New dean becomes youngest woman ever to lead U.S. law school
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COVER STORY

Jocelyn Benson, the Law School’s newly appointed dean, hopes to inspire Wayne Law students through hands-on opportunities and promote law degrees as a path to service. Read the cover story on Page 26.
SAVE THE DATE

Class of 1964 – 50th reunion weekend

Friday Sept. 12
5:30 p.m. – Class dinner and Detroit Tigers vs. Cleveland Indians, Comerica Park
Tickets: $75 per person

Saturday, Sept. 13
11 a.m. – Continental breakfast and Detroit Revitalization Tour by D:Hive
Tickets: $25
4:30 p.m. – Reception and photo at old law school, Rands House, followed by dinner at Detroit Historical Museum
Tickets: $150

Sunday, Sept. 14
10 a.m. – Brunch at Wayne Law
Tickets: $25
Get details and buy tickets: law.wayne.edu/1964 or 313-577-6199

Class of 1984 – 30th reunion

Saturday, Oct. 18
7 p.m.
Detroit Institute of Arts
Dinner and cash bar
Tickets: $75 per person
Get details and buy tickets: law.wayne.edu/1984 or 313-577-9238

Class of 2004 – 10th reunion

Saturday, Nov. 29
6:30 p.m.
Detroit Historical Museum
Reception
Afterglow with beer and pizza at Circa Saloon
Tickets: $75 per person or $125 per couple
Get details and buy tickets: law.wayne.edu/2004 or 313-577-6199

Recent Grads Reunion
(Classes of 2010 through 2014)

Friday, Nov. 7
7 p.m. to midnight
Bucharest & Park Bar
Dinner and two drink tickets
Tickets: $40
Get details and buy tickets: law.wayne.edu/recent or 313-577-6199

James K. Robinson Scholarship Event

Friday, Sept. 26
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Home of Rich and Patty Rossman, 27 Oakland Park Blvd., Pleasant Ridge
Hors d’oeuvres and drinks
Donations requested to James K. Robinson Scholarship Fund
RSVP: law.wayne.edu/robinson2014
Letter from Dean Jocelyn Benson

Along with the Summer 2014 issue of The Wayne Lawyer, I’m excited to share with you numerous accomplishments from the Law School in the past few months.

In March, we celebrated that Wayne Law moved into the top 100, jumping 18 spots to No. 87, in U.S. News & World Report’s list of Best Law Schools. This is the Law School’s best ranking in nearly 15 years and represents a climb of 34 spots in just the past four years. Our 18-spot increase from last year’s ranking of 105 is one of the largest jumps of any law school in the rankings.

Our bar passage rates also continue to climb, with 76 percent of graduates who took the exam in February passing, besting our February 2013 passage rate of 70 percent and surpassing the state average of 64 percent. The February 2014 rate is before appeals, so it could be higher once decisions on appeals are made. You can read complete details about our February bar passage rates on Page 6.

Just as this magazine was going to press, we got even more great news.

Wayne Law was recognized as a Best Value law school for 2014 by The National Jurist and its sister publication, preLaw magazine.

Fifty-three law schools were named to the list. Wayne Law was the only Michigan law school recognized. We last were named to the list in 2010.

Criteria for selection includes price of tuition, student debt accumulation, bar passage rate, cost of living and – given the greatest weight – employment success.

As the newly appointed permanent dean, I am honored to lead the Law School at this important time.

These outside measurements validate the quality of the education we provide to our students every day. It shows in the consistently high bar passage rates of our students and the fact that our graduates have one of the highest employment rates in the state.

We are solidifying Wayne Law’s role as the premier public-interest law school in the Midwest as we continue growing our civil rights, entrepreneurship, environmental and international programs, as well as their related clinics and other hands-on learning opportunities.

All of this we do to ensure we are training the next generation of lawyers, advocates and leaders to make an impact with their careers and in their communities.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Benson
Dean
Six alumni named among area’s top circuit court judges

Six Wayne Law alumni were named among the top circuit court judges in the metropolitan area by DBusiness magazine in its January/February edition.

The publication polled 18,200 attorneys in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw and Livingston counties, asking for nominations for top circuit court judges based on criteria such as integrity, knowledge of the law, efficiency and judicial temperament.

Of the top 21 judges named, nearly 30 percent are Wayne Law graduates.

They are:

- Hon. Timothy P. Connors, ‘80, Washtenaw County
- Hon. Nanci J. Grant, ‘89, Oakland County
- Hon. Connie Marie Kelley, ‘81, Wayne County
- Hon. Peter J. Maceroni, ‘65, Macomb County
- Hon. Wendy Lynn Potts, ‘77, Oakland County
- Hon. Joan E. Young, ‘74, Oakland County

Alumni share expertise through speaker series

Wayne Law’s Alumni Speaker Series continued with sessions in January and February featuring six alumni sharing their experiences and advice with students.


February’s event, “Sports and Entertainment Law,” featured Howard Hertz, ’76, Hertz Schram PC’s Entertainment Practice Group; Jason Hillman, ’01, Cleveland Cavaliers basketball organization; Gregory Reed, ’74 (J.D.), ’78 (LL.M.), Gregory J. Reed & Associates.

The Alumni Speaker Series is part of Wayne Law’s efforts to link alumni with students and build professional connections. The series will continue in the fall.
New lecture series inspired by leadership summit

Wayne Law introduced a Good Governance Lecture Series to provide a public forum and engage students in addressing critical issues impacting southeast Michigan.

The series was inspired by the October leadership summit, “Building an Honest and Open Government in Detroit: Why Public Integrity Matters?” at Wayne Law. That event was moderated by Bankole Thompson, an author and editor of the Michigan Chronicle, who leads and moderates the lecture series, as well.

The inaugural lecture in January featured former Detroit federal bankruptcy Judge Ray Reynolds Graves, who spoke on “Bankruptcy and Detroit Restructuring: Can the Court Guarantee Financial Viability?”

The February lecture in the series, “Municipal Law and Civil Rights: Spotlight on Detroit Government,” was in honor of Black History Month and featured Melvin “Butch” Hollowell, corporation counsel for the city of Detroit and general counsel for the Detroit branch of the NAACP, and Portia Roberson, ’93, director of Detroit’s Civil Rights and Justice Division who served as Detroit’s corporation counsel under former Mayor Dave Bing.

The lecture series will continue in the fall.

Benjamin Crump, the attorney who represented the family of Trayvon Martin, discussed reasons for seeking the repeal of Michigan’s stand-your-ground law April 14 at Wayne Law. Crump, a Florida civil rights attorney, presented “Should Michigan’s Stand Your Ground Law Be Repealed? Ask Trayvon Martin,” sharing his and the Martin family’s reasons for the repeal of the stand-your-ground law not only in the state of Florida but in 23 other states, including Michigan, that have similar laws. Crump spoke as part of his crusade to amend stand-your-ground laws around the country. The event was sponsored by Wayne Law’s Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights, Wolverine Bar Association and Association of Black Judges in Michigan.

MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/crump2014
Thirty-one students from Cass Technical High School visited Wayne Law on March 7 for Discover Law Day. Keynote speaker was Terrence Thompson, ’08. Discover Law Day is about encouraging African-Americans and other minorities to go to law school and become part of the justice system and the legal profession. The event was sponsored by Wayne Law’s Admissions Office, WSU GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) and Wayne Law’s Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/discover2014

Wayne Law’s state bar exam passage rate continues to climb, with 76 percent of graduates who took the exam in February passing. The rate is before appeals, so it could be higher once decisions on appeals are made. The 76 percent rate is 6 points higher than Wayne Law’s February 2013 passage rate of 70 percent (after appeals) and higher than this year’s state average of 64 percent. Wayne Law’s passage rate is 6 points higher than Michigan State University’s passage rate (70 percent) and second only to the University of Michigan’s (85 percent).

For first-time takers of the exam, Wayne Law graduates’ passage rate was 87 percent – again higher than that of other law schools except for the University of Michigan (91 percent). Repeat test-takers from Wayne Law had a 70 percent passage rate, the highest in the state.

Wayne Law’s The Journal of Law in Society, in partnership with the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights, presented its 2014 symposium, “Forgotten from the Start: The Law’s Failing of the Urban Mentally Ill.” The event March 21 examined the isolation and stigmatization of mental illness within societal structures to shed light on a larger narrative about how cultural norms, institutions and administrative structures fail to adequately address the needs of the mentally ill community. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/journal2014

Wayne Law’s bar exam passage rate jumps 6 points for February

Wayne Law Dean Jocelyn Benson said she’s encouraged by the good news and pleased to see that the Law School’s commitment to offer extra help to graduates taking the test is showing results. “Last year, we hired a director of bar preparation to offer additional assistance to alums preparing for the test,” she said. “We have more plans in the works and are thrilled to begin to see the positive results of our initiatives.”

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Auto safety pioneer Joan Claybrook presented “GM and NHTSA: Who is Covering for Whom?” on April 2 at Wayne Law. The presentation served as the second installment of the annual Dean A. Robb Public Interest Lecture Series, which is presented by Wayne Law’s Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights. The series is made possible by the Royal Oak law firm of Pitt McGehee Palmer & Rivers PC and supported by the Public Justice Foundation.

Michael Pitt, ’74, is managing partner of the firm. The series honors Robb, ’49, noted civil rights attorney and social activist. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/robb2014

The Wayne Law Dean’s Office presented “Detroit’s Renaissance: The Intersection Between Economic Development, Entrepreneurship and the Law” on April 9. About 70 people attended the panel discussion. Panelists, from left, were Gary Torgow, ’85, chairman of Talmer Bancorp Inc., chairman of Talmer West Bank and president and founder of the Sterling Group; Paul Brown, ’00, a partner at Ann Arbor- and Silicon Valley-based Michigan eLab venture capital fund; Gabe Karp, ’94, a partner at Detroit Venture Partners and former executive vice president and general counsel of ePrize Inc.; and Josh Linkner, CEO and managing partner of Detroit Venture Partners and founder and former CEO of ePrize. Dean Jocelyn Benson was moderator. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/renaissance2014

Wayne Law Review honors alumna Valerie Newman

Valerie Newman, ’92, was honored May 7 by Wayne Law Review with the Richard J. Barber Alumni Achievement Award.

Newman is an assistant defender of the State Appellate Defender Office in Detroit. In 2011, she argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in Lafler v. Cooper, resulting in an opinion clarifying that the constitutional right to effective assistance of counsel includes guilty plea negotiations. She also litigated People v. Thomas (and Raymond) Highers, resulting in the release of two men who each had served 25 years for crimes they didn’t commit.

She is an active member and former president of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan and National Lawyers Guild, as well as the former chair of two NLG national conventions.

The Barber award, named in honor of Wayne Law Review’s first editor-in-chief, is given annually to an alum who has advanced the reputations of Wayne Law Review and the Law School through his or her service to the legal community.

Other honors presented included:
• Sunita Kini “Hard Hat” Award for a publication staff member – Maryam Karnib, senior articles editor who graduated in May.
• Richard B. Gushee Award for best student Note selected for publication – Josh Zeman, a second-year student.
• Other Notes selected for publication – second-year students Kiefer Cox, Nathan Inks, Brittney Kohn, Fatima Mansour, Kathryn Pavlicki, Rachel Pinch, Rob Schwartz and Zachary Zurek.
Labor lawyer fights for WORKERS’ RIGHTS

From the beginning, he’s never shied away from challenging authority

**Bruce Miller**, who served as attorney for the Labor Hall of Fame and is general counsel for the Metro AFL-CIO in Detroit, believes in the rights of working people.

His law firm, Miller Cohen PLC, represents workers and labor unions. It doesn’t represent employers or businesses. Period.

