquette received the Student Veterans Organization’s Best for Vets Award, given to the student veteran who has done the most to help fellow student veterans succeed on and off campus. Marquette serves as President of Veterans’ Issues, Support Initiative, and Outreach Network (VISION) and President of the National Security Student Association.

Otasowie MCs ROTC Review

Sharon Otasowie L’21—an Air Force ROTC Cadet and US Air Force JAG Corps graduate law candidate—had the honor of performing MC duties at the 104th Chancellor’s ROTC Review Ceremony in April 2021. The Chancellor hosts the annual ceremony to recognize the distinguished performance of cadets in the University’s Army and Air Force ROTC programs.

IN MEMORIAM

The College of Law mourns the passing of John P. Goerner, a Class of 2023 student in the JDInteractive program, in April 2021. An avid hockey and rugby player, Goerner held a B.S. in Information Systems from Bellevue University, Nebraska, and an M.B.A. from Alvernia University in Reading, PA. John planned to use his law degree to represent the less fortunate. “John was a fighter,” Associate Dean for Online Education Kathleen O’Connor told The Daily Orange. “He was a wonderful student and an exemplary man.”

Rising 3L’s Abigail Neuviller ’19, Penny Quinteros, and Meghan Steenburgh G’97, and rising 2L Miriam Mokhemar, were among a group of 13 undergraduate, graduate, and law students awarded Downey Scholarships by the Syracuse University Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence (ICCAE) in May 2021. The award recognizes academic excellence, commitment to public service, and potential to bring diverse and distinctive backgrounds and experiences to the US Intelligence Community.

Law Students Awarded ICCAE Downey Scholarships

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Law Students Awarded ICCAE Downey Scholarships
In May 2021, Dean Boise shared two important developments addressing efforts to achieve a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable law school community.

First, following recommendations by the Curriculum Committee and the Inclusion Council (formerly the Inclusion Initiatives Committee), a new three-pronged Cultural Competency Curriculum will be launched in fall 2021, applicable to all students beginning with the Class of 2024.

The new curriculum consists of:

- A diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) primer module for Orientation and JDinteractive residencies.
- A 1L DEI Summer Initiative to develop themes and materials that will become part of the 1L curriculum.
- A graduation requirement, applicable to students beginning with the Class of 2024, which may be satisfied by selecting a cultural competency-related course from a list of existing courses and new courses to be developed.

Second, the new Hon. Sandra L. Townes L’76 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Student Resource Center will open in fall 2021. Named for the pioneering jurist and educator—who was the first Black woman appointed as a federal judge in the Eastern District of New York—the Center will be located in the Susan K. Reardon L’76 Room in Dineen Hall’s Law Library.

Developed in coordination with the Black Law Students Association (BLSA), the Center will be a space for students and faculty to convene and curate resources for sharing, experiencing, and actualizing diversity, equity, and inclusion at the College and in the law profession.

“We envision the center to both serve as a space to promote diversity and cultural competence and a safe space for minority students to engage with one another,” says rising 3L Mazaher Kaila, 2021-2022 Student Bar Association President, who was President of BLSA in 2020-2021. “The Student Resource Center will begin as an extended library space where students can access computers, printers, white boards, and books, as well as hold discussions and plan events. Our vision is for this Center eventually to offer student advising, mental health support, support for students with disabilities, and trainings and other tools essential for reaching diversity and inclusion goals.”

Professor Suzette Meléndez has appointed Professor Suzette Meléndez as Syracuse Law’s first Associate Dean for Equity and Inclusion. “In this position, Professor Meléndez will work with me and across the entire College to lead ongoing efforts to foster a learning community that seeks to address and eradicate racism and other forms of discrimination, that values and builds on our community’s diversity, and that equips our students with the cultural competence necessary to function effectively and ethically in 21st century legal practice,” says Dean Boise.

In doing so, Professor Meléndez will draw and continue upon her work as Chair of the Inclusion Council, which will continue to meet regularly to evaluate the College climate and make recommendations for actions to create and sustain inclusivity. In addition to her new duties, Professor Meléndez will continue her teaching in the area of Family Law.
Advocacy Program

Eleven Up: Advocacy Program’s Reputation Goes from Strength to Strength

2021 Award and Scholarship Winners
Executive Director’s Award: Tyler Jeffries L’21
Ralph E. Khasar Award: Joseph Tantillo L’21
Faculty Advocacy Director’s Award: Sharon Otasowie L’21
International Academy of Trial Lawyers Award: Joseph Celotto L’21
Richard Risman Appellate Advocacy Award: Sharon Otasowie L’21
Emil Rosai L’72 Scholarship Award: Rising 3L Amanda Nardozza
Lee S. Michaels L’72 Advocate of the Year Award: Rising 3Ls Kelsey Gonzales & Olivia Stevens
Ralph E. Kharas Award: Tyler Jeffries L’21
Faculty Advocacy Director’s Award: Joseph Tantillo L’21

Given the challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic, the Travis H.D. Levin Advocacy Honor Society could have been forgiven if it had stepped back this year and waited for the dust to settle. But in 2020-2021, students, professors, coaches, and judges did quite the opposite. They embraced virtual tournaments; added, launched, planned—and hosted—competitions; and boosted Syracuse’s national reputation to such an extent, Syracuse Law is now ranked number 11 in the nation for Trial Advocacy by U.S. News and World Report, having climbed 16 places in two years. That’s on top of placing number seven in Fordham Law’s 2020 Trial Competition Performance rankings.

Among the highlights of this academic year, two teams won their regional rounds for the second year in a row: the Black Law Students Association Trial Team and the National Moot Court Competition Team. The BLSA team then progressed to the elite eight of their national tournament, the Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition. In February 2021, Syracuse swept the National Trial Competition Region 2 tournament, also for the second year in a row, meaning the Program again sent two teams to the NTC national finals and lifted the Tiffany Cup—awarded by the NYSSBA Trial Lawyers Section, which sponsors the NTC New York Regional—for the third year in a row. Syracuse’s national reputation undoubtedly was boosted by the excellence of hosted competitions. In October 2020, the second Syracuse National Trial Competition became one of the first live-streamed tourneys in the nation. The SNCT organizers convened 22 top teams, managed nearly 50 trials, and gathered an awe-inspiring 150 volunteer evaluators, including many of our alumni. Loyola Law School Los Angeles prevailed over Georgetown Law in the final round.

The Program then launched a new international competition in March 2021, the Transatlantic Negotiation Competition—a collaboration with Queen’s University, Belfast—brought together 60 students and judges (including alumni) from 23 countries, with Liberty University School of Law winning the inaugural tournament.

Next year, these two hosted competitions will be joined by the new National Disability Law Appellate Competition, co-hosted by Syracuse Law and the National Disabled Students Association. NDLC will feature a minimum of 12 teams from law schools across the United States competing in an appellate brief writing component and an oral argument component.

“NDLC is the first national appellate advocacy competition to focus exclusively on disability law. It will enable students to develop their oral advocacy skills while simultaneously navigating a challenging and important area of disability law,” says Professor Michael Schwartz, Director of the Disability Rights Clinic.

With the addition of NDLC, Syracuse Law now boasts three invitation-only competitions in each of the recognized advocacy divisions: Alternative Dispute Resolution, Appellate, and Trial. In intercollegiate tournaments, notably this was the first year that JDinteractive students competed, and JD students won both the Hancock Estabrook Oral Advocacy Competition and the Bond, Schoenbeck & King Alternative Dispute Resolution Competition.

In sum, rather than diminishing or even shutting down advocacy tournaments and training during the coronavirus pandemic, faculty, students, and alumni volunteers embraced online competition, allowing new opportunities to be seized.

2020-2021 INTERCOLLEGIATE COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS
In late November 2021, there was good news from Boston, where Joseph Tantillo L’21 and rising 3Ls Kelsey Gonzalez and Olivia Stevens won the Boston Regional of the appellate division National Moot Court Competition. Tantillo also won Best Oralist. This success marked the second consecutive year Syracuse won the Boston Regional, and that Tantillo took home his individual award. Emily Brown L’09 and David Katz L’17 coached the team.

