CARL LEVIN

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## COVER STORY
Former U.S. Sen. Carl Levin has joined Wayne Law as chair of the newly created Levin Center at Wayne Law and the Law School’s distinguished legislator in residence. Read the cover story on Page 11.
Letter from Dean Jocelyn Benson

It’s a great time to be at Wayne Law. In the Summer 2015 issue of The Wayne Lawyer, you’ll read about the accolades the Law School has earned over the past few months, our top-notch campus visitors and, as always, inspiring alumni updates – including some from the newly minted class of 2015.

The biggest story is the launch of our new Levin Center at Wayne Law, named in honor of Carl Levin, Michigan’s longest-serving U.S. senator and a well-known institutional watchdog. We’re thrilled that the senator also is beginning his role as our distinguished legislator in residence and will teach his first Wayne Law class in the fall. You can read all about it starting on Page 11.

We’ve also posted significant growth in our community outreach. This year, our faculty and staff worked hard to increase public events and community partnerships and brought more alumni than ever back to campus to share their expertise with students. Check out the impressive statistics on Page 23.

I’m also pleased to report our latest national honor. In March, Wayne Law was named among the best law schools in the nation for practical training by The National Jurist magazine. We continue to enhance those experiential learning opportunities. The latest is our new Corporate Counsel Externship Program, which launched in June. You can read about it on Page 31.

We also are proud that our February bar passage rates increased 2 points, with 89 percent of Wayne Law students passing on the first try – well above the statewide average. You can read complete details about our February bar passage rates on Page 4.

This spring, we were thrilled to welcome special guests including world-class real estate developer Stephen Ross, ’65, and civil rights icon Morris Dees. Numerous other speakers joined us from as far away as India and Finland, showing that Wayne Law is truly a destination for international law experts.

Our students, of course, continue to thrive. Wayne Law teams took top honors in major competitions across the nation during winter semester. Full details are on Page 36.

I hope you enjoy reading the news we’ve compiled in this edition of The Wayne Lawyer, and I invite you to pass along the magazine to a prospective student.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Benson
Dean

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Numerous series bring guest speakers to Wayne Law

Wayne Law’s Alumni Speaker Series presented “Fresh Perspectives on International Law” on Feb. 17. Panelists were Kimberly Berger, ’99, partner in the litigation and dispute resolution and intellectual property groups at Miller Canfield Paddock & Stone’s Detroit office; Brad Bidwell, ’11, lead global data security and data privacy attorney for Dow Chemical Co. in Midland; Joseph DeVito, J.D. ’95 and LL.M. ’05, attorney with Howard & Howard in Royal Oak; and Bryan Zair, ’04, partner in the corporate and securities practice group of Mayer Brown LLP’s Chicago office.

On March 12, the Alumni Speaker Series presented “Women in the Judiciary.” Retired Michigan Supreme Court Justice Marilyn Kelly, ’71, distinguished jurist in residence at the Law School, moderated the discussion. Panelists were Oakland County Circuit Judge Mary Ellen Brennan, ’90; Wayne County Circuit Judge Megan Maher Brennan, ’87; Oakland County Circuit Chief Judge Nanci Grant, ’89; and 36th District Judge Donna Robinson Milhouse, ’84.

The Program for International Legal Studies and Program for Entrepreneurship and Business Law presented “Taking Detroit Global: Helping Local Entrepreneurs Expand” on Feb. 3. Speakers were Bridget Russo, director of public relations and marketing for Detroit-based luxury-goods producer Shinola, and Paula Levitan, ’82, a partner in the technology, entrepreneurial and commercial clients group of Bryan Cave’s London office.

The Program for International Legal Studies also presented Wayne Law Professor Jonathan Weinberg on “President Obama’s Executive Actions on Immigration” on March 24, as well as a screening of the award-winning documentary Seeking Truth in the Balkans and a panel discussion Feb. 25. Panelists included filmmakers Erin Lovall and June Ellen Vutrano, Wayne Law Professor Brad Roth and Carrie Booth Walling, assistant political science professor at Albion College. Moderator was Professor Gregory Fox, Program for International Legal Studies director.

The Good Governance Lecture Series brought panelists interested in the wellbeing of Detroit to campus Feb. 18 for “Evaluating Mayor Duggan’s Year One.” Speakers included moderator Bankole Thompson, author and senior editor of the Michigan Chronicle; the Rev. David Alexander Bullock, teacher, lecturer, pastor and activist; Professor Peter Hammer, director of Wayne Law’s Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights; Maggie DeSantis, longtime community development pioneer; Rachel Lutz, fourth-generation Detroit business owner; and Wayne Law Professor John Mogk, expert in urban law and policies.

We welcome alumni speakers

Wayne Law alumni interested in speaking at the Law School are encouraged to contact Duc Abrahamson, alumni relations officer, at (313) 577-6199 or duc.abrahamson@wayne.edu.
Civil rights activist and Wayne State University student Viola Liuzzo was posthumously awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree April 10 at Wayne Law. It was the first honorary degree awarded posthumously in the university’s history.

A tree dedication followed in the Law School courtyard.

The honor came 50 years after Liuzzo, a Wayne State nursing student and mother of five, was killed in Selma, Ala., after answering the call from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for volunteers to assist with voting rights demonstrations.

Liuzzo’s family traveled from around the country to attend the ceremony and accept the degree. Wayne State President M. Roy Wilson and the Wayne State Board of Governors extended the invitation in recognition of the impact Liuzzo’s actions had on moving the struggle for civil rights forward.

Liuzzo would have turned 90 on April 11.

Bar passage rate for first-time takers rises 2 points to 89 percent

Wayne Law’s state bar exam passage rate continues to climb, with 89 percent of first-time test-takers in February passing.

The rate is before appeals, so it could climb higher. The 89 percent rate is 2 points higher than Wayne Law’s February 2014 rate of 87 percent (after appeals) and higher than any other Michigan law school except the University of Michigan (95 percent).

“Those strong passage rates go to our students and to Sarah Garrison, our director of academic success and bar preparation,” Dean Jocelyn Benson said. “Since she was hired in 2013, our bar passage rates have consistently increased.”

Reception celebrates new Alumni Club of D.C.

Wayne Law alumni in the Washington, D.C., area gathered April 14 for a reception to announce the new Wayne Law Alumni Club of D.C.

David Clanton, ’69, hosted the event at Baker & McKenzie LLP. Stephen Ravas, ’05, and Kris Dighe, ’87, provided leadership in creating the club.

Events welcome admitted students

Wayne Law Admissions presented several events to welcome students admitted for fall 2015.