“Being a lawyer to the labor movement is my calling,” Miller, ’54, wrote in his 2005 memoirs for his children.

“It provides me with an opportunity to be part of a large, vital movement that struggles constantly to make gains for working people, and hang onto those gains. Mine is an exciting calling and it has given my life meaning. The values that led me to be a labor lawyer led me to be a civil rights lawyer. Thus, everything I have done in my workaday life has been done in order to bring rights to people and strengthen the rights of people. It’s a pretty good way to make a living.”

Judge **Avern Cohn** of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan is familiar with Miller and his legal work.

“He’s an excellent labor lawyer, and he has strong philosophical beliefs,” the judge said. “When he represents a client, he always believes in the client’s cause. This comes out in his appearances in court. There’s a sincerity of purpose with which he practices law.”

**Early advocacy**

Miller, 86, grew up as a scrappy Jewish kid in Brooklyn, N.Y., who never shied away from a fight. Even as a high school student at Straubenmueller Textile High School in Manhattan in the early 1940s, he was a civil rights advocate. When race riots broke out in his school lunchroom, where the student body was evenly split into Jewish, Italian and African-American teens, he formed the Brotherhood Club – the first interracial club in the school. He went on to form the Interracial Youth Committee, an organization that spread to many schools throughout New York City.

Miller was popular with classmates but nearly always in trouble with school administrators for flaunting their authority, he said.

After high school and during World War II, Miller joined the Merchant Marine and had a series of colorful adventures as a sailor. After the war, he took a job in a Long Island, N.Y., factory where his stepfather was a foreman.

“It was a non-union shop,” Miller said. “I decided to try to change that fact.”

Shortly thereafter, he was fired. He continued his union-organizing efforts anyway and decided he needed to go to college to have better employment options. The only way he could afford to do that was to join the U.S. Army so he could eventually use the GI Bill to finance his education.
“My basic hostility to authority and the Army made it impossible for me to get all that I should have out of what otherwise could have been a positive experience,” he wrote.

Educational experiences

He eventually was mustered out of the Army and made a beeline to Olivet College, a Michigan school he had heard about as a place where students were admitted based on interviews. There, he quickly organized a student strike over the firing of a popular professor. The effort failed, and Miller left Olivet and moved to Detroit with friends to get a job.

After a while, with money earned, he went to Mexico to attend Mexico City College, where he did well academically, had more adventures and wrote articles under a pseudonym for the weekly newspaper of the Workers Party. With a bachelor’s degree in hand and the goal of being a labor lawyer, he sent applications to five American law schools.

“I was rejected by four,” Miller said. “The only school that offered hope was Wayne State University (then Wayne University) in Detroit. Wayne didn’t respond at all.”

He arrived in Detroit on the last day of registration for law school.

“When I showed up at Wayne, they told me that they never heard of me,” Miller said. “Apparently my application was not received. They said that they would accept me provisionally ... The whole thing was pure luck. If they had received my application, they would have rejected me like all the rest.”

During his second year at Wayne Law, Miller learned why he was so roundly rejected.

“I was registering, and the person conducting the registration asked me to get my file for her,” Miller said. “I got it and thumbed through it on my way back to her. I saw a letter from Dean Murray at Mexico City College.”

The dean had written in Miller’s transcript file that he was an excellent student.

“However, I feel it incumbent upon me to inform anyone who comes in contact with him that he is a troublemaker,” the dean wrote.

Miller completed law school, and he’s been an advocate of Wayne Law and WSU ever since. His late wife, Edna, was a professor in the WSU School of Social Work. Two of his children, E. Powell Miller, who serves on Wayne Law’s Board of Visitors, and Ann Miller are Wayne Law alumni (1985 and 1989, respectively), and his third child, Elizabeth Miller, earned a degree in theater at WSU.

Ever the fighter

Miller’s career as a labor and civil rights attorney has been as colorful as his early years, and, like the boy he once was, the man has never shied from a fight.

“In the fight for civil rights as attorney for the Detroit Branch NAACP, I was successful in protecting citizens from police abuse; caused the first agreement for goals and timetables at First Federal Savings and Loan Association resulting in the first integration of the downtown banking community; outlawed the notorious Poindexter Homeowner’s Ordinance, which was designed to segregate the city of Detroit; and won many other fights and victories in the struggle for civil rights,” Miller said.

He has served as general counsel for the Michigan AFL-CIO and as an attorney for and chairman of the Legal Redress Committee for the Detroit Branch of the NAACP. He’s held a variety of positions in the Michigan Democratic Party, including chairman of the Wayne County Democratic Committee. He has written and lectured prolifically on labor issues, been listed in Best Lawyers in the United States and won many awards.

“I was a radical, but a special kind of radical,” Miller said.

Students eligible to participate in the ceremony included 170 for juris doctor degrees and five for master of laws degrees. The ceremony was in the Jack White Theater at The Masonic Temple of Detroit.

A special posthumous certificate was presented in memory of third-year student Tiané Brown. Accepting the certificate was Brown’s oldest daughter, 15-year-old Nina Ross.

Keynote speaker was Brian A. Stevenson, founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Ala., and a professor at New York University School of Law. Stevenson received an honorary doctor of laws degree from WSU at the ceremony.

Also speaking were Eugene Driker, Wayne Law class of 1961 and a member of the WSU Board of Governors; WSU President M. Roy Wilson; Wayne Law Dean Jocelyn Benson; Kevin Kresch, president of the Wayne Law Student Board of Governors; and Cesare A. Sclafani, Wayne Law Class of 2008, vice president of the Law Alumni Association.

Receiving awards at the ceremony were professors of the year Christopher C. Lund and Noah D. Hall.

MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/commencement2014
How Wayne Law is working to change the Detroit bankruptcy agenda

By Peter Hammer

In the midst of bankruptcy proceedings in Detroit, the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at Wayne Law is exploring strategies to create a new urban agenda for American cities.

The center – with partners the Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society of the University of California-Berkeley and MOSES (Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength), a congregation-based group for social justice – began the effort by hosting a conference. “Beyond Bankruptcy: Organizing for Change in Distressed Cities” on April 7 and 8 included nearly 30 invited experts and activists to help lead the conversation.

The conference was meant to change the way people think about bankruptcy and municipal distress. These are symptoms of problems with deep structural causes, often overlaid with racial conflict and decades of federal and state neglect of cities. Our hope is to stimulate thinking about new alternatives.

Key takeaways are summed up in a report on the conference, which kicked off a new Keith Center initiative – “Project Launch: Beyond Bankruptcy: Building Power and Resilience.” More details about the conference and the ongoing progress of the initiative can be found at www.beyondbankruptcy.info.

Key takeaways:

- Alternative strategies are needed to address fundamental causes of municipal distress and build community power in the process.

- Current narratives address effects, not causes, inhibiting durable solutions for cities and misplacing responsibility.

- Reframing discussions on municipal bankruptcy and financial distress must be more responsible. These discussions must include the impacts of historic patterns, including deindustrialization and racial discrimination, particularly in employment and housing. Such responsible discussions are vital for cities to emerge from current challenges with equity and greater resilience.

- A system generating and supporting racial inequality inhibits economic growth and activity. Public systems to support city services and pensions stimulate the economy.

Professor Peter Hammer is director of Wayne Law’s Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights.

Detroit youth offer solutions to issues facing city at Wayne Law symposium

Matthew Z. Robb, a first-year law student, speaks May 9 during “Why the D? Detroit Youth Offer Solutions” at Wayne Law. With him are high school students from the Cody Academy of Public Leadership.

Leaders and residents heard solutions for critical issues facing Detroit from high school students of the Cody Academy of Public Leadership during a symposium May 9 at Wayne Law.

“Why the D? Detroit Youth Offer Solutions” was hosted by Wayne Law’s Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights and consisted of presentations and breakout sessions on these key topics: business and employment, education, housing and neighborhoods, and public services.

The symposium featured two dozen juniors and seniors from Cody. Over several months in winter semester, 21 Wayne Law students volunteered their time to mentor the Cody students in formulating a set of problems and communicating them through research, data, personal testimonials and solutions for growth.

First-year student Matthew Z. Robb, who taught civics and economics last year at Cody, coordinated the Law School’s involvement with Professor Peter J. Hammer, director of the Keith Center.
permanent art installation honors
rosa parks, judge damon j. keith

A striking, color-saturated art installation of 26 wood, fiber and fabric totems opened June 3 at Wayne Law to honor civil rights pioneers Rosa Parks and Judge Damon J. Keith.

A Garland of Praise Songs for Rosa Parks honors Parks and Keith, LL.M., ’56, for their integrity and courage. The installation was created by Lester Johnson, a native Detroiter who retired after 35 years as professor of fine arts at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit.

The art installation, which will be permanently exhibited in the Law School’s Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights, is made possible by a grant from the DTE Energy Foundation. The exhibit will be open for viewing from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Admission is free.

According to a description of the installation, “The rich fabric is significant. It represents traditional African cloth worn by Africans and those of African descent. It embodies community, uniting the fabric makers, the art itself and the viewers. It honors Parks’ vocation as a seamstress. And it highlights the brilliance of creation: Just as a seamstress builds bolts of cloth from threads, African Americans have created community, livelihoods and spirituality despite exclusion and injustice. Judge Keith exemplifies how African Americans have interwoven intelligence, bravery and tenacity to achieve greatness despite the odds. The fabric also illuminates the kinship between art and the civil rights movement, inviting us to contemplate the imagery, objects and narratives of social justice that exist outside courtrooms.”

Keith Center hosts screening of award-winning documentary

Wayne Law’s Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights on Feb. 26 hosted a free screening of American Promise, an award-winning documentary that focuses on education issues faced by African-American boys.

The event included an opening reception, screening and discussion after the film, which was presented in honor of Black History Month and as a way to foster dialogue and cultivate ongoing change in the community.

American Promise spans 13 years as Joe Brewster and Michèle Stephenson, middle-class African-American parents in Brooklyn, N.Y., turn the cameras on their son, Idris, and his best friend, Seun, who make their way through one of the most prestigious private schools in the country. Chronicling the boys’ divergent paths from kindergarten through high school graduation at Manhattan’s Dalton School, the documentary presents complicated truths about America’s struggle to come of age on issues of race, class and opportunity.

A group of Wayne Law students took a Spring Break trip to the American South to meet with some of the country’s leading civil rights attorneys. Generous support from alumni allowed the Law School to cover all travel expenses for the students. The highlight of the trip was the opportunity to talk with Bryan Stevenson of the Equal Justice Initiative and Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center about their careers. The visit included stops at notable landmarks in Selma, Montgomery and Birmingham in Alabama that had an impact on the development of current federal civil rights laws. Leading the students on the trip was Dean Jocelyn Benson and Savala Nolan of Wayne Law’s Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights. Here, the group is shown on Selma’s Edmund Pettus Bridge, site of the Bloody Sunday conflict March 7, 1965, when armed officers attacked about 600 peaceful civil rights demonstrators attempting to march to the state capital of Montgomery. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/springtrip2014
Recent graduate already MAKING AN IMPACT in community

Advocacy, mentoring help foster care alumnus to pay it forward

Robert Thomas, a December graduate of Wayne Law, says his business law studies prepared him to lead in the community – something he got a head start on while still a law student.

Thomas grew up in multiple foster homes in Detroit as a ward of the state. Today, he serves as leader of Foster Care Alumni of America, Michigan chapter, an advocacy group he founded during his second year at Wayne Law. He serves on the Foster Care Review Board administered by the State Court Administrative Office of the Michigan Supreme Court. He also became a member of the Detroit Board of Zoning Appeals while a law student.

Before he decided to go to law school, Thomas earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering and a master’s degree in industrial technology for manufacturing systems from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. He went to work as a mechanical engineer, as a patent examiner with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and then as a senior mechanical engineer and project manager with Alion Science and Technology.