In February 2021, the Black Law Student Association trial division team—Ken Knight L’21, Sharon Otasowie L’21, and rising 3Ls Abigail Neuville and Alexis Eka, coached by John Boyd II L’16—advanced from the Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition regionals for the second year in a row.

The 2020-2021 Black Law Students Association trial team competes online.

Sharon Otasowie L’21 and rising 3L Robert Rose posted award-winning performances at the 2020 Buffalo-Niagara Trial Competition in October 2021. Otasowie won Best Overall Advocate and Rose offered the Best Direct Examination.

In March 2021, Syracuse swept the National Trial Competition Region 2 tournament for the second year in a row. This double win meant that the College once again sent two teams to the NTC national finals and took home the NYSSBA’s Tiffany Cup for the third year in a row. Joanne Van Dyke L’07 and Peter Hakes coached rising 3Ls Marina DeRosa and Amanda Nardozza, who took first place, and runners-up Joe Celotto L’21 and Christy O’Neil L’21.
Advocacy Program

2020-2021 INTRACOLLEGIATE COMPETITION

HIGHLIGHTS
Audrey Bimbi L’21 and Carly Cazer L’21 won the 49th Mackenzie Hughes LLP Edmund H. Lewis Appellate Advocacy Competition. The final round, on Oct. 1, 2021, marked the first-ever virtual moot court competition hosted by the Travis H.D. Lewin Advocacy Honor Society. Bimbi also won Best Advocate.

Rising 3Ls Penny Quinteros and Margaret Santandreu won the 2020 College of Law Bond, Schoenbeck & King Alternative Dispute Resolution Competition. The final—held virtually in October—was judged by the Hon. Joanne F. Alper ’72, Circuit Court of the Seventh Circuit of Virginia (Ret.); James L. Sonneborn, of Bouquets Holstein PLLC; and Brian Butler L’96, a managing member for Bond, Schoenbeck & King PLLC.

The online final of the BSK Alternative Dispute Resolution Competition, in October 2020.

In March 2021, Alyssa-Rae McGinn won the 11th Hancock Estabrook Jr. Oral Advocacy Competition, judged by Dean Boles; the Hon. Max A. D’Agostino L’80 and the Hon. Thérèse Estabrook L’91, both of the US District Court for the Northern District of New York; and Timothy P. Murphy L’89, Managing Partner, Hancock Estabrook LLP.

Alex Eaton L’21 and Tyler Jeffries L’21 won the 43rd Annual Lionel O. Grossman Trial Competition. Jeffries took home the Best Advocate award. Held virtually for the first time in its history in March 2021, the final round was judged by the Hon. Glenn T. Suddaby L’85, US District Court Judge, Northern District of New York, the Hon. Rodney Thompson L’93, New Jersey Superior Court Judge, and the Hon. Bernadette Romano Clark L’89, New York State Supreme Court justice.

Rising 2Ls Payton Sord and Nico Vocaturo prevailed in the second annual Entertainment and Sports Law Symposium, the first time both events were held completely online. Competition judges were Professor Elizabeth August L’94; Kevin Belbey L’16, Sports Media Agent, Creative Artists Agency; and Beverly Sarfo, General Counsel, TVO.

Syracuse might well be the only law school in the country with a large student organization whose students are deeply integrated into an academic program—our Advocacy Program—which encompasses the fields of trial and appellate advocacy, as well as alternative dispute resolution. No school in the country has five internal advocacy competitions. Few schools host a trial competition as competitive as the Syracuse National Trial Competition. There is only one other school in the world—our co-hosting partner, Queen’s University, Belfast—that holds an international negotiation competition, the Transatlantic Negotiation Competition. There are several schools that match our record of intercollegiate success and offer scholarships to high-performing student advocates, both upon entry to law school and based upon their advocacy success while in school. And there are only 10 other law schools with a higher U.S. News ranking.

I am also proud of our advocacy-focused curriculum, which includes our basic advocacy courses and more advanced offerings, such as advanced trial practice, deposition practice, and jury selection.

While some schools might do a few of these things, in short, Syracuse is doing all of them.

A 360° View
Remarks by Professor Todd Berger, Director of Advocacy Programs, at the 2021 Travis H.D. Lewin Advocacy Honor Society Banquet, April 2021

Inclusion, Empowerment, and Participation in Community: BBI’s Year in Review

The Burton Blatt Institute (BBI) at Syracuse University builds on the legacy of Burton Blatt, former dean of SU’s School of Education and a pioneering disability rights scholar, to better the lives of people with disabilities.

With its focus on research, education, and outreach in law and public policy, BBI incorporates cross-disability issues, focusing with an intersectional lens across the whole of life, to advance the civic, economic, and social participation of people with disabilities, while building on the University’s longstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Below are highlights of BBI’s impactful work this year.

July 2020
Toward Creating a Disability-Inclusive Law School Environment

BBI co-hosted a national symposium of leading law schools titled “Call to Action: Creating a Disability-Inclusive Law School Environment” from July 7-9. The symposium convened top law schools to work on disability inclusiveness and accessibility to share ideas and resources, identify existing barriers, and ultimately form a task force that creates a more disability-inclusive future in legal education.

Symposium topics included: (1) how ableism and racism function together; (2) racial disparities in COVID-19 that impact students of color; (3) race-based trauma, and (4) the need to combat anti-blackness in disability advocacy. Co-hosts included the ABA Commission on Disability Rights, National Disability Law Student Association, Law School Admissions Council, and Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy, and Innovation at Loyola Law School.

Thirty for ADA@30

For the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, University Professor Stephen Kuusisto, Director of the BBI Office of Interdisciplinary Programs and Outreach, published 30 short essays about the law, the anniversary, and the cultural impact of ADA@30. According to Kuusisto, “I’m doing this as a disabled person who’s lived half his life before the ADA. I’m reflecting on the ‘before and after’ of the law.” Read the essays at bbi.syr.edu/2020/07/thirty-for-thirtieth-ada-anniversary.
Burton Blatt Institute

August 2020
Addressing Digital Access and Accessibility

The Aug. 3, 2020, edition of ADA Live!—a podcast produced for the Southwest ADA Center by BBI—took a deep dive into access for students receiving special education during the coronavirus pandemic. The podcast addressed the shift to online instruction for schools across the United States, which has exposed troubling gaps in digital access and accessibility, especially for low-income students and students with disabilities. “Schools now face the difficult task of reimagining what instruction will look like in the future,” explained the hosts.

September 2020
Analyzing DBI in the Legal Profession

BBI and the American Bar Association published a groundbreaking report in September 2020, uncovering prevalent reports of discrimination faced by disabled and LGBTQ+ lawyers. The study of 3,390 lawyers from every state and the District of Columbia was among the first and largest undertaking of its kind to focus on lawyers who either identify as having disabilities or who identify as LGBTQ+ in their workplaces.

BBI Chairman and University Professor Peter Blanck, lead author of the study, wrote that “the longer-term objective is to help measurably enhance the professional lives of lawyers and policy makers.”

Particularly noteworthy, the study examines individuals with multiple identities that intersect, such as people of differing sexual orientations and gender identities who also have disabilities. Read the study at ambar.org/groups/diversity/disabilityrights/initiatives/awards/dbbi-bbi.

Professor Blanck Publishes “Disability Law and Policy”

Released to mark the 30th anniversary of the ADA, Professor Blanck’s 2020 book is a compendium of stories about how the legal system has responded to the needs of impacted individuals. The Foreword to Disability Law and Policy (Foundation Press) is written by Lee Frieden, an internationally distinguished disability rights scholar and advocate, and former Chairperson of the US National Council on Disability. “My story is one of many in the modern disability movement,” writes Frieden. “In Disability Law and Policy, Peter Blanck retells my story, and the personal experiences of many others living with disabilities, in a master tour of the area.”

BBI to Lead National Center on Employment Policy for Persons with Disabilities

In September 2020, BBI received $4.3 million from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research to lead a new national Rehabilitation Research Training Center (RRTC) on “Disability Inclusive Employment Policy.” RRTC’s goal is to design and implement a series of studies that produce new data and evidence on policy leverage to increase employment rates of persons with disabilities, with the objective of informing current and future policy and program development. According to principal investigator Professor Blanck, RRTC will “ambitiously look across the employment lifecycle, to enhance employment entry, economic outcomes, and career growth.” The five-year project will develop a post-COVID-19 policy framework to accelerate opportunities for employment, career pathways, entrepreneurship, and economic self-sufficiency for youth and adults across the spectrum of disability.