Students met Dean Jocelyn Benson, faculty, staff and current students at Admitted Student Dinners on Feb. 16 at the Pizza House in Ann Arbor and Feb. 23 at HopCat in East Lansing.

At an Admitted Students Open House on March 20, students met faculty members, fellow students and alumni; attended a mock class; and heard presentations about Career Services, Student Affairs, Financial Aid and other topics.

In April, two days of events included a Law Firm Crawl on April 10 and a Career Options Open House on April 11.

During the crawl, students visited the Mike Morse Law Firm in Southfield and Bodman PLC in Detroit. Bodman sponsored a closing reception at its Ford Field offices.

At the open house, the day included meeting faculty members, staff, fellow students and alumni; attending a mock class; hearing from panels of alumni and current students; and watching presentations on Career Services; externships, clinics and Public Interest Law Fellowships; Program for Entrepreneurship and Business Law; and Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights; and taking tours.

On May 15, Benson and faculty greeted admitted students at a Dean’s Luncheon at the Detroit Athletic Club.

Help us recruit new law students

Wayne Law alumni interested in helping to recruit new law students are encouraged to contact Kaylee Place at (313) 577-2731 or kaylee.place@wayne.edu.

Dean Jocelyn Benson, as a member of the Southern Poverty Law Center Board of Directors, attended events March 7 and 8 for the 50th anniversary of the “Bloody Sunday” march in Selma, Ala. A half-dozen Wayne Law students and alumni joined her there. Among the events was a wreath-laying ceremony featuring members of a congressional delegation. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/selma2015

Incoming student Joe Duffy practices his Heisman stance. Bodman PLC sponsored a reception April 10 at its Ford Field offices as part of a Law Firm Crawl for Wayne Law admitted students. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/admitted2015
The Dean’s Office and U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Michigan hosted a panel discussion April 2 surrounding the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Participants, from left, were Leah Aden, assistant counsel of the Political Participation Group for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund; Barbara L. McQuade, U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, who gave opening remarks; Dr. Kareem Crayton, associate professor at the University of North Carolina School of Law; Dean Jocelyn Benson; Bankole Thompson, senior editor of the Michigan Chronicle, who served as moderator; Vanita Gupta, acting assistant attorney general with U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division; and U.S. Rep. John Conyers Jr., D-Mich., ’58. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/voting2015

The Dean’s Office and U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Michigan hosted a panel discussion April 2 surrounding the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

As part of Wayne Law Wellness Week, Student Affairs arranged for a Pet Therapy event April 24. Law students took a break from studying and visited with furry friends from Dr. Paws Therapy Dogs Inc. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/pets2015

SAVE THE DATE
WAYNE LAW ALUMNI RECEPTION
State Bar of Michigan Annual Meeting
Thursday, Oct. 8
4:30 to 6 p.m.
Suburban Collection Showplace
46100 Grand River Ave., Novi
RSVP: law.wayne.edu/statebar2015
Judge Steven Rhodes, who handled Detroit’s Chapter 9 bankruptcy, the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history, spoke March 23 at Wayne Law. Rhodes has retired from the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. He spoke as part of Adjunct Professor David Ruskin’s Bankruptcy and Creditors’ Rights class, which met at a special time for the lunchtime event. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/rhodes2015

Oakland County Circuit Judge Joan E. Young, ’74, delivered the 30th annual I. Goodman Cohen Lecture in Trial Advocacy on March 10 at Wayne Law. She presented “Oral Advocacy and Pretrial Practice.” Commentators were Dean M. Googasian, ’97, and Moneka L. Sanford, ’03. The lecture was established by the family of the late Cohen, a prominent trial lawyer who was active in the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association, known today as the Michigan Association for Justice. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/cohen2015

Joshua Opperer, ’95, a partner in Honigman’s Corporate Department, was a guest speaker March 31 in Assistant Professor Eric Zacks’ Mergers and Acquisitions class.

Wayne Law and the State Bar of Michigan presented “Professionalism in Action,” a program for first-year law students, Jan. 23.

Dean Jocelyn Benson hosted a cocktail reception for alumni Feb. 11 at the Bonita Bay Club in Bonita Springs, Fla.

John Hartig, refuge manager for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, presented “Bringing Conservation to Cities: Lessons from Building the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge” on Feb. 18 at Wayne Law. He spoke to Assistant (Clinical) Professor Nick Schroock’s Environmental Law class for an event open to the campus community.

Dr. Ismo Polonen, a senior lecturer of environmental law at the University of Eastern Finland Law School, visited Wayne Law on March 23 to speak about international environmental law. He lectured at a luncheon presented by the Law School’s Environmental Law Society and spoke to the Environmental Law class of Assistant (Clinical) Professor Nick Schroock.

Judge Bernard Friedman of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan heard motion arguments March 27 at Wayne Law. The annual event, “Motion Day,” provides an opportunity for students to spend a day in federal court without leaving the Law School.

“Combining Your Practice, Passion and Politics” was the topic of a panel discussion March 30 at Wayne Law moderated by Assistant Professor Blanche Cook. Experts discussed prosecution of sex crimes, human trafficking, hate crimes and sex trafficking. The event was presented by the Women’s Law Caucus, National Lawyers Guild and Student Board of Governors.

Joshua Opperer, ’95, a partner in Honigman’s Corporate Department, was a guest speaker March 31 in Assistant Professor Eric Zacks’ Mergers and Acquisitions class.

Students eligible to participate in the ceremony included 134 for juris doctor degrees and 11 for master of laws degrees. The ceremony was in the Detroit Opera House.

Keynote speaker was Carl Levin, Michigan’s longest-serving U.S. senator and chair of the newly launched Levin Center at Wayne Law. Justice Sujata Manohar, retired judge of the Supreme Court of India, received an honorary doctor of laws degree from WSU at the ceremony.

Also speaking were Sandra Hughes O’Brien, member of the WSU Board of Governors; WSU President M. Roy Wilson; Wayne Law Dean Jocelyn Benson; Ana Campos, president of the Wayne Law Student Bar Association Board of Governors; and Cesare Sclafani, ’08, president of the Law Alumni Association.

Receiving awards at the ceremony were professors of the year Christopher Lund and Alan Schenk.

MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/commencement2015
CAREER SERVICES

Career Services helps students network, connects them with jobs

From social events to judicial panel discussions, Career Services arranged nearly 40 events for the 2014-15 academic year in its mission to connect students with professional opportunities and prepare them for life after law school.