He’s pursuing a 10-month weekend fellowship in Michigan Political Leadership Program’s Institute for Public Policy and Social Research at Michigan State University and studying to take the patent bar exam in July and the state bar exam in February.

Getting hands-on experience

“Wayne Law opened doors and gave me opportunities to lead,” said Thomas, who lives in Detroit. “I honed a lot of leadership skills while at Wayne Law, especially public speaking.”

He particularly enjoyed his experience with the Patent Procurement Law Clinic through Wayne Law’s Program for Entrepreneurship and Business Law.

“The patent clinic was a great opportunity to address patent law from the patent prosecution side,” Thomas said. “The services are all pro bono. The patent clients are only responsible for paying the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office fees associated with filing and prosecuting the patent applications, as well as formal patent drawings, if needed. Already having experience at the patent office gave me a little insight on what to expect while drafting a patent application, but the clinic experience was invaluable for me as I pursue a career in the intellectual property field. Wayne Law has a plethora of law courses surrounding intellectual property, including several courses strictly regarding patent laws.”

Robert Thomas serves as vice chairman of the Detroit Board of Zoning Appeals and leads the Foster Care Alumni of America, Michigan chapter.
Giving back to Detroit

When he came back to Detroit to go to law school, he decided to get involved in the community. One of the first things he did was to become a member of the Detroit Board of Zoning Appeals, on which he serves as vice chairman.

“I consider it my civic duty to give back to the city I live in,” Thomas said. “I involved myself in municipal government as a volunteer when I worked as an engineer in Virginia, too. I bring that experience to the Board of Zoning Appeals, and I also bring in some legal teachings of (Wayne Law) Professor John Mogk, having taken extra interest in courses such as property and land use. It’s great to be a part of the rebuilding process of the city I love and that I was born and raised in.”

Gaining empowerment

Thomas entered the foster care system at age 6.

“I experienced a multitude of placements in foster care homes and group homes,” he said. “At the age of 15, I was involved in a mentoring program under the Detroit Urban League. It was there I became part of a pilot independent living program where I was paired with a roommate in an apartment near my high school (Detroit Northwestern).”

He worked three different jobs to cover his rent and expenses while going to high school and playing football. When his roommate defaulted on the rent, Thomas ended up homeless.

“A local community activist stood up and took me in to finish my last year of high school,” Thomas said. “During my high school years, if I was not working, I kept myself busy by staying actively involved in sports and after-school programs. These programs exposed me to self-empowerment, responsibility, different cultures and ideas, and etiquette – things I needed to know to survive and move past my circumstances. They taught me I could do anything I wanted to. I embraced the idea and now I’m empowering others to do the same.”

Gathering voices for change

One thing Thomas noticed about the foster care system was how few of its “alumni” like him were involved in creating its policies.

“To remedy this, during my second year of law studies, I assembled a great number of the foster care alumni in Michigan who were known as advocates of wards in care,” he said. “This was not an easy task, but I narrowed down a set of like-minded individuals into a group. We started the Foster Care Alumni of America, Michigan chapter, focusing our issues on what we noticed should change. Starting and leading this organization, coupled with already serving as president of the Black Law Students Association and chair of the Young and Powerful Group for Obama proved to be even more challenging.”

Today, Foster Care Alumni of America in Michigan has more than 50 members.

“(In summer 2013), during my third year of law school, we held our first legislative hearing on foster care at Wayne Law,” Thomas said. “Over 60 directors and heads of agencies, including the director of the Department of Human Services, and state legislators lent an ear to hear the voices of young adults and alumni of the foster care system.”

Another such hearing took place recently under Thomas’ guidance. The ParkWest Foundation and WSU School of Social Work were partners in the venture.

“Currently, we are drafting legislation to introduce a Foster Care Bill of Rights to the state legislators,” Thomas said.

He hopes he’ll soon be working as an intellectual property practitioner helping entrepreneurs and inventors get a good start. And he’s in the process of starting a mentor program for foster youth, particularly boys.

“I put an emphasis on mentorship, which I have recognized is one of the reasons I made it out of my situation. Others reached out to me, so, in turn, I’ve done the same. I currently mentor high school, college-age and middle school boys, including my 15-year-old nephew, who I care for full time. Mentorship and advocacy is a part of my life.”
The 2014 Wayne Law Golf Outing on June 2 raised $15,000 toward an endowment to provide student scholarships to assist second- and third-year students at Wayne Law.

The scramble-format event was at the Country Club of Detroit in Grosse Pointe Farms. The day included lunch, a cocktail reception and dinner.

The outing, which at one time was at various courses throughout the area, returned this year to bring together alumni and friends of the Law School for a day of golf and to fund the endowed student scholarship. Platinum-level sponsors were Lear Corp. and Lumen Legal. Gold-level sponsors were Conway Mackenzie and Howard & Howard.

At the reception, Wayne Law Dean Jocelyn Benson and golf outing committee Chair Dave Galbenski presented the first scholarship of $1,000 to rising second-year student Eric Esshaki.

The following golf awards also were presented:
- First-place team: O’Keefe – Mike Boudreau and Jeff Sands with a score of 58.
- Second-place team: Diversified Legal Staffing – Jim Grobbel; Mark Grobbel, ’83; Bob Sauer; and Terry Tripp with a score of 60.
- Closest to the pin (men): Dan Hawn of Plante Moran.
- Closest to the pin (women): Pamela Kroll of Caputo Bresnan PC.
- Shoot-out winner – Bob Sauer of Woodland Paper.

Golf outing committee members were Galbenski, ’93, of Lumen Legal; Henry Brennan III, ’83, of Howard & Howard; Anthony Dietz, ’97, of Law Offices of Shannon Shaya PC; Professor Peter Henning; Paul Hines, ’73, of Gasiorek Morgan & Greco PC; David McCloughry, ’93, of Ingrassia Fisher & Lorenz PC; student Lorenzo Parker; and Brittany Schultz, ’01, of Dykema Gossett PLLC.

MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/golf
Social studies teacher uses legal background to INSPIRE high school students

She focuses on providing them with real-life experiences

Alycia Chase is an award-winning high school teacher of social studies – and an attorney with a law degree from Wayne Law.

She inspires students in her district and beyond through initiatives sparked by the law school’s Keith Students Youth Civil Rights Conference.

Chase, ‘93, in October was named High School Teacher of the Year by the Michigan/Great Lakes Social Studies Conference.

“At this conference, students from public and private schools, suburban and inner-city schools, came together to discuss some very difficult issues,” Chase said. “Some other teachers and I were so inspired by the ideas, that, on our own, we met again one rainy Saturday in an office building in Detroit. That is where something really cool happened and the Block by Block initiative was born.”

The Block by Block program included a student exchange in January 2013 between some of Chase’s teens at West Bloomfield and teacher Jonathan Hui’s students at Denby High School in Detroit.

“The students attended each other’s school for a day, not as special guests, but as if they were a member of the student body,” Chase said. “The students experienced not just the different schools and communities, they also experienced the differences in educational facilities and opportunities.”

Later that month, Chase took the idea further.

“I invited the teachers, administrators and students from the civil rights conference to join us at the West Bloomfield Martin Luther King United We Walk event,” she said. “Over 50 students from Denby High School, Cranbrook (Kingswood High School in Bloomfield Hills), Northwestern (High School in Detroit) and University Liggett (School in Grosse Pointe Woods) got together with my students in my classroom, and we had a powerful debrief on the student exchange and the civil rights conference that we had attended together. The students then all marched together in the walk, and

Building community

In November 2012, Chase brought students from her Law and Politics Club to the Keith Students Youth Civil Rights Conference, an annual event sponsored by Wayne Law’s Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights, WSU Center for Peace & Conflict Studies and Keith Students for Civil Rights. The daylong program for teens about race is to help them bridge their differences, bust stereotypes and build foundations for a better world.
they also spoke at the candlelight vigil during the program. It was so moving to see these students from such varied backgrounds join together and build bonds."

Another Block by Block exchange took place in May 2013 with Chase’s school and Northwestern High School in Detroit, and another exchange with Denby is being planned for the upcoming school year.

Yesenia Jimenez, now a student at Harvard University, had Chase as her teacher for Advanced Placement Government and helped work on the first Block by Block initiative.

“The initiative helped students at our school realize that other public schools do not offer the same opportunities that our school does,” Jimenez said. “Ms. Chase doesn’t just know how to teach and help her students learn the subject, but she teaches them how to think critically and how to learn."

Bringing perspective

Chase, who wanted to be a teacher as a child, said her legal education and her experience as an attorney have made her a more effective educator.

“Most importantly, it helps to bring a real-world perspective to the subjects that I teach, whether I am teaching about something related to law or simply helping students to see the real-life importance and relevance of strong writing, speaking, test taking and organizational skills,” she said. “I also believe the students connect to me differently because of my background, and they love when I can share a legal story or unique insight to something that we are discussing in class.”

She really didn’t plan to be a teacher when she went to law school.

“I graduated from undergrad (at Michigan State University) with a business degree, and I had honestly envisioned myself in the role of a high-powered litigation attorney for the rest of my career,” Chase said. “In fact, I loved many things about being a trial attorney, including the excitement, fast pace and challenge. However, after successfully practicing law for a few years with some amazing firms in Michigan, Maryland and Washington, D.C., doing everything from criminal defense and prosecution to insurance defense litigation to business litigation and real estate-related law, I realized that I had a nagging passion for teaching."

She took advantage of a master’s degree program at the University of Michigan that included teaching certification and could be completed in one year, graduating in 1999.

Bolstering involvement

The students in her Advanced Placement Government class are required to get involved in a current political campaign and to participate in local government observations through attending court cases, school board or township meetings, political events or another sort of action. Her students participate in a Teen Court program she coordinates through the Oakland County Prosecutor’s Office, as well, and are trained to serve as jurors and actual attorneys for first-time juvenile misdemeanor defendants.

“They learn more about the law and the court system through this real-life experience than they could possibly learn through a simulation or in a classroom,” Chase said. “Real experiences are necessary for real meaningful discussions, and they reinforce the curriculum in a way that no stationary classroom can provide.”

As a law student, Chase had real-life educational experiences of her own.

“While at Wayne, two of my favorite experiences were competing in the Student Trial Advocacy Program and volunteering at the Free Legal Aid Clinic,” she said. “I would also highly recommend the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan (summer intern) program. Not only was the work incredibly rewarding, I learned more in my time at the Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office about trial practice in one summer than many of my colleagues learn in their entire careers.”
Students serving public interest through summer fellowships

Fifteen Wayne Law students are gaining experience and serving a variety of agencies and legal clinics this summer, thanks to the support of the 2014 Public Interest Law Fellowships.

The 2014 fellowship winners and their organizations are:

- Shahar Ben-Josef, rising third-year student – Freedom House Detroit
- Scott Boyer, rising third-year student – Michigan Immigrant Rights Center
- Connor Brown, rising third-year student – Legal Aid and Defender Association Inc.
- Kimberly Grzic, rising third-year student – Wayne Law Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic
- Marcus Johnson, upper class part-time student – Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office
- Melissa Kliemann, rising third-year student – Federal Defender Office
- Steven Knox, rising third-year student – Michigan Legal Services
- James Kresta, upper class part-time student – Washtenaw County Office of Public Defender
- Maureen O’Sullivan, rising second-year student – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – New York
- Jillian Peterson, rising third-year student – Free Legal Aid Clinic
- Alexis Shull, rising second-year student – Elder Law Advocacy Center
- Paul Taylor, upper class part-time student – Free Legal Aid Clinic
- Pamela Wall, rising third-year student – Free Legal Aid Clinic
- Patricia Woodruff, rising third-year student – Michigan Children’s Law Center and Wayne County Solution Oriented Domestic Violence Prevention Court
- Ashley Zacharski, rising second-year student – Wayne County Solution Oriented Domestic Violence Prevention Court

Wayne Law created the fellowships in 2009 to give students experiential education and help ease their financial stresses before graduation and to help the organizations for which they’ll be working. Fellowship recipients are selected each year by a committee of faculty members, staff and alumni.
GIFTS WITH IMPACT:
Larry Mann’s contribution tripled Student Trial Advocacy Program’s size

Wayne Law is an urban empowerment zone that reaches every corner of Michigan. Preserve and grow access, empowerment and excellence for the next generation – Consider a meaningful gift to Wayne Law.”