November 2020
The Future of Workplace Accommodation

To commemorate the ADA’s 30th anniversary, the Journal of Occupational Rehabilitation presented a special section of articles guest-edited by Professor Blanck. At the heart of the ADA’s drive for inclusion was the workplace accommodation principle, the special section highlights emerging research, policy, and law on the future of employment and the accommodation principle for people with disabilities, envisioning a potential future of full disability-inclusive employment. Read JOVR Vol. 31, No. 2 at link.springer.com/journal/10926/volumes-and-issues/31-2.

Imagining Inclusive Public Spaces

In November 2020, BBI and the University of Leeds announced a project to investigate problems caused by unequal access to streets in 10 cities around the world and the way law and government respond to them. As part of its research, the Inclusive Public Space (IPS) project asks pedestrians about their experiences, in particular with people with disabilities, older adults, and parents or caregivers. IPS is a five-year project funded by the European Research Council’s Advanced Grant.

December 2020
Exploring New Norms in Public Health Surveillance

Professor Blanck (pictured above, left) and BBI International Distinguished Fellow Paul Harpur (above, right) were awarded a Social Science Research Council Just Tech Covid-19 Rapid-Response Grant—funded by the Ford Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation—in December 2020. Their project—“The Unsettling of Old Norms by a New World of COVID-19 Public Health Surveillance”—asks, How has COVID-19 public health surveillance shifted social norms pertaining to health status in public spaces? How are new health norms created by COVID-19 health surveillance creating new sites of disablement in society? How do disability discrimination and ability equality measures apply to people disabled by COVID-19 health surveillance? How can the unsettling of able and disabled be used to help make a more inclusive society?

February 2021
A Crip Reckoning

Postponed by the coronavirus pandemic, the University’s celebration of the ADA30 took place in February 2021. “A Crip Reckoning: Reflections on the ADA30” featured a distinguished panel of thought-leaders and scholar-activists from the worlds of disability culture, education, advocacy, and innovation. Discussion topics included ableism, cultural change, equity, creativity, and intersectionality. "This event was not a day late and a dollar short," said Professor Kuusisto. “By taking extra time, we’ve been able to focus on how diverse the disability community really is.”

Exclusivity Through Universal and Sustainable Design

Professor Blanck spoke at the April American Institute of Architects symposium “Inclusivity in Sustainable Design: Global Universal Design Commission—How Architecture Can Transcend Accessibility, Innovate, and Serve All.” Blanck is also Chairman of the Global Universal Design Commission. The discussion focused on insights, design details, and a critical paradigm shift towards the full implementation of Universal Design principles that allow the development of built environments usable by all people to the greatest extent possible, without the need for retrofitting or specialized design.

Reporting on Alternatives to Guardianship

A collaboration between BBI and The Arc of Northern Virginia, the Aug. 3, 2021, edition of BBI’s podcast Analyzing D&I in the Legal Profession explained the release of a report on the findings and recommendations of the Virginia Supported Decision-Making Pilot Project. This report provides background information and foundational research on supported decision-making as an alternative to guardianship and a way to increase self-determination and enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities. Among the report’s findings, project participants who used supported decision-making showed improved independence and decision-making skills, made better decisions, and had enhanced quality of life.

April 2021
Kuusisto Awarded Guggenheim Fellowship

In April 2021 Professor Kuusisto received a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation fellowship, awarded to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or creative ability in the arts. In addition to directing BBI’s Office of Interdisciplinary Programs and Outreach, Kuusisto is a poet and writer who has authored the memoirs Planet of the Blind, Eavesdropping: A Memoir of Blindness and Listening, and Have Dog, Will Travel: A Poet’s Journey, as well as the poetry collections Only Bread, Only Light and Letters to Bonges.

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Human-Machine Teaming

SPL Research Asks How Law and Ethics Can Best Regulate Artificial Intelligence

By Matthew Mittelsteadt G’20, AI Research Fellow, Institute for Security Policy and Law

We are amidst an artificial intelligence (AI) revolution. If the last decade was the dawn of the “Age of AI,” then this decade has seen the technology mature as it has begun to be widely deployed. Its growth and use in the next few years will be exponential. However, the use of AI opens a Pandora’s box of legal and security challenges. The law has yet to catch up.

Led by the Hon. James E. Baker and Professor Laurie Hobart, Institute for Security Policy and Law (SPL) researchers are currently exploring these challenges—and trying to bridge the gap between AI reality and AI regulation—funded by a research grant from the Center for Security and Emerging Technologies (CSET).

Our focus: Ethical decision-making, bias, and data regulation so that the national security community can maximize the benefits of AI and minimize and mitigate the risks.

The central question of our research is posed in Baker’s focus: Ethical decision-making, bias, and data regulation so that the national security community can maximize the benefits of operating at machine speed with machine capabilities while maintaining appropriate legal and ethical human control.

SPL Publications: Breaking New Ground

As nearly every AI legal and policy question involves a variant of the Centaur’s Dilemma—and recognizing that policymakers have done little to address AI up until now—SPL research sets out to determine how law and policy can be applied to make AI more accurate and effective while also maintaining necessary human control.

We recognized that the answer must start with Socratic inquiry, asking questions such as: What is the purpose? Where is the data from? Is there bias? What laws, if any, can we use to guide AI regulation? And where do gaps exist?

In his policy paper, “A Defense Production Act (DPA) for the 21st Century,” Baker addresses these questions by turning to the US Code, noting that there are few statutes that explicitly map federal AI authority. To fill this void, policy—and therefore law—must be flexible. The DPA, for instance, can be extended to AI to promote robust research and development and to adapt to AI’s rapid evolution.

Turning to the courtroom, in Baker, Hobart, and my forthcoming guide “AI for Judges,” we seek to give judges a legal reference, outlining appropriate processes to guide their jurisprudence while flagging the questions they will address when AI issues arise in court. This first-of-its-kind work will offer a primer to judges as they attempt to define AI’s legal scaffolding and answer the Centaur’s Dilemma.

Furthermore, my issue brief—“AI Verification: Mechanisms to Ensure AI Arms Control Compliance”—in turn recognizes that many have called for AI controls, but no one has explained exactly how that will be achieved. How, for instance, will we verify that a state or an application is complying with the law or ethical principles? Without verification, it is hard to apply law and ethics. The brief attempts to do just that, proposing first-of-its-kind technical mechanisms that can be used to inspect AI arms and providing a means whereby regulatory authorities and the international community can be confident that AI regulations are being respected.

A National Symposium

In each of these publications, our guiding philosophy has been an emphasis on explaining technology in “plain language.” We believe anyone can understand AI if given the proper guidance, and we aim to make the field accessible to non-technologists, including lawyers.

This philosophy guided an AI symposium for national security lawyers that SPL hosted in October 2020. Acting as a live AI security policy discussion, we first offered the audience a primer on how AI works. Three live panels followed: AI and the Law of Armed Conflict; AI and National Security Ethics: Bias, Data, and Principles; and AI and National Security Decision-Making.

Top experts and policymakersielded audience questions, debated the core policy issues, and introduced the audience to the many challenges and benefits AI will create. The Symposium concluded with a conversation between Baker and CSET Founding Director Jason Matheny (now Deputy Assistant to the President of the United States for National Security and Technology) and Deputy Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) about the way AI will transform—or should transform—how and where national security lawyers practice law.

The bottom line: “twenty-first-century lawyers will need to understand the constellation of technologies known as AI, or they will be left behind.” The symposium provided an overview of the emerging field and broadened the importance of AI policy in light of the Centaur’s Dilemma.

Ultimately, the Centaur’s Dilemma is a “wicked problem” only answerable by a state of ethically grey solutions. Recognizing this, SPL’s research recognizes there is no single, definitive answer to this problem. In the past year, however, the SPL and CSET collaboration has made strides towards clarifying the legal landscape, crystallizing the process, and deepening understanding.

“Twenty-first-century lawyers will need to understand the constellation of technologies known as AI, or they will be left behind.”