“Wayne Law students are highly sought after in the legal community,” said Krystal Gardner, assistant dean of career services. “Our students have a well-deserved reputation for being smart, hardworking and resourceful. For the class of 2014, 86.3 percent of our class was employed within 10 months of graduating.”

Career Services provides one-on-one advising, resume and cover letter review, mock interviews and job-shadow opportunities.

Rising third-year student Justin Zayid said he visited Career Services during his first year. He wanted help with his resume and advice about applying for jobs.

“Krystal Gardner’s door was open, and I timidly peered into her office,” Zayid said. “When I noticed she was there, I quickly walked away, embarrassed, unsure if it was appropriate for me to be in there. As I walked away, Ms. Gardner ran out and insisted I come chat. We ended up talking for over an hour about classes, work and life out of law school. Ever since then, I have relied on Career Services for advice when it comes to choosing my schedule, applying for jobs and understanding the often overlooked nuances of the legal industry.”

Zayid is working this summer at Bowman and Brooke LLP, a placement he attained with the help of Career Services.

Career Services annually conducts on-campus job interview programs, a public service career fair, a student pro bono program and mentoring programs. The office also hosts student field trips to law firms big and small throughout the metro Detroit area and Grand Rapids; information sessions on fellowships, internships and judicial clerkships; and opportunities for students to meet and mingle with judges, members of the State Bar of Michigan and local and affinity bar associations, and attorneys in many fields of practice.

For the fall 2014 on-campus interview season, 53 employers and 130 students participated. Employers granted 413 on-campus interviews and 93 callback interviews.

“We are still collecting data regarding offer acceptances. We currently have 36 law clerk positions posted. That’s pretty extraordinary,” Gardner said in June.

Wayne Law students are working this summer for law firms, corporations, judges, government agencies and nonprofit organizations.
The recently established Levin Center at Wayne Law already is planning a conference and training, and former U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, the center’s namesake, is preparing to co-teach his first class at the Law School.

Wayne State University on March 10 announced the creation of the center, honoring Levin, Michigan’s longest-serving U.S. Senator, who retired in January after 36 years in office. He is chairing the center and serving as the Law School’s distinguished legislator in residence.

The center’s goal is to educate future attorneys, business leaders, legislators and public servants on their role overseeing public and private institutions and using oversight as an instrument of change. Through academic programming, training and scholarship, the center will equip future lawyers, legislators and leaders with an understanding of how effective legislative oversight can lead to significant and meaningful changes in public policy.

“My years in the Senate have shown me the central role that oversight can play in promoting government, corporate and institutional responsibility and accountability,” Levin said. “I am honored to be a part of Wayne State University and its Law School, which are both doing so much to promote community service and public interest.”

The center will build upon Levin’s vision and leadership to develop academic coursework, training programs, symposia and research that will ensure future leaders recognize and embrace their role in promoting honest and open government, maintaining the public trust and holding public and private institutions accountable to high ethical and transparency standards.

This summer, for example, the Levin Center will sponsor an oversight boot camp for congressional staff members in Washington, D.C., to promote more bipartisan, fact-based investigations.

In October, the Levin Center will present a conference in Washington, D.C., honoring the 40th anniversary of the Church Committee and examining ongoing issues related to congressional oversight of the intelligence community and classified information. The conference will be co-sponsored by Levin and former U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., who established The Lugar Center, a nonprofit public policy institution in Washington, D.C.

continued on Page 12
Eugene Driker, ’61, a founding member of the Detroit law firm of Barris, Sott, Denn and Driker and former member of the WSU Board of Governors, chairs the Advisory Board of the Levin Center.

The 18-member, bipartisan board includes four former U.S. senators, a former Detroit mayor, as well as business, community, education and nonprofit leaders. The board will provide counsel and lead the creation of an endowment to support the center’s mission.

“For five decades Carl Levin has personified what it means to be a committed public servant,” Driker said. “By transmitting his wisdom and experience to others, his influence on public policy will be felt for generations. This center will bring great distinction to Wayne State and to Detroit, on whose behalf Sen. Levin has worked tirelessly his entire life.”

Leadership for the Levin Center at Wayne Law includes, from left, former U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, chair of the center; Linda Gustitus and Elise Bean, interim directors of the center; and Eugene Driker, chair of the center’s Advisory Board. Nearly 200 business, community, legal and political leaders gathered May 5 at the Detroit Institute of Arts to celebrate Levin’s new roles with Wayne Law and Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/levinreception2015.
As distinguished legislator in residence, Levin will co-teach his first class, Tax Policy Seminar: Role and Impact of Congressional Oversight on Abusive Tax Strategies, this fall. He will teach the class with Wayne Law Distinguished Professor Alan Schenk and Wayne Law Adjunct Professor Stephen Cappellino.

“As Detroit’s public law school, Wayne Law seeks to instill in our students a commitment to public service and high ethical standards,” said Wayne Law Dean Jocelyn Benson. “Who better to learn that from than Sen. Levin? We are extremely excited to welcome Sen. Levin as a member of our Wayne Law community and provide our students with the opportunity to learn from and follow in the footsteps of this living legend.”

During his Senate career, Levin earned respect from his colleagues on both sides of the political aisle for his integrity, resourcefulness and diligence, and ability to build consensus. He became one of the nation’s most respected leaders on national security, a powerful voice for equality and justice, and a fighter for economic fairness.

As chair of the Senate’s Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Levin was known for carrying out bipartisan, fact-based and fair inquiries that led to meaningful reforms.

His landmark Enron investigation supported passage of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, strengthening U.S. financial reporting and accounting rules. The Levin-led subcommittee produced the only bipartisan report on key causes of the 2008 financial crisis, paved the way for credit card reforms that benefited millions of families and held hearings that helped break the filibuster of the Dodd-Frank Act of 2010, eventually leading to the most significant financial market reforms in a generation.

“When Sen. Levin retired from the U.S. Senate, his colleagues called him ‘the best lawyer in the entire Senate,’ a ‘senator’s senator,’ and ‘Mr. Integrity,’” said WSU President M. Roy Wilson. “Sen. Levin will be an inspiration to our students and faculty.”

Levin’s ties to Detroit run deep.

He and his wife, the former Barbara Halpern, ’77, are lifelong residents of the city. Prior to his Senate service, Levin was president of the Detroit City Council. He also served as the first general counsel of Michigan’s Civil Rights Commission, after which he was special assistant attorney general for the state of Michigan and chief appellate defender for the Legal Aid and Defenders Association of Detroit. At that time, the association was the largest provider of legal services to low- and moderate-income people in Michigan and one of the largest in the nation.

Levin also has joined the law firm of Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP as senior counsel.