Lawrence C. Mann, ’80

For more information about making an impactful gift, call the Law School Development team at 313-577-4141.
Lance Gable, Noah Hall named associate deans

Lance A. Gable and Noah D. Hall have been named associate deans at Wayne Law.

Gable, who has served as interim associate dean since June 2013, will serve as associate dean for academic affairs. Hall, a member of the law faculty since 2005, will serve as associate dean for student affairs. The positions were effective June 30.

Gable will work with faculty and staff to oversee the Law School’s academic programs. Hall will work in collaboration with the Law School’s Career Services office and Admissions and Student Affairs office on mentoring, job placement, networking, recruitment and scholarship initiatives.

Kirsten Carlson awarded $250,000 research grant

Assistant Professor Kirsten Carlson has been awarded a $250,000 grant for Wayne State University from the National Science Foundation.

Carlson will use the grant to conduct a two-year research project – “Legal Mobilization, Rights Claims, and Federal Indian Policy Reforms” – that aims to develop a better understanding of how, when and with what success American Indian nations use the political process to change the law. The project officially began May 1.

“The grant allows me to hire several research assistants to work on the project,” Carlson said. “I will also incorporate the research into several classes, which will train students about legislative advocacy. This is a great opportunity for students interested in advocacy to learn more about legal mobilization, advocacy strategies and the success and failure of advocacy strategies.”

Abramowicz’s article selected for faculty forum

Assistant Professor Sarah Abramowicz’s article, “Adoption and the Limits of Contract in Victorian Adoption Case Law and George Eliot’s Silas Marner,” was selected for the 2014 Harvard/Stanford/Yale Junior Faculty Forum.

The forum was June 27 and 28 at Stanford Law School. Sponsored by the Yale, Harvard and Stanford law schools since 2001, the forum showcases papers selected on a blind basis by a jury of accomplished scholars.

Abramowicz’s article was one of two selected for presentation at the session on Law and the Humanities. The article examines George Eliot’s 1861 novel of adoption, Silas Marner, in the context of English adoption case law.

Robert Sedler publishes constitutional law book

A second edition of Constitutional Law in the United States by Distinguished Professor Robert Sedler has been released.

Sedler, a world-renowned and often-quoted scholar of constitutional law, joined the faculty in 1977.

Constitutional Law in the United States was first published in 1994 as a part of the multivolume International Encyclopaedia of Laws and was updated and reprinted in 2000 and 2005. The first edition of Sedler’s work in book form was published in 2012 and has now been released in paperback in a second edition by Kluwer Law International.

Peter Henning releases new edition of book

Professor Peter Henning’s book, The Prosecution and Defense of Public Corruption: The Law and Legal Strategies, has been newly released by LexisNexis.

The book first was published in 2011 by Oxford University Press.

“The book is available both in a hardcover edition and now online through Lexis, which makes it more accessible to practicing lawyers,” Henning said. “The book will also now be updated on Lexis with annual supplements to provide information on new decisions.”
Wayne Law professor, students played role in snail darter case

By Mardi Crawford

Zygmunt J.B. Plater joined the Wayne Law faculty in 1976, bringing with him the snail darter litigation that would become a milestone of environmental law.

Wayne Law students, like others from Tennessee to Washington, D.C., became involved in *Hill v. TVA* without knowing what effect they might have on the case or how it might affect them or the law.

Last year, Yale University Press published Plater’s account of the lawsuit.

In *The Snail Darter and the Dam: How Pork Barrel Politics Endangered a Little Fish and Killed a River*, Plater describes the Little Tennessee River and its valley that held myriad riches.

The book notes ambiguous or divided relationships among Tennessee Native Americans seeking to hold to old ways, those who had assimilated and the environmentalists and white residents invoking Cherokee interests in the fight to save the Little T. There was tension between big environmental groups, fearful that invoking the Endangered Species Act on behalf of a tiny nondescript fish would destroy the still-new act, and the groups fighting for the snail darter and the assets its habitat offered humans. Politicians whose own hearts or avowed policies should have made them allies moved on to other issues when it was to their advantage.

Women, not yet ensconced in top positions of overt Washington power but holding key staff positions in government and environmental organizations, networked around barriers to make things happen; those who supported the snail darter made connections with Kathy Fletcher, working for the White House Domestic Council, though ultimately to no effect on the actions of President Jimmy Carter, who declined to veto a bill overriding protection for the snail darter.

Reporters who sympathized with Plater’s cause were prevented by editors from publishing stories about the spurious economic claims made for the non-hydroelectric Tellico Dam and reservoir. Other reporters just failed to get the point that the “little fish” was like a canary in a mine; killing the snail darter by destroying its habitat would destroy much more.

Understanding the Little T’s value required knowing its different facets and the varied human interests vying for attention. The press, politicians and people at large failed to grasp the importance of the interconnected whole; the Tennessee Valley Authority – the TVA of the case – eventually won, damming the Little T.

It was a Pyrrhic victory for the TVA and an inestimable loss for many in Tennessee and beyond, as the book’s epilogue describes. But the book is about more than who lost. It is about why they lost. It has applicability beyond the environmental sphere in which *Hill v. TVA*, which upheld the application of the Endangered Species Act to government projects, an important victory in its own right, lives on.

Wayne Law had a role in the case. It provided Plater a job and resources when the University of Tennessee College of Law denied him tenure because of the case. Plater, today a professor at Boston College Law School, received a 1979 Distinguished Faculty Recognition Award from Wayne for his work on the case. Wayne Law students contributed research and assisted with the appellate work. These contributions are acknowledged in *The Snail Darter and the Dam*. That’s just one of many reasons Wayne Law alumni, faculty and students should read the book.

Mardi Crawford (Hatcher), ’77, was one of the student research assistants on *Hill v. TVA*.
The first five years for the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center and its partner, Wayne Law’s Transnational Environmental Law Clinic, have proved to be an unmitigated success.

The center and clinic were founded by Associate Professor Noah Hall as a part of a sabbatical project in 2008. He got the nonprofit center going that year, and the clinic began in fall 2009. In 2011, the clinic joined forces with University of Windsor (Ontario) Law School to become the nation’s first Transnational Environmental Law Clinic.

“I recognized the need for both a public-interest environmental law group in Michigan to do work that wasn’t getting done and the need for an educational opportunity for students, as well as a place to intern or do work after they graduate,” Hall said. “We wanted a separate entity to make it clear that the clinic is an education opportunity and a teaching vehicle for students and the center is a public-interest environmental law firm to represent community organizations and individuals – not for money or claims for damages but to improve environmental policy and ensure that laws are enforced.”

The center’s staff and board members are mostly freshly minted attorneys who work hand-in-hand with law students.

“We started an organization with no money and no funding out of thin air in Detroit during the downturn when everything was supposedly in recession,” Hall said. “The foundation community was cutting back, and environmental law wasn’t a hot field in Michigan. GLELC is now fully going so well that you can just take it for granted. Everything about the organization has been a spectacular success.”

The credit for that, Hall said, goes mostly to the nearly 100 law students who have participated in the clinic since its inception.

Among the center’s successful solutions is Michigan’s Property Assessed Clean Energy Act, signed into law in 2010. The legislation allows property owners to pay for energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements, such as solar panels, over a number of years as a special assessment on their tax bills.

“Eric Jamison was a Wayne Law clinic student who helped develop the idea, as well as people in practice,” Hall said.

Jamison, working as Clean Energy fellow with the center, was the lead drafter of the legislation. He graduated from Wayne Law in 2011 and today is an assistant attorney general in Michigan.

“You can’t separate the success on the issues from the success of the students as they’ve built their careers,” Hall said. “The two have gone hand in hand.”

One of Hall’s students was Nick Schroeck, ’07, who went on to become executive director of the center and director of the Wayne Law clinic in 2010.

“Nick was in the very first environmental law class I started teaching,” Hall said. “That was in the fall of 2005.”

Schroeck took more environmental law courses, and Hall soon envisioned his stellar student as the person to succeed him as head of the center.

“When he graduated, I helped place him in a fellowship position with the Great Lakes Commission and then helped him find a position with the National Wildlife Federation, where I had worked before,” Hall said.

“I was essentially grooming him for the job at GLELC. I had a sense he’d be really good. … And he’s done exactly as well as I had total confidence he would.”

Under Schroeck’s direction, the center has expanded, hiring additional attorneys and moving from TechTown in Detroit to bigger offices at the Green Garage, 4444 Second Ave.

“Noah has been fantastic to work with,” Schroeck said. “He’s a mentor and an expert that I turn to often for advice. He really let me take the executive director job and run with it.”
Alumni use ENVIRONMENTAL LAW to shape future in many areas

Studying environmental law at Wayne Law has prepared alumni to make an impact locally and beyond in a broad range of areas.

Francis Grunow, ’10, works in a small company to help with issues of land use in Detroit, Cara McCarthy-McNab, ’07, works with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help farmers and James Roush, ’09, works with a utility on regulatory issues.

Addressing city land use

Grunow of Detroit has a background in city planning and is a founding partner with New Solutions Group, a consulting and advocacy firm formed in 2011 to take on some of the region’s and the state’s critical issues.

“We operate out of the Green Garage in Midtown Detroit,” Grunow said. “Most of our projects involve nonprofit organizations and matters of public policy, including work with environmental organizations. Last year, we worked with the Alliance for the Great Lakes, a regional water advocacy and conservation organization based out of Chicago, on a strategy for doing more work in Detroit.”

Grunow, who earned his bachelor’s degree in urban studies from Columbia University, served as a senior policy analyst for Community Legal Resources and the Detroit Vacant Property Campaign from 2009 to 2010 and worked from 2004 to 2008 as executive director of Preservation Wayne. His role with New Solutions Group allows him to combine his interests in community building and the environment.

Assisting farmers

McNab graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor’s degree in environmental policy and worked for two years as an AmeriCorps member, at the same time serving on the Board of Directors for the Great Lakes Bioregional Land Conservancy in Lapeer and volunteering at two farms that followed the Community Supported Agriculture model.

After she graduated with her law degree, she earned her master of laws degree in agricultural law from the University of Arkansas School of Law and went to work with the USDA as a legal specialist in Washington, D.C., before taking her current position.

Working with regulations

Roush of Saline, who earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology at the University of Michigan, works as a regulatory attorney at Consumers Energy.

He specializes in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission-related energy law matters, especially when they’re related to dams used for power generation.

“We have dams all over the state, and they’re heavily regulated,” Roush said. “It’s a very unique area of practice. I know of hardly anybody else who does this work.”

He worked at Bodman PLC on commercial litigation and property-related environmental issues from 2009 to 2012.

Roush said his environmental law courses at Wayne Law gave him a strong background on environmentalists’ views of utility companies and of the government’s view of utilities, as did his year of work before law school as a paralegal for the U.S. Department of Justice’s Antitrust Division in the Energy Section.
She hopes to inspire students through hands-on opportunities

Jocelyn Benson says her nine years at Wayne Law have solidified her belief that a legal education is critical for people seeking to achieve social change.