We are here to stay, and it requires serious policy and legal attention. Our hope is that our work will inspire the vigorous thought needed to maximize the benefits of human-machine teaming while mitigating the risks.

New Frontiers in AI: Policy Briefs and Reports

Read and download at: securitypolicylaw.syr.edu/AI-research

“A DPA for the 21st Century,” by the Hon. James E. Baker

“A DPA for the 21st Century” is a primer on the limits and promise of three mechanisms to help shape a regulatory regime that maximizes the benefits of AI and minimizes its potential harms.

“AI Verification: Mechanisms to Ensure AI Arms Control Compliance,” by Matthew Mittelsteadt G’20

“A starting point to explore ‘AI arms control’ defining the goals of ‘AI verification’ and proposing several mechanisms to support arms inspections and continuous verification.

“National Security Law and the Coming AI Revolution,” by the Hon. James E. Baker, Laurie Hobart G’16, Matt Mittelsteadt G’20, and John Cherry

Observations from the October 2020 AI law and policy symposium hosted by SPL and the Georgetown Center for Security and Emerging Technology.
When rising 3L Jake Goldsmith was a biology major in the College of Arts and Sciences, he had no idea that he would portray his education into the courtroom—and the boardroom. “There’s not much difference between science and law,” he says. “In both his education into the courtroom—and the boardroom. “There’s When rising 3L was a biology major in the

ILC is open to students of all majors. Most are second- or third-year law students, but Rudnick has noticed a surge in M.B.A. candidates from the Martin J. Whitman School of Management and graduate students from the College of Engineering and Computer Science.

One such participant is Patrick Riolo ‘20, G’21, an M.B.A. and a B.S. graduate in bioengineering. He recently proved his interdisciplinary mettle by conducting marketing research for several ILC clients, including innovations in green building systems, plastics recycling, medical sensors, biometrics, 6G cell service, streaming media, and infrastructure logistics.

That variety was matched by the research tasks students performed, among them prior art searches, the potential for patent infringements, and commercialization pathway mapping.

This research offers invaluable work experience, as Nikkia Knudsen L’21 discovered when assisting biotech firm Triton Bio. “My team helped Triton narrow down what their technology could look like and then created a report based on potential technological iterations,” says Knudsen, who recently joined the health care practice at Columbus, OH, firm Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP. “This process helped me learn how to guide a client and help them figure out exactly what type of research is useful to them.”

ILC’s Student-Led Research Reports Give Innovators an Edge

During 2020-2021, Innovation Law Center students’ applied learning experiences continued apace with virtual student teams developing research reports for clients who brought a spectrum of technologies to the Center, including innovations in green building systems, plastics recycling, medical sensors, biometrics, 6G cell service, streaming media, and infrastructure logistics.

Selected 2020-2021 NYSSTLC Clients

Icarus Biomedical—Icarus’ Knoggin technology is a mobile application that allows the user to perform tests to assess the cognitive state of a person with a head injury.

Interiore—A copolymer that adheres the various polymers found in mixed post-consumer plastics, helping increase the amount of plastic that can be effectively recycled.

MicroEra Power—Solutions for retrofitting existing HVAC systems in commercial buildings to make them more cost-effective and energy-efficient.

Organic Robotics—Developed at Cornell University, this platform technology uses networks of sensors to read athletes’ body movements.

NSION Technologies—A media streaming and data management platform that provides real-time, multi-source situational awareness for events and disasters.

Sectera—This Cornell University-based start-up has developed a high-speed, high-voltage transistor to improve radar sensitivity for future 5G cell service.

Skip-Line—Real-time information on fleet location, material usage, and application performance for contractors completing road work.

Optimized—Commercializing University at Buffalo technology. Optimized is currently assessing the patentability of 3D-printed dentures.

TRITON Bio—Novel technology to isolate microbes from biological samples for medical diagnostics.

Vita Innovations—A “smart” face mask for emergency rooms and similar clinical environments that monitors patients’ vital signs with embedded technology.
invested in their product and understands the technology behind it. I like to put myself in their shoes and wonder how their invention might look to an angel investor or a venture capitalist.”

The first in the nation to apply scholarly legal analysis and experiential education to product commercialization, ILC has enjoyed a strong upward trajectory. Its designation as the New York State Science and Technology Law Center in 2004, followed by Rudnick’s arrival in 2013, has enhanced the state’s role as a global leader in unmanned vehicles, medical, and infrastructure technologies.

“Success breeds success. We went from six to 60 clients almost overnight. Now we have more than 120,” says Rudnick. “I’m always thinking about how ILC students can benefit other students on campus and companies throughout the region.”

Eilers’ emphasis on effective client management—asking the right questions at the right time to achieve clarity and understanding. Viviana Bro L’21 discovered this during her first day on campus when she met Rudnick at a student-faculty luncheon.

“I came to Syracuse because of ILC, whose entrepreneurial environment reminds me of the West Coast.”

—Viviana Bro L’21

“Some of our most gratifying projects are those conceived and cultivated in our own backyard.”

—M. Jack Rudnick L’73

“I came to Syracuse because of ILC, whose entrepreneurial environment reminds me of the West Coast,” says Bro, a veteran of California’s semiconductor industry. “The program has taught me that a lawyer can be a fundamental partner or ally instead of someone who always says ‘no.’”

Bro’s projects also reflect ILC’s commitment to diversity and inclusion. The Chilean-born scholar recalls working with three entrepreneurs on an app that connects people who are deaf and hard of hearing to American Sign Language interpreter services.

“Today, the app is widely available,” she says. “We hope it becomes as ubiquitous and easy-to-use in the Deaf community as Uber is for city passengers wishing to hail a ride.”

Supporting the Innovation Ecosystem
David Eilers ’80, who teaches part-time in ILC, says the program’s success is measured in different ways. “Sometimes, the best thing we can do for a client is deliver bad news, saving them millions of dollars down the road. Other times, we’re able to hand them off to a good patent attorney or an investor who helps get their product off the ground.”

An adjunct professor in management and law, Eilers credits ILC for staying nimble amid an uncertain global economy. The key to ILC’s longevity, he surmises, is being different things to different people.

“If you’re a client from New York state, we can serve you as the NYS Science and Technology Law Center. If you’re from out of state or overseas, we can work with you as a tech incubator, with no territorial restrictions,” says Eilers, who also teaches in the National Science Foundation’s Innovation Corps program. “Thanks to support from Empire State Development (New York’s chief economic development agency), we can do pro bono or low bono work and pay our students.”

Eilers is struck by the similarity between scientific and legal literacy. “Just as there’s a hypothesis to prove in the scientific method, there’s a business thesis needing to be attacked through a rigorous discovery process. Good data is key.”

Nowhere is this rigor more evident than within Central New York’s thriving innovation ecosystem, where ILC enjoys longstanding relationships with Blackstone LaunchPad & Techstars at Syracuse University Libraries, the Syracuse Center of Excellence in Environmental Energy Systems, the Center for Advanced Systems and Engineering, and the CNY Biotech Accelerator.

“They’re my students. They’re their peers. They’re different people.”

—David Eilers L’80

Some of our most gratifying projects are those conceived and cultivated in our own backyard.”

—M. Jack Rudnick L’73

“In fall 2020 ILC launched a series of student-written articles to assist inventors and start-ups navigate common issues in IP and regulatory law. The articles are published in The Innovation Review, a monthly newsletter produced on behalf of the New York State Science and Technology Law Center. Read the newsletter at nysstlc.syr.edu/innovation-review.

—Viviana Bro L’21: “Has the COVID-19 Pandemic Ushered in the Drone Age?”

—Kaitlyn Crobar L’21: “General Wellness v. Medical Device Considerations”


—Sehseh Sanan L’21: “Implications of Van Buren v. United States and the Reach of the CFAA”

—Sohela Suri L’21: “Considerations for Choosing a Business Entity”

The Innovation Review

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The Innovation Review
In early spring 2020, weekly enrollment reports showed that applications to the LL.M. program were soaring well above where they usually are. I was holding weekly admission interviews with applicants from nearly every corner of the globe and working with incoming students on their visa paperwork (a good sign that one has committed to Syracuse Law). It felt as though we were on track to exceed our enrollment goals for the fall 2020 semester until talk of a pandemic began to be all too real. Looking back, it is easy to think that everything changed overnight—lockdowns, mask mandates, and cancelled plans—but there was still hope through the late spring and early summer that we would be back to normal sometime during summer and that it would be business as usual by fall.