Levin, who earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Swarthmore College and law degree from Harvard Law School, was recognized by Wayne State with an honorary degree in 2005.
Detroit Equity Action Lab builds understanding, solidarity in first year

Over the past year, diverse leaders from dozens of organizations have been meeting at Wayne Law to build an understanding of structural racism in Detroit.

Over this coming year, a second cohort of leaders will continue the work.

The leaders are members of the Detroit Equity Action Lab, supported by a three-year, $1.3 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to strengthen the racial equity network and build skills to create action plans that promote change to policy and increase awareness about racial equity issues. The equity lab is an initiative of Wayne Law’s Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights led by the center’s director, Professor Peter Hammer.

“Structural racism” describes how public and private institutions historically and systematically provide advantages to white people in ways that are embedded in society.

“We are gathering stories from community leaders that illustrate how structural racism has impacted metro Detroit,” said Eliza Perez-Ollin, ’14, equity lab project coordinator. “It gives us a framework for understanding and an emphasis on how structures can perpetuate racism without even intending a racial impact.”

Sharing the stories forged solidarity among the 27 leaders of the first cohort, who range in age from their 20s to their 60s and brought a wealth of ethnic diversity to the group, including African American, Arab American, Asian American, Caribbean American, East Indian American, European American, Latino American, Mexican American and Native American.

Anthropologist Bettie Kay McGowan, an activist member of many national and Native American organizations and an adjunct professor at Eastern Michigan University, was a member of the first cohort.

“I came away with respect and admiration for all those involved,” McGowan said. “What impressed me most about the cohort was the genuine care and concern of the members. Each and every one of them wants to see equality, fairness and equity for all people in this country, and what’s more, they are willing to work together to make that happen. It was inspiring to be a part of something so positive. These people gave me hope that Detroit and the entire country could profit from sitting down together and talking about the problems all minorities face.”

Perez-Ollin said minority groups often feel isolated from the rest of society.

“A lot of times within our own communities we know these stories of structural racism’s impact but not the stories of other communities,” she said.

The workshops, trainings and discussions of the first cohort showed its members the need to support each other and how their experiences are often similar, Perez-Ollin said.

Said Hammer: “The next year will deepen our current work and focus more particularly on the role of the media, messaging and storytelling in shaping racialized belief systems and social policy.”

One project is working with the Detroit Historical Museum preparing to mark the 50th anniversary of Detroit’s civil unrest in 1967 to make sure issues of racial equity are fairly addressed.

“Together, we can work to ensure that the stories that haven’t been told about the civil uprising in 1967 are told from multiple perspectives,” Perez-Ollin said.

Wayne Law events celebrate Black History Month

Wayne Law’s Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights and Black Law Student Association celebrated Black History Month by hosting several events.

On Feb. 10, a panel of black judges discussed their careers and issues of diversity in the judiciary. Panelists were Judge Cylenthia Miller, 36th District Court of Michigan; Judge Deborah Geraldine Ford, 36th District Court of Michigan; Judge Denise Page Hood, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan; Judge Terrance Keith, Wayne County Probate Court; and Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Stafford, ’93, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan.

A Soul Food Café fundraiser, catered by Faustina’s Creole and Soul Food on Feb. 19, included a showing of the documentary Eyes on the Prize.

Associate Professor Adele Morrison led a teach-in Feb. 23 about socio-legal LGBTQ issues that are of particular importance to the black community.

A second teach-in Feb. 25 was led by Walter S. Gibbs Professor of Constitutional Law Steven L. Winter, who discussed “Defending Civil Rights with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.”
Film about Judge Damon J. Keith premieres in Detroit

Walk With Me, a documentary about 92-year-old civil rights icon Judge Damon J. Keith, LL.M. ’56, made its world premiere June 17 at the Max Fisher Music Center in Detroit.

Co-sponsored by Ford Motor Co. and the DTE Energy Foundation, Walk with Me: The Trials of Damon J. Keith, tells the story of 10 extraordinary years, four unprecedented cases and one unconventional federal judge, who forever changed civil rights in the United States.

Keith, who today sits on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, caused controversy by rooting out hidden discriminatory practices that had been woven into housing, education, employment and law enforcement. Believing that the law could and should be used to pursue social change and racial equality, Keith shook the nation as he challenged the status quo and faced off against angry crowds, the KKK and even a sitting U.S. president.

The premiere screening was followed by a question-and-answer session with Keith, film director Jesse Nesser and film executive producer Mitch Albom.

All proceeds from the screening benefitted S.A.Y. Detroit, a charity aimed at improving the lives of the neediest citizens through shelter, food, medical care, volunteer efforts and education.

A standing-room-only crowd of more than 300 came to hear civil rights icon Morris Dees speak April 13 at Wayne Law. Dees, co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center, presented “With Justice for All in a Changing America.” The lecture was the third installment of the annual Dean A. Robb Public Interest Lecture Series, presented by the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights. Participants included, from left, Dean A. Robb, ’49, the noted civil rights attorney and social activist for whom the lecture series is named; Dean Jocelyn Benson; Michael Pitt, ’74, managing partner of Pitt McGehee Palmer & Rivers PC, which makes the series possible; Dees; Professor Peter Hammer, director of the Law School’s Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights; and Savala Nolan Trepczynski, associate director of the Keith Center. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/dees2015

Experts discussed the legal, social, moral and practical implications of events in Ferguson, Mo., and New York City during a presentation Jan. 21 at Wayne Law. The Law School’s Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights presented “After Ferguson: A Panel Discussion.” From left are, front row – moderator Stephen Henderson, managing director/opinion and community engagement for the Detroit Free Press; panelist Portia Roberson, ’93, director of the city of Detroit’s Civil Rights and Justice Division; and panelist Steven Winter, Walter S. Gibbs Professor of Constitutional Law; and back row – Professor Peter Hammer, director of the Keith Center; panelist Nicholas Klaus, ’15, who twice served as an observer in Ferguson for the National Lawyers Guild; panelist Saul Green, chair of Detroit’s Youth Violence Prevention Initiative; panelist Blanche Cook, assistant professor and former assistant U.S. attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice; and Dean Jocelyn Benson. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/fergusonpanel

Law students from metro Detroit came to a panel discussion Jan. 15 at Wayne Law to learn about judicial clerkship and externship opportunities. Panelists included Krysta Player, right, career clerk to Judge Mark Randon of U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Michigan and former law clerk to Judge Victoria A. Roberts. The panel was sponsored by Wayne Law’s Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights and the Wolverine Bar Association Judicial Externship Program. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/clerkships2015
The 2015 Wayne Law Golf Outing on June 8 raised more than $28,000, nearly doubling the $15,000 raised by last year’s outing, for Wayne Law scholarships.