As the newly appointed Law School dean, promoting law degrees as a path to service, as well as providing significant hands-on learning, are two of her goals.

Benson, who had served as interim dean since December 2012, was appointed dean June 16.

At age 36, she became the youngest woman ever to lead a U.S. law school.

Benson, who joined the Wayne Law faculty in 2005, was selected for the permanent deanship after a national search. She became the Law School’s 11th dean and the second woman to hold the job since the founding of Wayne Law in 1927.

“While serving as the Law School’s interim dean since December 2012, Dean Benson has improved bar passage rates, increased the Law School’s ranking with U.S. News & World Report and added hands-on learning opportunities for students,” said WSU Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Margaret E. Winters in announcing Benson’s appointment. “I’m excited to see her future accomplishments in the years ahead.”

Finding the law

Benson previously worked as a legal assistant to Nina Totenberg at National Public Radio and investigated hate groups and hate crimes for the Southern Poverty Law Center – a job that convinced her to go to law school.

“I never planned to go into academia, but education has always been a part of my life,” said Benson, who grew up in Pittsburgh, the daughter of two special education teachers. “I’ve always seen a need to ensure that everyone has a voice and a place at the table, particularly through their education.”

Her areas of expertise include civil rights law, education law and election law. She is widely quoted on those subjects in local, regional, national and international media and has written numerous book chapters and law review articles.

Getting things done

An avid Detroit Tigers baseball fan who runs marathons – 18 so far – in her spare time, Benson is known among her colleagues for her prodigious energy and her ability to get things done, said Wayne Law Associate Professor Noah Hall, who joined the faculty at the same time as Benson.

She earned a bachelor of arts degree from Wellesley College, master of philosophy degree from Oxford University and law degree from Harvard Law School.

Jocelyn Benson appointed Wayne Law’s 11th dean

She hopes to inspire students through hands-on opportunities
nonprofit that promotes voter participation in underrepresented communities, and Benson clerked for one of her role models, Judge Damon J. Keith on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

She was talking one day to Professor Spencer Overton, a fellow Harvard Law graduate and Keith law clerk who grew up in Detroit and is an election law expert at George Washington University Law School. He encouraged her to take a job as a professor at Wayne Law, she said.

“I was recruited by then-Dean Frank Wu.”

So, at age 26, she joined the Wayne Law faculty to serve as an associate professor and later as associate director of the Law School’s Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights.

“Here at Wayne Law, I had a place to stand where I could do the work I cared about,” Benson said.

Nine years later, she continues to be impressed by how much law students grow over their three years of legal studies, she said.

“The greatest thing I see is people’s lives changing as a result of the classes they attend here,” Benson said. “It’s a gift to have the opportunity to impact and improve people’s lives every day.

Making a difference


That same year, inspired by her research and a sense of urgency to make a difference, she was nominated to be the Democratic candidate for Michigan secretary of state. She lost the election but earned more votes than any other Democrat on the ballot that year.

She went on to found the nonpartisan Michigan Center for Election Law, which hosts projects that support transparency and integrity in elections. She also serves with retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor on the board of iCivics Inc., a national nonprofit organization that O’Connor created to improve civics education throughout the country.

In 2011, Benson’s life changed dramatically when her husband, who felt a call to serve his country, enlisted as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army.

A year later, he was deployed to Afghanistan. Benson, sensing a profound need to build a community of support for military spouses, worked with several other spouses to create Military Spouses of Michigan. “The organization seeks to provide services and support for anyone who loves someone in the military in Michigan,” she said.

When President Barack Obama was inaugurated in 2013, Benson’s organization was selected to represent Michigan in the official inaugural parade in Washington, D.C. She brought more than 50 spouses and other family members from her organization to march.

“That was one of the proudest moments in my life, apart from all this,” she said, gesturing at her Wayne Law office, in which shelves sport some of the awards she’s garnered for her civil rights work. “Marching down Pennsylvania Avenue with those spouses and children, waving at the president and having him wave back – that was one of the proudest moments of my life by far.”

Looking ahead

Benson has ambitious goals to accomplish for Wayne Law. As interim dean for 18 months, she already has gotten a head start on them.

In addition to the accomplishments that the provost cited, the Law School has created several new law clinics; debuted an Alumni Speaker Series, Good Governance Lecture Series and alumni mentoring program; and started a master of laws degree in U.S. Law for foreign lawyers.

“I am proud to be leading Wayne Law at this historic moment,” Benson said. “We strive to be the leading legal education institution in the Midwest for providing opportunities to serve the public. As Detroit’s law school, we also have a responsibility to be a magnet for the next generation of advocates for justice in our region.

“In addition, my hope is that all graduates of Wayne Law, no matter where they land, are instilled with a desire to integrate service into their careers. And all students of the Law School should have the opportunity to actually practice and experience the law before they graduate. Students who come to Wayne Law become part of a network of advocates committed to the same ideals. Together, they are something larger than themselves. We are a family here.”
An invention to make lithium-ion batteries safer if they catch fire has gained a patent, thanks to Wayne Law’s Patent Procurement Clinic.

The patent, issued May 27, is the first to be granted for an application filed by the clinic, which opened in July 2012.

Wayne Law’s patent clinic is the only one of its kind in Michigan and one of only about 25 in the nation officially affiliated with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The clinic is part of the Law School’s Program for Entrepreneurship and Business Law, which offers free legal services to qualified startups, nonprofits and inventors.

Entrepreneurs Gerry Flood and Ron Butler, owners of LithSafe (formerly LithFire-X), first heard about the clinic’s services through Detroit’s TechTown, a nonprofit business accelerator started by and affiliated with Wayne State University. The men were in the process of developing their business when they contacted the clinic. Their invention, a method of fire suppression for lithium-ion batteries, needed patent protection.

The law students working at the patent clinic liked what they heard about LithSafe’s business idea and went to work, starting with a client meeting in January 2013, followed by a comprehensive patentability search. LithSafe’s patent application, written by then-student Daniel Samwel, was filed by the clinic in May 2013. Samwel graduated later that year and now is employed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Flood and Butler have developed a network of tubing for fire suppression that connects to the front of lithium-ion battery packs in hybrid and electric vehicles. Butler is a retired firefighter and Flood has a background in insurance, alternative fuels, management and fire suppression systems. The inventors know the built-in problem that comes with lithium-ion batteries. If they catch fire, even after the flame is extinguished, chemical reactions inside the battery continue, creating the potential for an explosive incident, Flood said.

“What we’ve developed, and now patented, not only puts the fire out, it cools the battery,” Flood said.

Said Butler: “The intellectual property protection we’ve secured is essential to our product offerings. We are eternally grateful to WSU and are willing to go overboard with our praise. Many organizations talk a good game relative to helping small businesses boot up. This program represents the epitome of business incubation. We look forward to the next opportunity to secure a patent.”

Wayne Law’s patent law students work under the supervision of experienced patent attorneys, including Thomas Helmholdt, the adjunct professor and full-time patent attorney who teaches the clinic.

“It was just fantastic,” Flood said. “It got us all set. The work was beautiful. We only had to pay for the drawings and filing fee, and they did all the work.”

Helmholdt estimates that the clinic’s work on LithSafe’s patent saved the client about $10,000. And that means that a new business is better poised to contribute to the economic revival of Detroit.

“Supporting our community is an integral part of Wayne Law’s mission,” said Assistant (Clinical) Professor Eric Williams, director of the Program for Entrepreneurship and Business Law. “Our location in Detroit and our role as a public institution and resource give the clinic the potential to support urban entrepreneurship and community development in a meaningful way. These kinds of projects are invaluable to students who want to learn how to really practice. And, at the same time, they support development in Detroit.”
Students help entrepreneurs, businesses THRIVE

Wayne Law students involved with the expanding Program for Entrepreneurship and Business Law have their fingers on the pulse of the city of Detroit and its growth.

- Students working in the program’s Business and Community Law Clinic and Patent Procurement Clinic regularly offer free legal services and advice, assisted by experienced attorneys, to qualifying Detroit area startups and nonprofits. Students get real-world experience and education while enterprise to revitalize Detroit benefits.

- Students attend monthly meetings of Open City – a free forum for Detroit’s aspiring and established small business owners presented by D:hive in partnership with Detroit Creative Corridor Center and Model D magazine. D:hive and the center are Detroit business accelerators, promoting growth and problem solving in the city. Each month’s event includes a panel of speakers.

- Students take part in a Speakers Bureau, which gives presentations twice a month for the Third District of the Detroit City Council in the office of Councilman Scott Benson. The audience is local entrepreneurs, and legal issues they may face are what the students talk about – offering free advice to help the city grow and prosper.

- The Program for Entrepreneurship and Business Law was a sponsor, with TechTown, Prosperous Detroit, the Center for Empowerment and Economic Development and Score Detroit, of Detroit Entrepreneur Week, an event to help the city’s small-business entrepreneurs or those who’d like to join their ranks. Speakers throughout the week focused on topics such as neighborhood business associations, real estate law, tax requirements and resources for businesses. The event ended with a closing reception – and a chance to network – at Wayne Law.

- Business clinic students were a part of an ad hoc committee advising Detroit Councilwoman Raquel Castenada-Lopez on a city agreement to transfer land to the Downtown Development Authority to advance a proposed new Detroit Red Wings arena downtown known as the Olympia Development.

A broad array of coursework takes place, too, to teach students about business law, and a variety of expert speakers bring their expertise to Wayne Law regularly.

Speakers in business law courses during winter semester have included:

- **Mark Bennett**, ’90, founder of MJ Bennett PLLC: Strategic Legal and Advisory Searches, spoke of his firm’s work helping entrepreneurs reach their goals.

- **Dan Gilbert**, ’87, chairman of Rock Ventures, chairman and founder of Detroit-based Quicken Loans Inc. and majority owner of the NBA’s Cleveland Cavaliers, talked about the role of entrepreneurship in Detroit.

- **Michelle Visser**, ’91, who is a partner with Rader Fishman & Grauer, brought her expertise on trademark and copyright law to the students and showed them how to conduct a trademark search.

“Wayne Law also offers numerous internships with businesses, and extracurricular and co-curricular activities designed to prepare students to represent entrepreneurs – or to become entrepreneurs themselves – while supporting entrepreneurship and business development in metro Detroit,” said Assistant (Clinical) Professor Eric Williams, director of the Program for Entrepreneurship and Business Law.

“Today’s business world is characterized by relentless and rapid innovation,” Williams said. “The key to success is an education that includes the knowledge to identify opportunities, as well as the skills to seize them.”

**Dan Gilbert**, ’87, chairman of Rock Ventures and chairman and founder of Detroit-based Quicken Loans Inc., speaks to students March 3 at Wayne Law.
Five Wayne Law students are traveling abroad this summer to study, gain experience and advocate for human rights. Their work is sponsored by the Law School’s Program for International Legal Studies.

Three students – Shahad Atiya, Laura Barrera and Blair Daniels – earned International Public Interest Law Fellowships and are spending the summer engaged in advocacy on a range of issues.

In addition, Joshua Aprile will work as an intern in the Mexico City office of Barrera, Siqueiros y Torres Landa, one of Mexico’s leading law firms. And Shahar Ben-Josef is attending the prestigious Hague Academy of International Law in The Hague, Netherlands.

Shahad Atiya

Shahad Atiya is in Madurai, India, working for People’s Watch, where other fellowship winners have been placed in past years. People’s Watch is one of India’s most respected human rights organizations and issues reports on all aspects of Indian political and social practices, as well as serving as a liaison to international monitoring bodies at the United Nations and elsewhere. Atiya, who will be a second-year student in the fall, said she expects to be writing a manual to help various national human rights organizations in India follow standards known as the Paris Principles created by the international community.