However, summer brought border closures, student visa restrictions, and the nearly-hourly requests from students to “defer to a later semester.” I couldn’t blame anyone for wanting to delay their LL.M. experience. Many applicants would be accessing Zoom lectures from up to 12 hours ahead or behind Syracuse time. Although admissions numbers started to evaporate, I was struck by the optimism and determination that our small group of students who committed to starting their LL.M. studies with us in August. Our LL.M. students not only attended classes—sometimes well past midnight their time—but they participated in student organizations, made meaningful editorial contributions to student journals, and formed relationships with one another and their professors. Throughout, there was a refrain of gratitude for the opportunities to learn and engage with the Syracuse Law community. The LL.M. program is always a transformative experience for our students, and over the 2020-2021 academic year our students—our “COVID Class”—were asked to transform and adapt to many more challenges than they could have foreseen.

In December 2020, Elim L’10, our student ambassador and former director of international programs, joined Chancellor Kent Syverud, Provost John Liu, Syracuse Law colleagues, and representatives from three Republic of Uzbekistan institutions to sign an agreement that strengthens academic ties between the University and the republic. The agreement includes a collaboration to create a disability law clinic at Tashkent State University of Law, led by Professor Michael Schwartz, Director of Syracuse Law’s Disability Rights Clinic.

“Syracuse Law enjoys institutional relationships with more than two dozen foreign law schools and government agencies,” says Dean Boise. “This agreement marks our first in Uzbekistan. It will be among our most robust partnerships, bringing together parties and interests across various strata of civil society, including academia, governmental, and nonprofit organizations.”

By Andrew S. Horsfall L’10, Assistant Dean of International Programs

How a “Small but Mighty” LL.M. Cohort Forged Ahead During Lockdown

IN MEMORIAM

The College of Law mourns the passing of Master of Laws student Zaiden Geralde Neto in March 2021. Zaiden was a prestigious and well-respected class action lawyer and law professor in Sao Paolo, Brazil, who held an LL.B., Masters, and Ph.D. from Pontifical Catholic University.

“I knew Zaiden as a perennially positive and optimistic person who was excited about his studies with us and always enjoyable to see,” reflects Assistant Dean of International Programs Andrew S. Horsfall L’10.
Externship Program

Beginning a New Chapter

By Dafni Kiritsis ’97, Director of Externships and Career Services

I’m very excited to have joined the College of Law as Director of Externships and Career Services. In this position, which I started in June 2021, I report to the Assistant Dean of Career Services, and I will help to design and implement programs and services for the Office, in part by expanding our already robust Externship Program. In doing this, I look forward to using my diverse legal and human resources experiences and to engaging with our alums, who already provide such extraordinary support to our externs.

A little about myself: I’m a Syracuse native, the daughter of Greek parents who immigrated to Central New York from Northern Greece. An Orange alumna, I graduated from SU in 1997 with a B.A. in International Relations and French Language, Literature, and Culture, and a minor in Women’s Studies. I also met my husband as an undergraduate!

After earning my J.D. in 2000 from Albany Law School, I began my legal career as an associate in the Albany, NY, firm of Whitman Osterman & Hanna LLP. I joined then Green & Salfer (now Bouquet Holstein PLLC) as a senior associate and stayed with the Syracuse firm for nine years, practicing employment law and litigation.

I then worked as an attorney for the US Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of District Counsel for eight years, providing counsel, conflict resolution, and legal representation to VA Medical Center facilities in the North Atlantic District. In doing this, I was quite pleased with the quality of the positions,” he says. “For instance, we placed five participants at the US Department of Justice, including two in the Tax Division for the first time.”

All DCEx placements were remote, except an in-house placement at Orbis Technologies, hosted by Erin Lawless Miller L’10, Vice President of Corporate Business Services. Rachel Stanley Nguyen L’07 and Jos Di Sicilip L’95 were among alumni offering insights and advice during the DCEx seminar series.

Looking to the future, I look forward to executing Dean Boase’s vision of integrating our Externship Program within the Office of Career Services as part of our efforts to achieve the highest level of placement outcomes for our students.

Because the number of students in the PreReactive program has increased, I plan to continue our externship placements at the US Department of Justice, National Security Division.

This coming year, we will not only continue to grow our externship opportunities for our residential students, we will place our DC students in their first externships of their law school journey. We’ll also begin to implement our Third Year Away program, allowing students to spend their final year of law school in a city of their choice. These 3L students will earn their final credits in a combination of externship placements and online classes.

I look forward to working with our alums on all these fronts.

Deborah O’Malley, the 2020-2021 NYCEx and PhillyEx Director, notes that even though they were not on-site with their employers, our students impressed their site placement supervisors. “Each participant in the NYCEx and PhillyEx programs for the spring semesters received excellent final evaluations,” she says.

The New York City/Philadelphia course seminar was also continued via Zoom, with guest lectures from Everett Gillion L’85, Chief Administrative Office, Defender Association of Philadelphia, Kimberly Lau L’06, Partner, Warshaw Burstein LLP; Kevin Belbey L’16, Sports Media Agent, Creative Artists Agency; and Jesse FeitL L’16, Media Associate, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP.

Overseen by Professor Terry Turnipseed, Faculty Director of Externship Programs, the Washington, DC, program also continued its strong placement track record, with DCEx placing nine students across government, nonprofit, judicial, and corporate organizations. “I was quite pleased with the quality of the placements,” he says. “For instance, we placed five participants at the US Department of Justice, including two in the Tax Division for the first time.”

Spring 2021 Externship Placements

NYCEx

→ Goldman Sachs Alumni Host: Timothy Paul L’84
Chief Fiduciary Officer, Goldman Sachs Trust Company

→ Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation Alumni Host: Kimberly Warner L’14
Assistant Director for Housing

→ Shihadeh Law PC Alumni Host: Hon. Rodney Thompson L’93, G’93
Presiding Judge, Family Division

→ Sony Music EntertainmentPC Alumni Host: Hon. Rodney Thompson L’93, G’93

→ Superior Court of New Jersey Alumni Host: Hon. Robert Thompson L’93, G’93

→ US Department of Housing & Urban Development Alumni Host: Hon. J. Jeremiah Mohneny L’69, Chief Administrative Law Judge

DCEx

→ Insured Retirement Institute Alumni Host: Hon. Robert Thompson L’93, G’93

→ Orbis Technologies Alumni Host: Hon. J. Jeremiah Mohneny L’69

→ Securities and Exchange Commission, Division of Trading and Markets Alumni Host: Kevin Belbey L’16, Sports Media Agent, Creative Artists Agency

→ US Department of Justice, National Security Division Alumni Host: Kevin Belbey L’16, Sports Media Agent, Creative Artists Agency

→ US Department of Justice, Office of Legal Policy Alumni Host: Kevin Belbey L’16, Sports Media Agent, Creative Artists Agency

→ US Department of Justice, Tax Division Alumni Host: Kevin Belbey L’16, Sports Media Agent, Creative Artists Agency

→ US Department of Justice, US Attorney’s Office for the District of Maryland, Southern Division Alumni Host: Kevin Belbey L’16, Sports Media Agent, Creative Artists Agency

NYCEx

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PhillyEx

→ York County (PA) District Attorney’s Office Alumni Host: Hon. Robert Thompson L’93, G’93

→ Department of Defense Alumni Host: Kevin Belbey L’16, Sports Media Agent, Creative Artists Agency

→ Philadelphia Office of Homeland Security Alumni Host: Kevin Belbey L’16, Sports Media Agent, Creative Artists Agency

→ Philadelphia City Solicitor’s Office Alumni Host: Kevin Belbey L’16, Sports Media Agent, Creative Artists Agency

→ Philadelphia City Solicitor’s Office Alumni Host: Kevin Belbey L’16, Sports Media Agent, Creative Artists Agency

→ Philadelphia MetroHealth Medical Center Alumni Host: Kevin Belbey L’16, Sports Media Agent, Creative Artists Agency

→ Philadelphia Police Department Alumni Host: Kevin Belbey L’16, Sports Media Agent, Creative Artists Agency

→ Philadelphia Law Department Alumni Host: Kevin Belbey L’16, Sports Media Agent, Creative Artists Agency

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Professor Terry Turnipseed—Faculty Director of Externship Programs—has stepped down as the Director of the Washington, DC, Externship Program after a spectacular five year tenure in that role.