The money goes toward an endowment to provide scholarships to assist second- and third-year students.

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

Platinum-level sponsors were Anthony and Tiffany Dietz, Lear Corp. and Lumen Legal. Gold-level sponsors were Tim Guerriero and Debra Marcon, as well as Howard & Howard.

At the reception, Wayne Law Dean Jocelyn Benson presented a scholarship of $1,000 to rising second-year student Gabe Appel.

The following golf awards also were presented:

- First-place team: Diversified Legal Staffing – Jim Grobbel, Mark Grobbel, ’83; Bob Sauer; and Terry Tripp with a score of 62.
- Runners-up: Matt Cunningham, Wayne Law senior gift officer; Mike Horn, WSU head golf coach; Larry Mann, ’80, retired; and Rasul Raheem, ’84, senior vice president and assistant general counsel at Bank of America.
- Closest to the pin (men): Paul Thursam, ’08, of Giarmarco, Mullins & Horton PC.
- Closest to the pin (women): Pamela Kroll of Caputo Bresnan PC.
- Shoot-out winner – Kenneth Merritt of Collins Einhorn Farrell PC.

Golf outing committee members were David Galbenski, ’93, of Lumen Legal; Henry Brennan III, ’83, of Howard & Howard; Anthony Dietz, ’97, of Law Offices of Shannon Shaya PC; Tim Guerriero, ’80, retired; Professor Peter Henning; Paul Hines, ’73, of Gasiorak Morgan & Greco PC; Terry Larkin, ’79, of Lear Corp.; Larry Mann, ’80, retired; David McClaughrty, ’93, of Ingrassia Fisher & Lorenz PC; and Brittany Schultz, ’01, of Dykema Gossett PLLC.

MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/golf
Wayne Law’s 2015 Treasure of Detroit on April 22 honored the brightest lights in the legal profession and celebrated the growth and success of the Law School. The event was in the Prentis Court at the Detroit Institute of Arts. This year’s honorees were: Chokwe Lumumba, ’75, honored posthumously as a longtime civil rights activist who was mayor of Jackson, Miss., at the time of his death in 2014; and the Miller family, including father Bruce A. Miller, ’54, general counsel for the Metro AFL-CIO in Detroit and founder of Miller Cohen PLC in Detroit; son E. Powell Miller, ’86, CEO of The Miller Law Firm PC in Rochester; daughter Ann Lydia Miller, ’89, partner in The Miller Law Firm; daughter Elizabeth Dot Miller, B.A., ’86, bookkeeper at Miller Cohen PLC; and late mother Edna P. Miller, M.S.W. ’58, who at the time of her death in 2006 was an associate professor emeritus in Wayne State’s School of Social Work. Also at the Treasure of Detroit event, Assistant Professor Kirsten Matoy Carlson received the 2014 Donald H. Gordon Award for Excellence in Teaching. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/treasure2015
Wayne Law hosted a Scholarship Luncheon on March 27 at the university’s McGregor Memorial Conference Center for scholarship donors and recipients.

The event, in its second year, provides an opportunity for private scholarship donors and representatives to meet with and learn more about the Wayne Law students benefiting from their generosity. It also gives the recipients a chance to express their gratitude for support.

At the luncheon, donor Peggy Goldberg Pitt met the 2014-15 Michael and Peggy Goldberg Pitt Endowed Scholarship recipient, Michael Emmer.

MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/scholarshipluncheon2015

“Wayne Law has given me the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of Detroit’s residents through student organization community service and by advocating for Detroiters as a student attorney with the Business and Community Law Clinic and Free Legal Aid Clinic. Detroit is my hometown, and it gives me great pride to give back.”

— Cecil Roberson
Wayne Law Class of 2016
For more information about making an impactful gift, call the Law School Development team at 313-577-4141.

In honor of their friendship, five alumnae from the class of 1998 endowed the Brass Ring Scholarship, providing annual assistance to Wayne Law students. From left are Dianna Collins, Marcy Hahn, Stacey King, Samantha Lord and Mary Margaret O’Donnell.
Chinese scholar spends month at Wayne Law

Professor Lin-Bo Fan of China’s Northwest University of Politics and Law spent a month as a visiting scholar at Wayne Law.

He arrived March 14, the first professor from his university in an exchange program that began during fall semester when Wayne Law Assistant (Clinical) Professor Nick Schroock spent a month in China lecturing at the university in Xi’an.

The faculty exchange is an effort to build relationships with foreign universities in support of Wayne Law’s new master of laws in U.S. law degree.

Fan specializes in international economic law, and he speaks fluent English and is a widely published author on law in English.

Notes

Dean Jocelyn Benson traveled to China in May to meet with dignitaries and build relationships with Chinese law schools in support of faculty exchanges and Wayne Law’s new master of laws in U.S. law degree. Among universities she visited were Northwest University of Politics in Law in Xi’an and Fudan University Law School in Shanghai. Benson previously visited China in June 2013 and is planning another trip there in October.

Justice Sujata Manohar, retired judge of the Supreme Court of India, met with Wayne Law J.D. and LL.M. students May 18 for a roundtable discussion. Manohar, an international pioneer for women’s rights and human rights, was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree by Wayne State University at the Law School Commencement that evening.

Ghanaian judges study at Wayne Law; chief justice visits Law School

Chief Justice Georgina Wood of the Republic of Ghana visited Wayne Law to learn more about its master of laws programs and confer with three Ghanaian judges studying at the Law School.

The three judges – Ruby Aryeetey and Gabriel Mate-Teye, both of the nation’s Circuit Court, and Mercy Kotei of the Cape Coast Magistrate’s Court – were students in Wayne Law’s master of laws program from August 2014 to May 2015.

Wood visited Wayne Law on April 24 to speak with faculty members, meet with Dean Jocelyn Benson and Provost Margaret Winters, and catch a glimpse of the African collection at the Detroit Institute of Arts, said Associate Professor Paul Dubinsky, director of graduate studies.

“Justice Wood and I talked at some length about her thoughts about judicial education and the ability of the Ghanaian judiciary to serve its people in the most effective way with the maximum intellectual capacity and how the graduate programs at Wayne Law can contribute to that vision,” Dubinsky said.