“This experience will help me understand my role in the human rights community and where I can be most effective,” she said. “I would like to see if I can be an agent of change in this realm and, most importantly, learn about other people and their views on their respective justice systems.”

Atiya earned her bachelor’s degree in political science at the University of Michigan and envisions herself as a litigator after graduation and as someone serving in politics. She was born in Iraq, speaks fluent Arabic and has traveled throughout the Middle East.

Laura Barrera

Laura Barrera, a rising second-year student, is working in Africa at the Botswana Competition Authority, the primary enforcement agency monitoring and controlling trade and business practices in Botswana to promote fair competition and economic prosperity through free markets.
“I expect to be doing antitrust-related work, monitoring and researching any mergers and acquisitions,” Barrera said. “I think this will be a great introduction to antitrust law, so I can find out if it’s something I would like to pursue in the future. I would like to work in international policy, maybe through a government organization.”

In the past, she has traveled to Spain and Turkey, and she spent 10 months in France as an undergraduate studying French language, literature and philosophy through the University of Michigan. Barrera works for Freedom House in Detroit as a French translator.

**Blair Daniels**

Blair Daniels, a rising second-year student, is working with Defense for Children International in Ghana.

“I will be developing policies for their socio-legal defense centers for cases on abused children,” she said. “Furthermore, I will accompany to court lawyers who protect children’s human rights in Ghana and write reports on activities undertaken by the organization. I think this will be an amazing opportunity to learn about the legal system in Ghana and about the culture there, while making a difference in children’s lives. I love to travel, and my life goal is to make it to all seven continents.”

After her undergraduate work in German language at the University of Michigan, she lived for a year in Austria, teaching English through the Fulbright Commission. She spent a semester in Germany during her junior year, as well.

Daniels would like to use her German language skills working with an international law firm or with the United Nations after graduation, she said.

**Joshua Aprile**

Joshua Aprile, who worked with Mexico Unido Contra la Delincuencia last summer as a fellowship recipient researching government and business corruption, will return to Mexico in August as a new law school graduate to intern with Barrera, Sequiros y Torres Landa.

“I hope to work on cases involving international issues in many of Mexico’s recently liberalized industry sectors,” he said. “This opportunity will undoubtedly provide amazing insight into many of the international issues facing companies today.”

Aprile, who majored in political science at Grand Valley State University, plans a career working on international commercial transactions and arbitration and chose Wayne Law so he could participate in its Program for International Law Studies, which is under the direction of Professor Gregory Fox.

**Shahar Ben-Josef**

Shahar Ben-Josef, a rising third-year law student, who is also pursuing a master’s degree in dispute resolution and a graduate certificate in peace and security studies, is studying at The Hague Academy in the Netherlands through a Freeman Fellowship. The Hague Academy is the academic wing of the International Court of Justice, also known as the World Court.

“I will be attending courses and lectures on public international law,” Ben-Josef said. “I’ll also have the opportunity to visit the International Criminal Court, International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, as well as the opportunity to meet with various ambassadors. This will allow me to make important connections within the field of public international law. Hopefully, these connections will help me in the future to secure the kind of job that I’m looking for. Aside from the connections, this is an incredible opportunity to deepen my knowledge of international law.”

Fox said studying at The Hague Academy is a relatively rare and valuable experience for an American law student.

“The classes are taught by the world’s leading international lawyers, and the students are mostly law Ph.D. candidates from Europe,” he said. “Not many Americans attend The Hague Academy. So, it is quite special that Wayne can send someone each year through the Freeman Fellowship.”

Ben-Josef, who earned her bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan in Middle Eastern and North African studies, was born in Israel and travels there frequently to visit family. She also has traveled all over Europe and North America.
Editor’s note: Nicholas Klaus, a second-year Wayne Law student, was part of the National Lawyers Guild’s election monitor delegation in El Salvador.

By Nicholas Klaus

When the plane landed in San Salvador, I was greeted with a dry heat that radiated excitement.

At dinner I had my first opportunity to meet the other delegates I’d be working with over the next week. They were from a variety of countries and ages: young occupy-ers from the coasts, older nurses from Sweden, Quakers, Communists, Democrats, white folks and people of color. They were all there, including many Salvadorans, at various stages of emigration and immigration, most of whom had far more experience at this than me.

The first night’s briefing was about the political situation in El Salvador. In 2009, 17 years after the 1992 peace accords that ended the Salvadoran civil war – a war fought to end years of U.S.-backed, right-wing oligarchy – the left-wing Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) party was able to win the presidency. In the run up the February 2014 election, the right wing Alianza Republicana Nacionalista (ARENA) party had seen a split as one of their more moderate party leaders had been expelled from the party and then started his own ticket. Meanwhile, ARENA politicos were caught up in scandal and fleeing the country. The FMLN was concerned with voter suppression and intimidation tactics coming from the right.

Another concern for the left was U.S. political influence on the election. Thus one of the goals of the National Lawyers Guild delegation was to pressure the U.S. ambassador to El Salvador for a statement of neutrality. In part to do with our efforts, we got the statement.

During the trip we’d break up into small groups to visit political and community leaders and tour a variety of facilities and ministries. We met with officials from the Tribunal Supremo Electoral (the non-partisan election authority), who kept us informed of news and procedures relating to the election.

Two days before the election we had a day-long training with election authority workers. They gave us a course in election procedures and provided tips for spotting voter fraud and intimidation.

Election officials count ballots during the national election in February in El Salvador.
and present a valid photo identification (which can be procured for free from the national government). A major distinction between Salvadoran and U.S. election practices is that theirs is nationalized, and the rules and procedures are widely understood by the populous.

The electoral sunshine laws are such that the press and accredited election monitors are allowed access anywhere elections workers are. The entire process is conducted under the eyes of the press, election monitors and all political parties. The results of each polling table are transmitted electronically to a public server and available in real-time.

The process boils down to this:

Each municipality has one voting center. Voters find their names on displays that indicate their table number. Each table is assigned 500 registered voters and thus has no more than 500 numbered ballots. The tables are staffed by three people, one from each of the major parties.

Voters present their ID to the presidente of the table. The presidente checks the ID for fraud and against the voter registry and then looks for ink on the voter’s finger. (Voters are required to ink their finger after voting to ensure they can’t vote more than once). Assuming the presidente has been satisfied, the voter moves to the secretario. The secretario stamps and initials the numbered ballot, and the vocale (the third table official) assists the voter if they have special needs or questions pertaining to the process. After marking the ballot, the voter returns to the table, marks a finger in ink and drops the ballot in the box. Each table also is flanked by “vigilantes” representing the various parties. They augment assistance to voters and find election authority workers to settle discrepancies at a voting table.

Once the voting centers close, the table officials count the ballots, ensuring the number of votes cast jives with the balance of unused ballots. The numbers, prior to the actual count, are written on five-page carbon copy-style “actus” sheets. At that point, under the eyes of vigilantes and international and national monitors, table officials begin counting the votes for each party. The numbers are recorded on the actus and signed by each table official. The ballots are sealed with a copy of the actus.

“In El Salvador, the entire election process is built around transparency. Election Day is a national holiday. The country goes dry the two days before the election, and campaigning is required to stop during the same time.”

After the count, table officials, still flanked by an entourage of observers, take the box of ballots and the remaining copies of the actus to the election center transmission room. The box is registered with election authority officials and the actus transmitted to the public servers. In the days after the election, authority officials again count the ballots against the actus for each polling table.

In the February election, the people voted for the FMLN, which won with just more than 49% of the vote. Because no party captured more than 50% of the vote, a run-off election was held in March. The FMLN won the run-off.

In El Salvador, the entire election process is built around transparency. Election Day is a national holiday. The country goes dry the two days before the election, and campaigning is required to stop during the same time.

The scene at the voting centers was festive, even while many poll workers worked 20 hours or more. With transparency in mind, both the election authority and the election workers from all parties were proud of their process and welcoming to the international election monitors.
**Wrock wins State Bar of Michigan’s animal law award**

Rebecca K. Wrock, who graduated May 12 from Wayne Law, won the 2014 Wanda A. Nash Award from the Animal Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan.

Wrock was presented with the award at a reception May 6 in the Law School’s Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights. The award goes to the graduating law student in the state who has contributed most to the development of animal law.

She was nominated by Wayne Law Adjunct Professor Jerry Simonelli, who teaches animal law.

Wrock, who earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan, was president of Wayne Law’s Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, student representative to the Animal Law Section Council, captain of Wayne State’s 2014 National Animal Law Competition Appellate Moot Court Team and a government relations intern at the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

**Floyd awarded Browning Fund labor law fellowship**

Second-year student Carrie Floyd was awarded a Peggy Browning Fund labor law fellowship.

Floyd is spending 10 weeks this summer working at the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America in Detroit.

The application process for the fellowship from the Philadelphia-based fund is highly competitive. Floyd was among 70 fellowship winners nationwide chosen out of hundreds of applicants from more than 140 participating law schools.

Floyd earned her undergraduate degree from Swarthmore College and master of social work degree from the University of Michigan. She has worked with migrant workers in southwest Virginia, and, after graduate school, worked at the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce to develop programs, policies and training to support transitioning workers. She also worked as a law clerk for Legal Services for South Central Michigan to help low-income residents receive public benefits.

**Zurek among 9 in nation, 1 from state to win internship**

Second-year student Zachary Zurek is the only student from Michigan and one of only nine in the nation to win a summer law internship with the federal Bureau of Prisons.

The paid internship is expected to give Zurek a competitive advantage when he applies for post-graduate judicial clerkships and the Department of Justice’s Attorney General Honors Program, said Krystal Gardner, assistant dean of Career Services at Wayne Law.

Zurek heard about the opportunity during his internship in summer 2013 at the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Detroit. He thinks that summer’s experience and his background working for the Michigan Department of Corrections helped him win the federal internship.

Zurek holds a bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University. He is co-founder of Wayne Law’s Criminal Law Society, a research assistant for Associate Professor Anthony Dillof and an associate editor of the Wayne Law Review.
Winners announced in Barris competition

Winners of the winter semester 2014 Donald E. Barris Trial Competition at Wayne Law are second-year students Jack McIntyre and Royce Nunley.

The in-house mock trial competition, part of Advocacy at Wayne, an expanded student trial advocacy program, took place March 21.

For the fall semester 2013 competition Oct. 26, winners were third-year student Henry Ibe and Nunley.

Winners will receive awards at the 2014-15 Wayne Law Honors Convocation.

Advocacy at Wayne has more than tripled in size, thanks to a $100,000 donation in spring 2013 from Lawrence Mann, ’80, a former Wayne Law associate professor and a now-retired trial attorney and managing partner with Bowman and Brooke LLP in Detroit.

Advocacy at Wayne is led by Chief Judge Gerald E. Rosen of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Third-year Wayne Law student Tanzania Jaysura, served as commissioner of Advocacy at Wayne.

Winter judges were Paul O’Neil, ’97, of Bowman and Brooke LLP; Rachel Sisco, ’11; and Macomb County Assistant Prosecutor Steve Steinhardt, ’93. Fall judges were Wayne County Assistant Prosecutor John Donaldson, ’13, and Steinhardt.

Association honors Al-Khersan, Ben-Josef

Second-year students Farah Al-Khersan and Shahar Ben-Josef were among 10 named Outstanding Women Law Students 2014 by the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation.

The students were awarded scholarships March 26 at the organization’s 2014 Honors Reception for Education and Community Leadership. The foundation chooses the winning students on the basis of leadership, community service and potential for advancing the position of women in society.

Al-Khersan worked as a legal intern and interpreter for the University of Michigan Law School Pediatric Advocacy Initiative, helping Spanish- and Arabic-speaking immigrants gain public benefits.

At Wayne Law, she has worked as a student attorney with the Legal Advocacy for People with Cancer Clinic and with the Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic.