To conveyed to develop students’ professional skills inside and outside the classroom in the capital’s diverse legal environment, DCEx was launched in January 2014. From the start, the program leveraged Professor Turnipseed’s substantial knowledge of DC as a graduate of Georgetown Law and a former wealth management and estate planning expert at Covington & Burling, Deloitte & Touche, and elsewhere.

With Professor Turnipseed’s guidance, over the past five years students have been given a taste of the capital’s unique legal and professional environment through placements at the White House, US Department of Justice, US Securities and Exchange Commission, FBI, NASA, United Nations, Planned Parenthood, Federal Communications Commission, and elsewhere, as well as at world-class law firms and consultancies such as Arnold & Porter; DLA Piper; K&L Gates, and Ernst & Young.

DCEx will build upon this strong tradition, drawing from Syracuse Law’s extensive Capital Region alumni community to offer unparalleled applied learning and networking experiences and to provide Distinguished Guest Lectures for “The Washington Lawyer” seminar program, another of Professor Turnipseed’s DCEx innovations.

As Ethan Parasoloth L’19 observes, “I will tell you, DCEx is a fantastic opportunity. Not only does it offer great networking opportunities, it gives you the chance to visit some of the most exclusive buildings and offices in the US!”
Clinic Director’s Report

“May You Live in Interesting Times”
By Robert Noaeu Associate Director, Office of Clinical Legal Education; Director, Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic; and Teaching Professor

The precise origin of the phrase “may you live in interesting times” is unknown, and it’s also unclear if it meant as a blessing or a curse. But whether a blessing or a curse, or a little bit of both, that phrase certainly has rung true for the student attorneys and directors of the College of Law’s eight clinics during the 2020–2021 academic year.

Below, we summarize some of the amazing work performed by our student attorneys and clinic directors during these interesting and challenging times. These summaries are just the tip of the iceberg for all that we have accomplished this past year. While the coronavirus pandemic has created significant obstacles, it also—as Associate Dean of Clinical and Experiential Education Deborah Kann wrote in last year’s Clinic Director’s Report—provided teachable moments and learning opportunities that will better prepare our student attorneys for legal practice in a post-pandemic world.

Why am I writing this year’s report rather than Professor Kann? It is because she has stepped down from her position as clinical program director due to a terminal illness diagnosis. Deb arrived at the College in the fall of 1989 when she started the Community Development Law Clinic. For the past 10 years, under her leadership as Associate Dean, the Office of Clinical Legal Education has added the Bankruptcy Clinic and the Betty and Michael D. Wohl Veterans Law Clinic, and the College dramatically expanded its experiential learning opportunities, consistent with new ABA and state requirements.

On top of her leadership of the College of Law’s clinical and experiential education, Deb has taught doctrinal courses in, among other things, Animal Law, Property, and Nonprofit Organizations Law, and she led three study abroad trips to South Africa.

“All of her colleagues in the Office of Clinical Legal Education will miss Deb’s camaraderie, leadership, and dedication to our clients and our students. No one more than me. And more importantly, the hundreds of students whom Deb has taught, guided, and mentored over the decades will remember her fondly and gratefully throughout their careers. To paraphrase another unattributable proverb, but one that perfectly encapsulates Deb’s tenure at the Syracuse Law: “She left it better than she found it.”

CLINIC REPORTS

Bankruptcy Clinic
Director: Adjunct Professor Lee E. Woodard

During 2020-2021, the Bankruptcy Clinic produced results for its clients despite challenges presented by the coronavirus pandemic. Various legal aid societies and numerous other sources continued to refer clients and bankruptcy courts continued to conduct hearings and process filings virtually. Appearing in court or at meetings of creditors virtually presented its own challenges, such as having clients sign petitions and schedules and then getting the originals filed with the court. A combination of Zoom, FaceTime, phone, e-mail, and regular mail was used, and the clinic was able to file all its cases.

With in-person instruction starting again in fall 2021, student attorneys are looking forward to interacting with clients directly, sitting down with them to go through their financial information world and helping them create a fresh start.

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Children’s Rights and Family Law Clinic
Director: Professor Suzette Meléndez

Despite the pandemic—and perhaps because of it—the Children’s Rights and Family Law Clinic (CRC) was hard at work this past academic year with students engaged in the active representation of their clients even while the courts had to severely reduce the matters heard.

CRC students were able to finalize an adoption for a family that had taken in a teenager after a very unstable and abusive childhood and was now adopting him as an adult after 18 years. The whole family showed up in the Zoom courtroom for the event.

The Clinic was able to process divorce matters in multiple counties. In one of our cases, we are resolving the divorce for a client experiencing debilitating PTSD, who was referred to us by the VLC. VLC Law Fellow Matthew Bulris was a critical bridge in forming a successful attorney/client relationship. The CRC also helped a young mother regain significant custodial rights and parenting time for her child after the mother successfully recovered from a drug addiction that led to a jail sentence. Additionally, the CRC engaged in representations that required significant research and detailed written analysis seeking legal options for our clients about how best to move their cases forward once courts resume normal activity.

Our clients retained us for the following matters:
• Joint tenancy issues and options for a partition action for an unmarried couple
• Bankruptcy issues related to marriage
• Issues of property division when workers’ compensation settlement proceeds were used to buy a marital home
• Inherited property and claim against the marital home purchased with said inheritance

Additionally, CRC students assisted clients in an engumpment hearing arising from an erroneous determination after a child welfare inquiry; the preparation of annulment paperwork after a bigamous marriage was discovered, and the pursuit of an order of protection necessary to extract a woman and her children from a violent home. Students also participated in mediation training and observations in cases where alternative dispute resolution was offered.

Betty and Michael D. Wohl Veterans Legal Clinic
Executive Director: Professor Elizabeth Kubolka

Over the past year, the coronavirus pandemic has changed the practice of law, and student attorneys in the Betty and Michael D. Wohl Veterans Legal Clinic (VLC) have adapted and evolved to continue to best serve our community’s veterans.

While many courts closed or suspended operations, the US Department of Veterans Affairs continued processing disability claims, requiring students to find innovative ways to meet with clients and maintain good client relationships. In fact, the significant shift to virtual proceedings meant increased opportunities for student attorneys to participate in hearings and appeals. And because classes were delivered virtually, the clinic was able to integrate [Interactive students who benefited from experiential learning opportunities provided by the clinic. Student attorneys performed a broad array of administrative and court appeals to challenge wrongful denials of federal veterans’ benefits, adapting seamlessly to the VA’s tele-hearing format and regularly appearing before the Board of Veterans Appeals.

Student attorneys performed a broad array of administrative and court appeal actions to challenge wrongful denials of federal veterans’ benefits, adapting seamlessly to the VA’s tele-hearing format and regularly appearing before the Board of Veterans Appeals.

Betty and Michael D. Wohl Veterans Legal Clinic staff and students gather at the National Veterans Resource Center at Syracuse University in Spring 2021.

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Criminal Defense Clinic
Director: Professor Gary J. Popkes
The Criminal Defense Clinic (CDC) had several successes during the 2020-2021 academic year. Victoria Lestasse ’21 and Michael Stoianoff L’23 represented a client charged with a series of minor, victimless charges, mostly resulting from her substance abuse and mental health issues. After Stoianoff developed a motion based upon statements from her family and social workers detailing her mental and physical condition, the court agreed to dismiss all charges.

In another case, James Thieden L’21 and rising 3L Katherine Davis convinced the judge and prosecutor to reduce the charges and prevent the client from being in his family home. His mother wanted him home to help with the younger siblings while she cared for her ailing husband. As a result of the negotiated plea, no convictions were added to him for being in his family home.