Wayne Law in fall 2014 began offering a master of laws degree in U.S. law for foreign law students and lawyers. The goal of the program is to prepare international students for careers in which a solid grounding in the U.S. legal system is desirable, whether that career is in government, business, academia, the judiciary or private practice.
WAYNE LAW IN THE COMMUNITY

Academic Year 2014-15

109 community partnerships
110 community events attended and supported by our faculty and staff

$1,366,196.52 worth of pro-bono legal services provided by students in our law clinics
225 clients served by our law clinics

45 events open to the public
4,100 people who attended events

96 students placed in externships to earn academic credit while gaining practical professional experience
30 alumni who came back to Wayne Law to provide guidance and advice to current students

Launched the DETROIT EQUITY ACTION LAB at the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights, through a three-year, $1.3 million grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, to bring together nonprofit organizations to address issues of structural racism in Detroit.

Expanded the pilot program ADVOCATES FOR WARRIORS to bring our alumni and students together to ensure Michigan’s military community in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties has access to legal services and support.

Founded the LEVIN CENTER AT WAYNE LAW, which will educate future attorneys, business leaders, legislators and public servants on bipartisan, effective techniques to oversee public and private sector activities and offer useful recommendations for reform.
Fresh out of high school in 1994, Royce Nunley, ’15, embarked on an eight-year gig as bassist for the Suicide Machines, touring Europe twice, Japan four times and playing all over the United States and Canada.

That was followed by stints as a producer, sound engineer, tour manager and bartender before trading it in for long nights in the library. Having relinquished his punk rock lifestyle, Nunley graduated from Wayne Law on May 18.

“Being in a moderately successful band isn’t as glamorous as it may sound,” Nunley said. “We were on the road six to nine months a year, and I was fortunate to see a lot of places during that time. But we worked very hard at what we did. We toured in a van. I literally lived in that van with the rest of the band for eight years. It’s hard not to want to kill the other people in the van after so long.”

Burned out, Nunley left the Suicide Machines and made the move to producer, opening Ringside Recording Studios and Broken Spoke Records.

“I wrote a lot of songs for the Suicide Machines and would record all the instruments and vocals myself before giving the songs to the rest of the band to hear,” Nunley said. “When I started recording other people’s music I had a good idea of what to do.”

Nunley also worked as a sound engineer and tour manager for the Reverend Horton Heat before deciding to put down firmer roots. He bartended at the Majestic in Midtown Detroit while earning his bachelor’s degree in Spanish from Wayne State in 2011; the following year – with a baby on the way – he decided to pursue a law degree.

“I thought law school could give me an opportunity to have a meaningful career while providing enough cash to send my kid to college,” he said.

At Wayne Law, Nunley participated in the Student Trial Advocacy Program, winning the Donald E. Barris Trial Competition twice. He also interned at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan and the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center.

Nunley plans to open his own firm specializing in immigration, criminal and employment law. Although he continues to play with his current band, Radio Burns, for the on-stage experience he loves, he says his current role in the music scene is “bitter old man yelling at all the new punk rockers to turn their music down.”

For a longer version of this story, visit law.wayne.edu/nunley.
For 25 years, Jerry Dorsey IV has been dedicated to getting justice for children and families.

Dorsey, ’86, is chief of trials for the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office. His commitment to justice began early in his childhood.

Dorsey grew up in the Brewster-Douglass Housing Projects in Detroit.

“My mom was very poor, but she’d always share what she had with others,” he said. “My family has always helped people. I have two sisters who are nurses and one sister in social services.”

For Dorsey, poverty acted as a catalyst that inspired his need to give back. He knew he wanted to continue his mother’s legacy of selfless giving, but he wasn’t sure where to start.

Dorsey began his journey at Wayne State, earning his undergraduate degree in history and psychology. Initially, he planned to pursue a career in the mental health field. He worked for 10 years in a psychiatric inpatient facility, but grew frustrated. He wanted to make a significant difference in the lives of his patients, but he often was unable to make the kind of impact he craved. Dorsey had a desire to heal, but he recognized he was destined for another path.

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For Dorsey, poverty acted as a catalyst that inspired his need to give back. He knew he wanted to continue his mother’s legacy of selfless giving, but he wasn’t sure where to start.

“So, I came to the law and found a way to channel that need to help,” Dorsey said.

He was appointed as an assistant county prosecutor in 1989, and, in 1990, joined the office’s Child and Family Abuse Bureau.

He is passionate about his work, but decades of delving deeply into such crimes can at times take an emotional toll.

“It’s hard,” Dorsey said. “I did not realize how traumatizing it was until I went to a conference and we talked about vicarious trauma. I never let my children spend the night at relatives’ houses. I didn’t trust anybody. That was me. Now I leave it at the office. It took me a long time to get there.”

A winner of the Spirit of Detroit Award, Dorsey’s commitment to justice extends beyond the courtroom. He serves the Wayne County Council Against Family Violence, Kids-TALK Children’s Advocacy Center and the state Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children.

Dorsey has made it his mission to be an advocate for abused children, and his passion for standing up for them hasn’t abated one bit over the years.

“I have been blessed to practice criminal law,” he said.

MORE ONLINE

For a longer version of this story, and for a brief Question & Answer report with Jerry Dorsey IV, visit law.wayne.edu/dorsey.
Nanci Grant, ‘89, noticed a few years ago that some of the defendants before her in Oakland County Circuit Court were veterans, who, before their deployment, had never been in trouble with the law.

About the same time, Probation Officer Marseille Allen approached Grant about starting an informal program to meet with some veterans who were having trouble meeting their probation requirements. The judge – who has been on the bench since 1996 – and Allen began to meet with the veterans in Grant’s chambers to try to figure out how to help.

“More often than not, we learned that the probationer was struggling with housing, necessary paperwork to access VA benefits or they simply needed better guidance,” the judge said. “I knew that something must be done to help these struggling veterans. I became focused on balancing the need to keep our communities safe while addressing why these veterans – service men and women who served their country honorably and put themselves in harm’s way on behalf of their fellow citizens – had become felony offenders.”

After a year of the informal program, Grant realized that a more formal structure would be of use. So, in 2013, she founded the Oakland County Combat Veterans Treatment Court.

“The participants are men and women who have experienced combat, conflict, or search-and-rescue or recovery while serving their country and whose lives have been detrimentally affected by their service,” Grant said. “The program changes the lives of our military veterans through intense supervision, mental health and substance-abuse treatment, readjustment counseling and mentoring with military veterans who can relate to their combat experiences. The program is designed to serve as an alternative to incarceration. The Combat Veterans Treatment Court is the only program in Michigan that exclusively has veterans whose combat experiences directly led to their involvement with the criminal justice system.”