Ben-Josef spent a year interning at the Interfaith Council for Peace and Social Justice in Ann Arbor. She also spent a summer with the International Conflict Resolution Program in Geneva and London and worked as a volunteer for Freedom House in Detroit. She lived for one summer with her grandparents in Israel and volunteered there with an organization helping Sudanese refugees.

She works as a law clerk at the Council on American-Islamic Relations, helping file asylum applications for Syrian refugees, and is senior editor for Michigan International Lawyer, a publication of the Michigan State Bar. Her work with the council is through a Wayne Law Public Interest Law Fellowship.

Wayne Law’s transactional law teams took first- and second-place honors in drafting and negotiating in February in regional rounds of the National Transactional Law Meet competition. Third-year student Christopher Attar and second-year student Justin Hanna placed first in drafting and negotiating at a regional in Springfield, Mass. They moved on to the national competition in April in New York City, placing fourth in drafting and sixth in negotiating.

Third-year students Christopher Banerian and Weiling Chou placed second in drafting and negotiating at a regional in Chicago. Assistant Professor Eric Zacks is faculty advisor for the teams. Eighty-four teams competed in six regional meets, and 14 moved on to the national competition. From left are Hanna, Attar, Zacks, Chou and Banerian.
Two students win Moot Court competition

The final round of Wayne Law Moot Court competition was March 26, and the winning finalists were third-year student John Gaviglio and second-year student Frank Moran.

Judges for the 2014 Law Day Competition were Brian Barkey, ’70; Professor Peter Henning; Assistant Professor Justin Long; Valerie Newman, ’92; and Visiting Professor Michael Steinberg, ’89.

The team of Gaviglio and Moran took on finalists Chris Chesney, third year; and Milica Filipovic, second year. In third place was the team of John Scott Buell and Zachary Rowley, both second-year students.

Additional competition rankings:

Best individual in oral advocacy
1. Moran
2. Will Thompson, second year
3. Filipovic

Best team brief
1. Kiefer Cox, second year, and Deborah Johnson, second year
2. Gaviglio and Moran
3. Chesney and Filipovic

Best individual brief
1. Faiza Hasnain, second year
2. Moran
3. Marcy West, third year

Stewart wins national environmental writing competition


Stewart will receive a $2,000 award, a year’s membership to the nonpartisan Environmental Law Institute based in Washington, D.C., and publication of his winning entry in The Environmental Law Reporter, the institute’s flagship journal.

His entry, “The Overlooked Vulnerabilities of State-Level Greenhouse Gas Regulations Under Pike Balancing and Possibilities for Addressing Those Vulnerabilities,” assesses the viability of state regulations on greenhouse gas emissions in the face of legal challenges under the Dormant Commerce Clause, a doctrine that prohibits states from passing laws that negatively impact interstate commerce.

The competition is organized by the institute’s Program on the Constitution, Courts and Legislation and the National Association of Environmental Law Societies.

Stewart holds a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies from Michigan State University and has worked in Wayne Law’s Transnational Environmental Law Clinic. He was elected editor-in-chief of the 2014-15 Wayne Law Review editorial board.
We welcome alumni news

The Alumni Notes in this issue of The Wayne Lawyer include items submitted from Dec. 1 through May 31. Read about recent Wayne Law alumni accomplishments anytime at law.wayne.edu/alumninews. Send news of your professional accomplishments to lawalumni@wayne.edu.

1950s

Hon. Damon J. Keith, LL.M., ’56, was presented the Wolverine Bar Association’s Living Legacy Award at the organization’s April 12 Barristers’ Ball in Detroit.

1960s

Eugene Driker, ’61, was named Detroit Antitrust Litigation Lawyer of the Year by Best Lawyers. A founding member of Barris Sott Denn & Driker PLLC, he was appointed as a special mediator in the city of Detroit bankruptcy.

Paul Rosen, ’64, was selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2013 as Detroit Lawyer of the Year in the field of personal injury law. He is with Mindell Malin Kutinsky Stone and Blatnikoff in Southfield.

Wayne Budd, ’67, was named an independent member of the Board of Directors for PBF Energy Inc. He is a senior counsel of Goodwin Procter LLP.

Jack Couzens, ’67, was listed in the 2013 Business Edition of Michigan Super Lawyers for his expertise in the estate planning and probate practice area. Couzens is with the Farmington Hills office of Couzens Lansky Fealk Ellis Roeder & Lazar PC.

Robert Berlow, ’71, was listed in the 2013 Business Edition of Michigan Super Lawyers for his expertise in the real estate practice area. Berlow is employee benefit arrangements and tax planning.

Donald Wagner, ’68, was listed in the 2013 Business Edition of Michigan Super Lawyers for his expertise in the banking practice area. Wagner is with the Farmington Hills office of Couzens Lansky Fealk Ellis Roeder & Lazar PC. He also was recognized in the Super Lawyers Business Edition 2013, a separate national publication.

1970s

Clark Johnson, ’70, was elected by the students of Michigan State University College of Law as Distinguished Doctrinal Faculty Member of the Year for 2014. He teaches Contracts, Equity, Insurance Law, Medical-Legal Problems, Mortgages, Property and Secured Transactions.

Hon. William Murphy, ’70, was elected treasurer of the Council of Chief Judges of the State Courts of Appeal throughout the United States. Murphy also was asked to continue serving on the council’s Executive Board Committee. He was reappointed as chief judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals in November.

Robert Berlow, ’71, was listed in the 2013 Business Edition of Michigan Super Lawyers for his expertise in the real estate practice area. Berlow is with the Farmington Hills office of Couzens Lansky Fealk Ellis Roeder & Lazar PC. He also was recognized in the Super Lawyers Business Edition 2013, a separate national publication.

Jon Muth, ’71, was recognized by the Grand Rapids Bar Association with the Donald R. Worsfold Distinguished Service Award. He is with law firm Miller Johnson of Grand Rapids.

Robert Hudson, ’72, was instrumental in planning the May 23 annual gala and awards ceremony of the French American Chamber of Commerce Michigan Chapter. Hudson is president emeritus of the chapter and a shareholder with the Detroit office of Butzel Long.

Lawrence Katz, ’72, was presented with the 2013 Barbara R. Levine Award in Recognition of Excellence in Appellate Advocacy by the Appellate Defender Commission in March 2014. In addition, his article, “Preserving Issues for Appeal in Criminal Cases,” appeared in the October issue of the Michigan Bar Journal. His article, “Amanda Knox: An American’s Journey through the Italian Justice System,” appeared in the fall issue of the National Italian American Bar Association News.

Robert Lenihan, ’72, was named general counsel of Harness Dickey, where he is a partner in the firm’s litigation practice group.

William W. Swor, ’72, was elected board president for the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services. Swor is founder of the Detroit law firm William W. Swor & Associates.

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Hon. Timothy Pickard, ’74, retired after 20 years as judge at Lenawee County Circuit Court. He has signed an agreement with the Michigan Court Administrative Office to serve on special assignments in Lenawee County and the northern Michigan counties of Emmet, Charlevoix, Mackinac and Muskegon, as well as on state appeals court panels.

David DuMouchel, ’75, has been appointed by the U.S. District Court Eastern District of Michigan as a member of the Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel. He is a Butzel Long attorney and shareholder based in the firm’s Detroit office. Earlier this year, DuMouchel was appointed to serve as a voting member of the U.S. Sentencing Commission Practitioners Advisory Group.

David Marvin, ’76, was honored with the Leo A. Farhat Outstanding Attorney Award at the Ingham County Bar Association’s 119th annual dinner. Marvin is with the Lansing office of Fraser Trebilcock.

Linda Hallmark, ’77, served as chair and moderator for the Governor’s Task Force on Children’s Justice Summit from May 21 to 23 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City. Hallmark is chief judge pro tem of the Oakland County Probate Court and also serves in the Circuit Court Family Division.

Timothy Busch, ’78, of The Busch Firm in Irvine, Calif., has joined forces with Michael Caspino, previously with Brady Vorwerk Ryder and Caspino, to form Busch & Caspino—a full-service firm concentrating on business, estate and tax planning, and corporate real estate and business litigation, as well as religious organizations and canon law.

1980s

Larry Mann, ’80, announced his retirement from his partnership position with Bowman and Brooke in Bloomfield Hills.

Aleksandra Miziolek, ’80, was appointed vice president, general counsel and secretary, effective Feb. 3, of Cooper-Standard Holdings Inc., a global supplier of automotive sealing, fuel and brake, and fluid transfer systems. Miziolek previously was a member of Dykema Gossett PLLC.

Robert Palmer, ’80, was recognized by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly* as one of its 2014 Leaders in the Law. A partner at Pitt McGehee Palmer and Rivers in Royal Oak, he also has served as appointed special independent counsel to Detroit City Council since 1981.

Teresa Stanek Rea, ’80, has rejoined Crowell & Moring as a partner in the intellectual property group, leaving from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, where she most recently served as acting director. In addition, Rea joins as a director at C&M International Ltd., the international trade and investment consulting firm affiliated with Crowell & Moring.

Gerald Acker, ’81, was named one of *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*’s 2014 Leaders in the Law. Acker is co-founder and senior partner of Goodman Acker PC.

Susan Burkhart, ’81, was named Best Lawyers 2014 Raleigh Insurance Law Lawyer of the Year. Burkhart is chair of the insurance law and coverage practice in the Raleigh, N.C., office of Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP.

James Derian, ’81, was installed as president of the Oakland County Bar Association. He is a litigation attorney with Delphi Automotive Systems in Troy.

Joel Applebaum, ’83, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy on March 14 in Washington, D.C. Applebaum is a member of Clark Hill’s corporate restructuring and bankruptcy practice group.

Roland Hwang, LL.M., ’84, has been reappointed by Gov. Rick Snyder to the state’s Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission. Hwang is an assistant state attorney general.

James Kamp, ’84, was recognized in the 2014 IP Stars directory published by *Managing Intellectual Property* magazine. He is a partner in Honigman’s IP department and IP litigation and patent practice groups.

Patricia Nemeth, ’84, presented “Sex and Gender in the Workplace” with attorney Erin Behler to industry trade groups in Connecticut on Nov. 6 and Jan. 14. She is founder of Nemeth Law PC.

Hon. Thomas Eineman, ’85, was appointed to the bench of the Fifth Judicial Circuit Court in Florida. He has been a sole practitioner since 1990. For the past 20 years, Eineman has volunteered as a judge in the Hernando County Teen Court program.

Holli Targan, ’85, was honored by PaymentsSource as one of the year’s Most Influential Women in the Payments Industry. Targan serves as chair of the electronic payments practice group at Jaffee Raitt Hewitt & Weiss PC, where she is a partner.

Kenneth Neuman, ’86, was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Home Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan. He is managing partner at Neuman Anderson PC, based in Birmingham.

Hon. Edward Joseph, ’87, was appointed to the Third Circuit Court in Detroit by Gov. Rick Snyder. Joseph has been an attorney in private practice since 1991 and was serving as a special assistant attorney general.
Phillip Korovesis, ’87, was elected to serve a three-year term on the State Bar of Michigan Negligence Council. Based in Butzel Long’s Detroit office, shareholder Korovesis is a litigation practice group leader and serves as the chair of Butzel Long’s trade secret and non-compete specialty team.

Stacey Washington, ’87, was elected to the Board of Directors of Growing Hope, a nonprofit organization that organizes the Ypsilanti and Wayne farmers markets and educates people about gardening and healthy food. Washington is a sole practitioner in Ann Arbor.

David Thoms, ’88, has been elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Federation of Alliances Francaises-USA Inc. He also was elected as the board’s vice president for a one-year term. Thoms is a principal with Miller Canfield.