Asadul Hossain L’21 and rising 3L Lilian Baah handled a case where the client’s will was contested by a younger sibling. The clients were both represented by students who were seeking end-of-life documents. One client’s situation was exacerbated for many older people, who, as they faced these challenges over the last year, were exacerbated for many older people. Student attorneys represented several patients residing in the long-term care unit at the Veterans’ Administration Hospital who were seeking end-of-life documents. One client’s situation exemplifies the challenges both clients and students faced. The client, who had advanced amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, wanted a will and power of attorney. He had no prior access to—nor ability to use—technology. With the assistance of a VA social worker, student attorneys Dianne Jahangani L’21 and Benjamin Kaufman L’22 met virtually with the client, whose health was deteriorating rapidly.

After several meetings, they drafted a will and arranged for a “virtual signing,” with final documents signed virtually, transmitted via email, and then virtually notarized pursuant to New York’s COVID-related executive orders. While Jahangani and Kaufman had intended to complete other legal tasks for the client, he unfortunately passed away within days of the will signing. As Jahangani and Kaufman wrote in their closing memo: “He was a wonderful client whom we had the pleasure of working with and ensuring that his final wishes were memorialized.”

In spring 2021, the CDC participated in launching the “Enhancing Services for Older Victims of Abuse and Financial Exploitation” project, a collaboration among Vera House, the Center for Court Innovation, Christopher Communities, and Syracuse University. A major goal of the project is to offer restorative justice options as an alternative to litigation for those impacted by elder financial exploitation. EHC and Elder Justice Fellow Allison Wisk are integral parts of this project, providing legal information, training, referrals, and limited representation.

Disability Rights Clinic
Director: Professor Michael A. Schwaretz
The following are five exemplary accomplishments of the Disability Rights Clinic (DRC) during the past year:
• DRC partnered with a Rochester, NY-based law firm to file a lawsuit against a franchise of the Kentucky Fried Chicken chain in the United States District Court for the Western District of New York, alleging violations of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act and New York state anti-discrimination law. The case concerns a Deaf driver who was refused service at the franchise’s pick-up window because he could not use the ordering kiosk. Initial mediation is mandatory.
• DRC joined a local non-governmental organization in defending a law suit brought by a roofing company against the clinic’s client, an elderly Deaf man, in Small Claims Court. The clinic, in turn, filed a discrimination claim against the company with the New York State Division of Human Rights, which found probable cause to go to a public hearing.
• DRC continues to advocate for snow removal and maintenance of sidewalks for wheelchair users in a suburb of Syracuse.
• An Institutional Review Board approval was obtained for a study of educational policies and practices involving members of the Deaf New American community.
• The clinic continues to advocate for accessible access to health care facilities for people with disabilities, including immigrants with disabilities.

Elder and Health Law Clinic
Director: Professor Mary Helen McNeal
Despite the many challenges of COVID-19, the Elder and Health Law Clinic (EHL) shifted quickly to virtual representation. Students executed wills, powers of attorney, health care proxies, and living wills; handled appeals of public benefit denials; assisted clients with minor probate issues; litigated a financial exploitation case; and represented family members seeking guardianship of parents with end-stage dementia.

As students learned the law, they simultaneously faced the challenges of virtual representation, including clients’ limited access to technology; limited ability to use technology; social isolation, and declining physical and mental health. While many people faced these challenges over the last year, they were exacerbated for many older people.

Student attorneys represented several patients residing in the long-term care unit at the Veterans’ Administration Hospital who were seeking end-of-life documents. One client’s situation exemplifies the challenges both clients and students faced. The client, who had advanced amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, wanted a will and power of attorney. He had no prior access to—or ability to use—technology. With the assistance of a VA social worker, student attorneys Dianne Jahangani L’21 and Benjamin Kaufman L’22 met virtually with the client, whose health was deteriorating rapidly.

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Low Income Taxpayer Clinic
Director: Professor Robert Nossau
In addition to its typical array of casework—such as helping clients obtain rightful refunds or fend off debilitating collection activity—student attorneys participated in the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic’s (LITC) First-ever Remote Tax Court Trial and increased their expertise in all three of our government’s pandemic-related stimulus payments. The trial involved a taxpayer’s claim that she had signed an Extension of Time to Assess Tax under duress. Student Attorney Meredith Wallen L’21 examined the taxpayer at trial while rising 3L Justin Lange and Michael Towey assisted with a post-trial briefing.

Regarding the stimulus payments, LITC helped numerous taxpayers obtain payments, which—for reasons ranging from a failure to file a return to having been fraudulently claimed by another taxpayer—they had wrongfully been denied. The clinic anticipates a similar tax activity in the coming year in connection with the expanded Child Tax Credit.
Get Ready to Boost the ’Cuse! on October 7!

Are you a VIP (Very Influential Person)? We think you are! We are currently recruiting Boost the ’Cuse 2021 influencers in preparation for this year’s day of giving on October 7.

Sign up as a VIP to recruit friends and help spread the word about #BoostCuse, and we’ll send some cool swag your way! Visit boostcuse.syr.edu/influencer to help us Boost the ’Cuse Go Orange!

Some Events May Include:

- Supreme Court Preview Afternoon Lecture and Panel Discussion (CLE)
  Guest Lecturer: David G. Savage, Supreme Court Correspondent for the Los Angeles Times.
  Title: The Supreme Court Turning Right Again

- Syracuse Law Honors Awards Ceremony
  Honor the achievements of distinguished members of the College of Law family.

- Fourth Annual Alumni of Color Awards Ceremony
  Attend and celebrate this year’s BLSA William Herbert Johnson Legacy Award and the LALSA Legacy Award recipients and the Inaugural Asian Pacific Islander Legacy of Excellence recipient.

- Your Favorite Programs Return!
  Register at alumniweekend.syr.edu, email Kristen Duggleby, Director of Alumni Relations, at kduggle@law.syr.edu or call 315.443.9532.

- Additional Events Include
  > Advocacy Honor Society, Disability Law and Policy Program, and LL.M. Alumni Reunions
  > Virtually Litigating: Pros and Cons of Litigation Practices Developed During COVID-19 (CLE)
  > Supporting Veterans in Our Community and at the College of Law

Please Check lawreunion.syr.edu for Latest Event News.
Forgotten Intellectual Property Lore: Creativity, Entrepreneurship, and Intellectual Property
Professor Shubha Ghosh (Editor)
Edward Elgar, 2021

Forgotten Intellectual Property Lore explores forgotten disputes over intellectual property and the ways in which creative people and sovereigns have managed these disputes throughout the centuries. With a focus on reform, the book raises important questions about the resilience of legal rules and challenges the methodology behind traditional legal analyses. Focusing on lore and traditions, Shubha Ghosh brings together expert contributors who incorporate into their analyses contextual understandings that are rooted in history, sociology, political science, and literary studies.

Real Estate (4th Ed.)
Professor Robin Paul Malloy (With James C. Smith)
Wolters Kluwer, 2021

Part of Wolters Kluwer’s Emanuel Law Outlines series, Real Estate offers a comprehensive study guide to a spectrum of real estate law topics, including transactions and markets; types of brokers, contracts; risk management, liability; escrow; titles and deeds; contract remedies (damages, forfeiture, slander of title, and tort); land descriptions and surveys; public land records; mortgage products and obligations; foreclosure; and commercial real estate matters.

Faculty Books

Disability Law and Policy
University Professor Peter D. Blanck
West Academic, 2020

Disability Law and Policy provides an overview of the major themes and insights in disability law. It is also a compelling compendium of stories about how our legal system has responded to the needs of impacted individuals.

The year 2020 marked the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. During the past three decades, disability law and policy, including the law of the ADA itself, have evolved dramatically in the United States and internationally.

As the book illustrates, walls of inaccessibility, exclusion, segregation, stigma, and discrimination have been torn down, often brick-by-brick. But the work continues, many times led by advocates who have never known a world without the ADA and are now building on the efforts of those who came before them.

Mastering Criminal Procedure (2nd Ed.)
Professor Sanjay K. Chhablani, et al.
Carolina Academic Press, 2020

Mastering Criminal Procedure, Volume 1: The Investigative Stage provides a concise treatment of the relevant federal constitutional doctrines that guide and constrain interactions between the police and individuals in the investigation of criminal conduct.

Volume 2: The Adjudicatory Stage focuses on the charging and trial process of a criminal case from the filing of charges against a defendant through the pre-trial and trial stages of the prosecution, culminating with post-conviction proceedings.