Oakland County is home to more than 70,000 veterans, according to Oakland County Veterans Services. Research shows that veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder have a far higher propensity to suffer from impulsive aggression and substance-abuse issues and that veterans treatment courts have a high rate of success in preventing recidivism.

Grant was inspired by her father, retired Oakland County Probate Judge Barry Grant, ‘60, to enter the law profession. She worked as a trial attorney with Dickinson Wright Moon VanDusen & Freeman before being elected to the bench.

Judge founded state’s first Combat Veterans Treatment Court

Chief Judge Nanci Grant, ‘89, noticed a few years ago that some of the defendants before her in Oakland County Circuit Court were veterans, who, before their deployment, had never been in trouble with the law.

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For a longer version of this story, and for a brief Question & Answer report with Nanci Grant, visit law.wayne.edu/nancigrant.
Dr. Ernest Chiodo – a 1986 alumnus of Wayne Law and a 1983 alumnus of Wayne State's School of Medicine – is working on his sixth master's degree. But already, the list of his educational and professional accomplishments is daunting. He's a physician, a lawyer, a certified industrial hygienist and a biomedical engineer, and he teaches toxic tort law as an adjunct professor at Loyola University Chicago and the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. His master's degrees are in public health, Harvard University, 1989; biomedical engineering, Wayne State, 2007; biological, chemical and radiological threat response management, University of Chicago, 2009; occupational and environmental health science – industrial toxicology, Wayne State, 2009; and economics, University of Chicago, 2011. The master's degree he's in the process of attaining is in evidence-based health care, which he's studying at Oxford University in England.

“I have to fly back and forth,” said Chiodo, who has homes in Chicago and in Harrison Township.

The physician-attorney actively practices both medicine and law – he has offices in Clinton Township and Chicago – but his primary source of income is his work as a forensic medical expert witness for trials.

“Through my main activity, and it’s very lucrative,” Chiodo said. “I get very involved in cases involving car crashes, and I do a lot of work with toxin exposures and mold contamination. I have a small general medicine practice, where I see people for occupational and environmental medicine consults, and I try some cases as a lawyer. I do some representation of physicians and some toxic tort cases. But most of what I do is forensics, and my legal background is invaluable. To be a really good forensic expert, you have to have a law degree or become a jailhouse lawyer.

“I’m like a medical detective. I read the files and sort things out, and I have to be able to prove it. Then, I have to go testify. There, I’m a professional punching bag.”

Chiodo served as Detroit’s medical director from 1993 to 1995. He also has served as medical director of the pension boards of the city of Lansing; as an assistant clinical professor of internal medicine, family medicine and public health at Wayne State's School of Medicine; as president of the Michigan Industrial Hygiene Society; and as chairman of the Environmental Litigation and Administrative Practice Committee of the State Bar of Michigan.

For a longer version of this story, and for a brief Question & Answer report with Dr. Ernest Chiodo, visit law.wayne.edu/chiodo.
Ami (Patel) Gadhia, ’03, began her law career in high school, when she worked as a file clerk for Oakland County’s 52nd District Court, 2nd Division. Today, she helps commercialize inventions resulting from research at Johns Hopkins University, one of the world’s best.

Attorney Ami (Patel) Gadhia, ’03, works in the field of technology transfer, helping Johns Hopkins University researchers bring their inventions to market – and to people who need them.

It’s a “sweet spot” for Gadhia, a place where science, law and business intersect to bring discoveries to the world. She earned her undergraduate degree at Wayne State in chemical engineering and a master of laws degree in intellectual property from George Washington University Law School.

Today, she is a portfolio director for technology licensing at Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures Office in Baltimore. It’s a job she loves and one she hadn’t considered when she started law school.

“I had my mind set on patent prosecution, because that was what I was most familiar with,” Gadhia said. “I hadn’t considered policy work, litigation or licensing. I had the opportunity to explore these different intellectual property career opportunities after law school and realized how varied a career in IP law could be.”

Gadhia manages a portfolio of inventions and a team of licensing professionals to commercialize inventions resulting from research at Johns Hopkins, a university widely considered one of the best in the world.

“I am most proud of completing the largest patent licensing deals in Johns Hopkins’ history for the benefit of the university and its faculty inventors, as well as successfully obtaining the first federal manufacturing waiver on behalf of a licensee,” she said.

Gadhia said two of her Wayne Law professors in particular helped to expand her horizons and shape her career path.

“Professor Katherine E. White enabled my internship with Ford Global Technologies’ IP Department and encouraged me to pursue an LL.M. at George Washington, as she had done,” Gadhia said. “Professor Jessica Litman (now with the University of Michigan Law School) helped broaden my interest in IP as I learned from her about digital copyright, trademarks, trade secrets, etc.”

Gadhia said she chose to attend Wayne Law because of its reputation in IP law, its affordability and its location in her hometown.

As she gained her LL.M., she worked at the International Intellectual Property Institute and then joined the Law Offices of Royal Craig, which later merged with Ober-Kaler in Baltimore. In 2007, she was hired as a technology analyst and promoted soon after to a licensing associate with Johns Hopkins Technology Transfer. She was promoted in 2012 to portfolio director for physical sciences and engineering, and then in 2013 to her present position.

For a longer version of this story, and for a brief Question & Answer report with Ami (Patel) Gadhia, visit law.wayne.edu/gadhia.
Wayne Law Distinguished Professor Alan Schenk made a big impact on Lynn A. Gandhi, ’86. “He taught the first tax class I ever took, so I owe my career to him,” she said.

Tax lawyer Lynn A. Gandhi, ’86, first was drawn to her field of expertise by the sophisticated analysis it required.

And today, nearly 30 years later, she continues to find tax law a fascinating domain.

“I learn something new each month, and what constitutes practice in the subject is never repetitive,” said Gandhi, a certified public accountant who holds a master of laws degree in taxation from New York University School of Law and is a partner at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP. “The most interesting aspect is applying the law to the ever-changing world of business transactions. Our statutes do not keep up with today’s economies and offerings.

“For example, in the area of sales tax, the laws were last revised in the 1970s when we were still a manufacturing economy and service businesses were just on the rise. Now, most products are digitalized and offered in the Internet marketplace. Applying the statutes is challenging. Where do you source the sale of a service when the buyer is in one jurisdiction, the seller in another, servers in yet another and the ‘product’ is really the use of information accessed via the web? How do you determine what jurisdiction is entitled to tax that sale? How does this impact your client’s global business?”