Donald Campbell, ’89, was invited to speak about at the International Association of Defense Counsel’s Professional Liability Roundtable on May 8 at University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Campbell is a partner at Collins Einhorn.

1990s

Thomas Hatch, ’91, managing director of Northfield Capital Partners, advised Meidu Holding Co. Ltd. in the Dec. 4 $535 million acquisition of Woodbine Acquisition Corp. from Woodbine Holdings LLC. This represented the first acquisition of a 100 percent working interest in oil assets in the United States by a Chinese venture.

Marcy Ford, ’93, was named Co-Member of the Year by the Consumer Bankruptcy Association of Detroit. She is a partner and executive vice president at real estate law firm Trott & Trott PC.

Shirley Kaigler, LL.M., ’93, was honored as a 2014 Leader in the Law by Michigan Lawyers Weekly. She is a member of the estate, wealth planning and probate practice group at Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC.

Kim Yapchai, ’93, was a speaker at Crain’s Detroit Business General and In-House Counsel Awards and Summit on May 13 in Detroit. Yapchai is assistant general counsel and director of group legal affairs and corporate ethics at Masco Corp.


Chanille Carswell, ’95, was promoted to shareholder at Brooks Kushman PC. She concentrates her practice on intellectual property litigation.

Joseph DeVito, ’95, received the Deal Maker of the Year Award 2013 from Finance Monthly magazine. He also was named Deal Maker of the Year – Advisor Category by Crain’s Detroit Business in partnership with the Association for Corporate Growth, Detroit Chapter, as part of the 2014 M&A Awards. He is with Howard & Howard PLLC.

Monica Moons, ’95, has been named a shareholder of Couzens Lansky in Farmington Hills. She concentrates her practice in the areas of estate planning, estate and trust administration, tax planning, probate and tax litigation and real estate.

Addie Williams, ’95, was named one of the Michigan Chronicle’s 2014 Women of Excellence. She is president/CEO of Spaulding for Children, an attorney and an adjunct professor with the WSU School of Social Work.

Hon. Thomas Cameron, ’96, was appointed to the Third Circuit Court in Detroit by Gov. Rick Snyder. Cameron was the Criminal Justice Bureau chief for the Michigan Department of Attorney General.

Leif Anderson, ’97, of Neuman Anderson PC was recognized by Michigan Super Lawyers for the fifth consecutive year. He specializes in complex commercial litigation with a focus on business, corporate, real estate and construction and contract disputes.

David Points, LL.M., ’97, spoke April 12 at the University of Akron’s seventh annual Black Male Summit. He is a retired Michigan public school educator and former director of the Joint Information Bureau, Joint Task Force –160, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Alex Domenicucci, ’98, joined Maddin Hauser Wartell Roth & Heller PC as a shareholder. He previously was with the Detroit office of Ernst & Young.

Floyd Gates Jr., ’98, joined the Grand Rapids office of Miller Canfield as senior counsel. He advises financial institutions, businesses and insurance carriers throughout the United States.

D. Lee Khachaturian, ’98, was elected vice president of the Michigan Defense Trial Counsel. She is a member of Dickinson Wright’s Detroit office.

Gary Springstead, ’98, was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan. He also will serve as a representative for other criminal defense attorneys in a continued on page 40
district that includes Big Rapids, Grand Rapids, Hart, Kalamazoo, Ludington, Marquette, Muskegon and Traverse City. He is a partner at Springstead & Bartish Law PLLC in Grand Rapids and Fremont.

Kimberly Berger, ’99, was elected principal at Miller Canfield, where she specializes in domestic and international trademark prosecution and intellectual property litigation.

Gary Donohue, ’99, has joined Brooks Kushman PC as a senior attorney. Previously, he oversaw all aspects pertaining to trademarks, copyrights and patents for Ally Financial as intellectual property counsel.

Thomas Kabel, ’99, was named to Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson’s Elite 40 Under 40 Class of 2014. Kabel is a shareholder with Butzel Long in Bloomfield Hills and chair of the firm’s recruiting committee.

2000s


Brandy Mathie, ’00, joined Kerr Russell and Weber PLC. She practices in the area of real estate.

Homayune Ghaussi, ’01, was selected as a board member for the nonprofit Friends of the Public Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan. He is a partner with Warner Norcross & Judd LLP.

Jeffrey Doyle, ’02, was elected a shareholder of Reising Ethington PC. Doyle has prepared and/or prosecuted patent applications in a variety of technologies.

Adrienne Dresevic, ’02, was appointed to the American Bar Association’s Governing Council of the Health Law Section. She is a founding shareholder of The Health Law Partners.

Marie Godush, ’02, was named as shareholder at Vedder Price. She is a member of the firm’s finance and transactions group in the Chicago office.

Alycia Wesley, ’03, was a featured speaker during the Beaumont Parenting Program’s March 12 seminar, “Financial Planning for Your Child’s Future” in Troy. Wesley is an estate-planning attorney with Colombo & Colombo in Bloomfield Hills.

Terry Bonnette, ’04, presented the “2014 Labor and Employment Law Update” at the Raising the Bar series Jan. 22 at Nemeth Law PC, where he is a partner. He presented “Workplace Violence” for clients of the Hyland Group in Troy on Nov. 15, in Novi on Nov. 14 and in Ypsilanti on Nov. 11. He presented “Social Media” on Nov. 8 at the Michigan Chapter of National Association Directors of Nursing Administration in Detroit.

Stuart Schwartz, ’04, was admitted to membership at Clark Hill PLC. Schwartz is a member in the construction practice group and is adjunct to the litigation practice group.

Ian Bolton, ’05, was promoted to shareholder at Southfield-based Maddin Hauser Wartell Roth & Heller PC. He is a member of the firm’s creditors’ rights, insolvency and bankruptcy and general litigation practice groups.

Krista Hosmer, ’05, joined Rader Fishman & Grauer PLLC in its Bloomfield Hills office. Her practice is focused on intellectual property litigation and complex business disputes.

Jennifer Newby, ’05, was elected as a member of Dickinson Wright PLLC’s Detroit office. She focuses her practice in the areas of commercial and business litigation, class action and employment litigation.

James Reid IV, ’05, was promoted to shareholder at Southfield-based Maddin Hauser Wartell Roth & Heller PC. He is a member of the firm’s corporate/employment practice group.

Mark Wilkinson, ’05, was appointed to the Labor and Employment Law Section Council of the Illinois State Bar Association. He is a partner with Franczek Radelet.

Michael Cushion, ’06, was promoted to shareholder at Brooks Kushman PC. He focuses his practice on patent prosecution for electrical, mechanical and electromechanical matters, as well as business methods.

E. Colin Cicotte, ’07, was elected a shareholder of Reising Ethington PC. Cicotte has experience with patent infringement, trademark and trade secret litigation.

Aimee Gibbs, ’07, was elected as a member of Dickinson Wright PLLC’s Ann Arbor office. She focuses her practice in the areas of employment, schools and educational institutions, business and commercial litigation, and intellectual property and trade secrets litigation.

Thomas Isaacs, ’07, was elected as a member of Dickinson Wright PLLC’s Detroit office. He focuses his practice on litigation including commercial and business litigation, automotive litigation, and product liability and personal injury.

Shanta McMullan, ’07, was re-elected to serve a one-year term on the Board of Directors of the Wolverine Bar Association. She concentrates her practice at Butzel...
Long on the management side of labor and employment law.

**Joseph Richotte**, '07, was elected a shareholder with Butzel Long. Based in the Bloomfield Hills office, Richotte practices in the areas of white collar criminal defense, securities and business litigation, news media defense and attorney discipline defense.

**Jonathan Colman**, '08, was named partner at Barron Rosenberg Mayoras & Mayoras PC in Troy. He concentrates his practice in probate litigation, business and commercial litigation and business law.

**Robert Kent**, '08, joined Michigan State University as assistant general counsel. He formerly worked with Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook.

**Leslie Rojas**, '08, joined The Health Law Partners PC as an associate in the firm’s Southfield office. She focuses on health care compliance with federal and state health care regulations, health information privacy and technology issues, fraud and abuse issues, and transactional and corporate aspects of health care.

**Brian Aquart**, '09, recently joined the Human Resources Administration in the Department of Social Services in New York City as deputy director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Office.

**Erin Behler**, '09, presented, with Patricia Nemeth, “Sex and Gender in the Workplace” to industry trade groups in Connecticut on Nov. 6 and Jan. 14. Behler is with Nemeth Law PC.

**Alisha Cieslak**, '09, was named general counsel of Gordon Food Service, based in Grand Rapids.

**Marilena David-Martín**, '09, was presented the Regeana Myrick Outstanding Young Lawyer Award by the State Bar of Michigan Young Lawyers Section. David-Martín is an assistant defender at the State Appellate Defender Office in Detroit. She also was awarded the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan Justice for All Award for her work investigating convictions involving the now closed Detroit Crime Lab.

**2010s**

**Stephanie Farkas**, '10, joined the law offices of Shannon M. Smith PC in Bloomfield Hills.

**Johnny Hamood**, '10, has joined Goodman Acker PC. He specializes in civil and personal injury litigation.

**John Wright**, '10, joined Rogers Mantese & Associates as an attorney. He previously served an assistant state attorney general.

**Eric Berg**, '11, was honored April 17 by the Transition to Independence Program, an initiative of WSU School of Social Work. Berg was recognized as one of three “champions” of the program for providing pro bono legal services to students. He also is a labor law attorney with Gregory, Moore, Jeakle & Brooks in Detroit.

**Joshua Borson**, '12, joined Southfield-based Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC as an associate in the firm’s corporate practice group.

**Stephanie Karisny**, '12, joined the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center as a staff attorney. Previously, she was in private practice at a law firm in Troy.

**David Schelberg**, '12, joined Starr Butler Alexopoulos & Stoner PLLC in Southfield as an associate attorney. He focuses his practice on defense of employment claims, professional liability, commercial litigation and general litigation.

**Sam Fares**, '13, joined Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC. He focuses his practice in intellectual property law.

**J. Parker Ihrie**, '13, joined Southfield-based Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC as an associate in the firm’s real estate and finance practice groups.

**Paul Mardirosian**, '13, joined Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP in its Detroit office. He is an attorney in the firm’s real estate department.

**Michelle Rubin**, '13, joined Southfield-based Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC as an associate in the firm’s estate planning practice group.

**Michael Skoczylas**, '13, joined Kerr Russell as an associate practicing in the areas of taxation, business law, mergers and acquisitions, tax controversies and estate planning. Skoczylas is also a certified public accountant.

**Justin Spurlock**, '13, joined Dickinson Wright as an associate. He focuses his practice on patent prosecution and litigation.

**Jordan Summers**, '13, was appointed personal trust officer for Chemical Bank Wealth Management. He previously served as a law clerk and associate for two years with Gandelot and Associates.

**Adam Wallace**, '13, joined Dickinson Wright as an associate. He is experienced in drafting and evaluating contracts, corporate legal research and entity formation.

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**In memoriam**

We respectfully remember the following members of the Wayne Law community and acknowledge their passing with sorrow.

- Daniel D. Bigsby, ’72
- Richard O. Breithart, ’57
- Virginia C. Dare, ’57
- Hon. Ray C. Hotchkiss, ’59
- James D. Irvine, ’52
- Donald R. Lackey, ’61
- Chokwe F. Lumumba, ’75
- Russell N. Luplow, ’72
- William R. McBrayer, ’88
- Stuart F. Meek Jr., ’62
- Lorrey Michela, ’80
- R. Scott Mills, ’71
- Val L. Osinski, ’72
- Donald Stange, ’69
- Natalie F. Tate, ’76
- LeRoy H. Temrowski, ’54
- Hon. Leonard Townsend, ’59
- Paul A. Wilbur, ’78
- Sandra Lynn Williams, ’92