The Specter of Dictatorship: Judicial Enabling of Presidential Power
University Professor David M. Driesen
Stanford University Press, 2021

In The Specter of Dictatorship, David Driesen analyzes the chief executive’s role in the democratic decline of Hungary, Poland, and Turkey and argues that an insufficiently constrained presidency is one of the most important systemic threats to democracy.

Driesen urges the United States to learn from the mistakes of these failing democracies. Their experiences suggest, Driesen shows, that the US Supreme Court must eschew reliance on and expansion of the “unitary executive theory” and apply a less deferential approach to presidential authority, invoked to protect national security and combat emergencies, than it has in recent years.

Ultimately, Driesen argues that concern about the loss of democracy should play a major role in jurisprudence because the loss of democracy can prove irreversible. As autocracy spreads throughout the world, maintaining democracy has become an urgent matter.

Advanced Introduction to Law and Entrepreneurship
Professor Shubha Ghosh
Edward Elgar, 2020

This Advanced Introduction considers the multiple ways in which law and entrepreneurship intertwine. It explores key areas defining the field—including lawyering, innovation policy, intellectual property, as well as economics and finance—to enhance both legal and pedagogical concepts.

Key features include: a survey of critical scholarly articles in the field of law and entrepreneurship; analysis of challenges to legal professions in the new technological environment; and a tracing of the roots of entrepreneurship and law and the scholarly study of intellectual property.

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Faculty Publications

Iaci Gallagher
Professor of Law
Law Review and Other Scholarly Articles
Here’s How We, What’s Like Us, Some Thoughts on the Future of Legal Writing in American Law Schools, 24 J. LEGAL WRITING INST. 29 (2020).

Shabina Ghosh
Crandall-Melvin Professor of Law
Director, Syracuse Intellectual Property Law Institute
Law Review and Other Scholarly Articles

Lauryrn P. Gouldin
Crandall-Melvin Professor of Law
Director, Syracuse Civics Initiative
Law Review and Other Scholarly Articles
Reports, News, and Commentary

Roy Gutterman
Director, Tully Center for Free Speech
Associate Professor, Newhouse School
Professor of Law (by courtesy appointment)
Law Review and Other Scholarly Articles
Assaults on Press Freedom, Here and Abroad, Endanger Reports, News, and Commentary
leftrightarrow

Paula C. Johnson
Professor of Law
Co-Director, Cold Case Justice Initiative
Law Review and Other Scholarly Articles
Reports, News, and Commentary
leftrightarrow

Arlene S. Kanter
Lauryn P. Gouldin
Professor of Disability Studies,
Faculty Director of International Programs
Director, Disability Law and Policy Program
Law Review and Other Scholarly Articles
The Rights to Vote is “the Essence of a Democratic Society,” Exercise It., SYRACUSE POST-STANDARD, October 25, 2020 at E1.

Laura J. & L. Douglas Meredith Professor for Teaching Excellence
Professor Emeritus William C. Banks: NBC News (civil-military relations), The Wall Street Journal (President Trump’s Second Impeachment).

Professor Jonathan Martinis: Newsweek (climate change and extremism); The New Yorker (long-term care reform).

Professor Nina Kohn: The Washington Post (sedition laws); Reuters (voter fraud).

Professor Roy Gutterman L’00: NBC News (bail reform); NBC News (NRA bankruptcy).

Professor Doron Dorfman: Slate (video game accessibility).

Professor Greg Germain: CBS News (NRA bankruptcy).


Professor Mark Nevitt: Associated Press (Gov. Andrew Cuomo); Associated Press, The Washington Post (defaamination); Axios, CNN (free speech); The Guardian (sedition laws); Reuters (voter fraud), The Washington Post (news leaks)


Professor Jonathan Martida: The New Yorker (Britney Spears and conservatorship).

Professor L. Douglas Meredith Professor for Teaching Excellence
Professor Mark Nevitt: Newsweek (climate change and national security); The Washington Post (domestic extremism); Women’s Wear Daily (climate change and the fashion industry).


Stop Press!
During the academic year, College of Law experts appeared in more than 1,500 local, national, and international news outlets, helping to bring a measured, educated perspective to sometimes noisy debates, as well as boosting the College’s academic reputation.

AMONG THE TOP MEDIA HITS OF 2020-2021:
Professor Emeritus William C. Banks: NBC News (civil-military relations), The Wall Street Journal (President Trump’s Second Impeachment).

Professor Emily Brown L’09: Voice of America (Amazon union drive).

Professor Doron Dorfman: Slate (video game accessibility).

Professor Greg Germain: CBS News (NRA bankruptcy).

Professor L. Douglas Meredith Professor for Teaching Excellence
Professor Mark Nevitt: Associated Press (Gov. Andrew Cuomo); Associated Press, The Washington Post (defaamination); Axios, CNN (free speech); The Guardian (sedition laws); Reuters (voter fraud), The Washington Post (news leaks)


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An Impressive Year for Legal Scholarship

Re-affirming Syracuse Law’s position as a leader in cutting-edge legal research, several top 50 law journals accepted or published faculty articles during 2020-2021. Addressing a spectrum of topics—including criminal justice reform, health care, long-term care, climate change, and zoning—notable placements include:


**Professor Lauren Gouldin:** “Reforming Pecuniary Decision Making,” Wash Forest Law Review (2020).

**Professor Mark Nevit:** “The Remaking of the Supreme Court: Implications for Climate Change Litigation and Regulation,” Cordova Law Review (2020).

**Professor Danielle Stokes:** “Zoning for Climate Change,” Minnesota Law Review (2021).


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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’s 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’ve unearthed a fascinating photo, or what actually appears to be a tearsheet from a publication.

Possibly a classroom scene from White or MacNaughton halls, there is no information accompanying this tearsheet, so if you know the names of any of the students pictured and/or when the photo was taken, please email Director of Alumni Relations Kristen Duggleby at klduggle@syr.edu, and we’ll publish what we discover in a future issue and on our social media.

Our Back Pages

HELP US TO CONTINUE OUR EXCELLENCE IN 21st CENTURY LEGAL EDUCATION

Supporting the College of Law Annual Fund with unrestricted dollars is the most direct way you can back the mission of your alma mater, impact the next generation of lawyers, and help improve our ranking and reputation.

Our Annual Fund enables us to recruit and retain the best and brightest with the financial resources they need to pursue a career in law. The Annual Fund also helps underwrite our core programs and innovate new opportunities, to ensure our students receive a timely, robust, and practical legal education that propels their extraordinary careers.

YOUR GIFT TO THE ANNUAL FUND WILL HELP US TO …

Support leading edge research—such as the Burton Blatt Institute’s exploration of disability workplace accommodations (p.29) and the Institute for Security Policy and Law’s inquiry into AI and “human-machine teaming” (p.32).

Underwrite faculty excellence—to see that faculty members’ published scholarship (starting on p.48) continues to raise the College’s profile, attract ambitious students, and innovate the law.

Provide students with first class experiential opportunities—such as our busy Clinical Program and our ever-expanding Externship Program, which welcomes a new Director on p.42.

Raise the Advocacy Program’s profile—and build on last year’s successes both competing in and hosting national and international trial competitions (see p.26).

Visit law.syr.edu/giving today to Make a Gift.


Thank you for your support!
We can never say it enough—your support, input, and leadership are making a huge impact. Whether it’s our world-class faculty, our high-performing Advocacy Program, or our forward-leaning curriculum, we have much to celebrate even as we improve, adapt, and innovate.

Philanthropic giving is a key factor in reaching our shared goals. A gift to the College of Law Annual Fund is one of the most significant and direct ways you can influence College of Law outcomes. By donating to the Law Annual Fund, you support every aspect of Syracuse Law, including faculty recruitment, our world-renowned research institutes, classroom technology, our expanding Externship Program, the Advocacy Program, the law reviews, and our law clinics.

Your gift is an investment in the future of your College and an investment in tomorrow’s generation of lawyers and leaders.

Together, we are making a difference. Thank you!

Contact Sophie Dagenais, Assistant Dean for Advancement and External Affairs, at 315.443.1964 or sdagenai@syr.edu to make a donation.