She teaches Multistate Taxation in the Digital Age at Wayne Law as an adjunct professor and has been honored many times by her peers for her exemplary practice. She was named as one of the “best in the profession” in 2014 by State Tax Notes and has been listed as a top tax lawyer by Best Lawyers in America, Michigan Super Lawyers and DBusiness.

Gandhi, who advises clients nationwide, also is a registered lobbyist in Michigan who is engaged in initiatives to enact tax legislation.

“Tax is the vector of public policy, public finance and building our state and nation with an eye toward the future,” she said. “What we tax and how we tax is an issue of public policy and changes from decade to decade. What I believe is most important is to strive to be a fair, efficient and transparent system. Most of my lobbying efforts have been to simplify the system, make it more efficient and to ensure that taxes are levied aligned to our constitutional parameters.”

For a longer version of this story, and for a brief Question & Answer report with Lynn A. Gandhi, visit law.wayne.edu/gandhi.
Mindy Layne Young, ’86, has combined her training as a lawyer and therapist into a unique career.

After graduating from Wayne Law, she practiced with United Auto Workers Ford Legal Services for a while. Then, she returned to the University of Michigan – where she had earned her bachelor’s degree in political science – and gained a master of social work degree. Today, she is vice president and general counsel for the Rochester Center for Behavioral Medicine and a practicing senior clinical psychiatric social worker there.

Why the career change to social work?

“Almost five years into my practice of law, three things happened in unison,” she said. “My father became ill and asked me to help run his business. I started a family and recognized that it would be hard for me to spend the time I wanted with my young children and work full time as a lawyer. Finally, I recognized that I was more interested in the mental health of young lawyers than I was in the practice of law.”

Back in graduate school again, Young developed a strong interest in cognitive behavioral therapy, which she practices today.

“Cognitive behavioral therapy examines the relationship between thoughts, feelings and behavior,” Young said. “The goal is to help the patient learn to correct distorted thoughts and change maladaptive behaviors.”

She also developed an interest in offering psychotherapy to law students, with whom she can easily relate.

“Law school often pushes students to their limits,” Young said. “It is a time of great challenge and high expectations. While it is sometimes met with enthusiasm, it also can evoke anxiety and depression. Law school exacts an emotional toll on almost everyone.”

Young enjoyed her own years at Wayne Law but also remembers feeling anxiety sometimes as a student.

“I truly enjoyed the camaraderie I had with my classmates – the shared experience cultivated warm attachments,” Young said. “Bear in mind that the 30 years since law school has anesthetized me from too many memories of all-nighters or the stress of writing my first brief.”

She particularly liked working as a law student for the Free Legal Aid Clinic.

“I learned great lawyering skills at the Free Legal Aid Clinic, which fostered my interest in providing comprehensive legal services for individuals who may not be otherwise able to afford assistance,” Young said. “I went to law school so I could serve people in need. The same motivations propelled my career change less than a decade later.”

For a longer version of this story, visit law.wayne.edu/mindyyoung.
Corporate counsel externship program launched

Wayne Law continues to expand opportunities for experiential learning with the addition of a corporate counsel externship program.

The program, now in its first semester, allows students to develop the knowledge and skills they need to succeed as commercial and business lawyers by placing them in the corporate counsel offices of for-profit and nonprofit businesses in and around Detroit.

“Corporate counsel externships provide substantial legal experience for our students beyond what we traditionally offer in the classroom,” said Associate (Clinical) Professor D’lorah L. Hughes, director of clinical education. “Externs work as lawyers on real matters under the mentorship of our partner organizations. This unmatched experience adds to our students’ skill sets and also expands their knowledge of the types of work lawyers can do in the business community.”

Field placements offer opportunities for juris doctor and master of laws students to work directly with business clients and experience the role of lawyers in mergers and acquisitions, business contracts, real estate transactions, securities laws and compliance with governmental regulation of business and industry. Externs work at least 150 unpaid hours over the course of the semester, performing tasks similar to those of entry-level attorneys.

Wayne Law students are placed in corporate counsel externships at Ally Financial, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Ford Motor Co., GKN North America Services Inc. and WSU Office of the General Counsel. The Michigan Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel has assisted the Law School in developing the corporate counsel externship program.

Through the complementary colloquium course, students learn about issues encountered in in-house legal departments, as well as the ethical responsibilities of in-house counsel. Substantial class time is devoted to professional skills instruction on topics such as working with outside counsel, conflicts management, contract drafting and conducting internal investigations. Students also participate in facilitated discussion, as well as analysis of and reflection on their fieldwork.

This summer’s colloquium is being taught by Tim Guerriero, ’80, immediate past general counsel and company secretary for TI Automotive Ltd. The fall 2015 colloquium will be taught by John Collins, ’76, managing director, general counsel and secretary of AlixPartners LLP.

New director, associate director for clinical education named

D’lorah L. Hughes is Wayne Law’s new director of clinical education, and Ashley E. Lowe is the new associate director of clinical education.

Hughes, who joined Wayne Law in July 2014 as associate director of clinical education and director of externships, succeeded David Moss, who has returned to full-time teaching and continues to lead the Disability Law Clinic. Lowe joined Wayne Law in January as program director for Advocates for Warriors, which brings alumni and students together to ensure Michigan’s military community in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties has access to legal services and support.

The appointments include Hughes becoming an associate (clinical) professor.

Hughes came to Wayne Law from the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville, where she was an associate professor of law and director of criminal clinics. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in liberal studies from California State University, Long Beach, and law degree from Duke University School of Law.

Prior to coming to Wayne Law, Lowe taught at Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Lowe earned a bachelor of arts degree in political science at the University of California, Los Angeles, and law degree and master of business administration degree at Georgetown University.

Become a program partner

If your company would like to participate as a partner in the corporate counsel externship program, contact D’lorah L. Hughes at 313-577-9991 or dhughes@wayne.edu.

Wayne Law students are placed in corporate counsel externships at Ally Financial, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Ford Motor Co., GKN North America Services Inc. and WSU Office of the General Counsel. The Michigan Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel has assisted the Law School in developing the corporate counsel externship program.

This summer’s colloquium is being taught by Tim Guerriero, ’80, immediate past general counsel and company secretary for TI Automotive Ltd. The fall 2015 colloquium will be taught by John Collins, ’76, managing director, general counsel and secretary of AlixPartners LLP.

Steven Knox, ’15, shows his Outstanding Clinical Student Award from the Clinical Legal Education Association. With him are Assistant Professor Rachel Settlage, left, director of the Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic, and Adjunct Assistant Professor Kathryn Smolinski, director of the Legal Advocacy for People with Cancer Clinic. Smolinski nominated Knox for the award for his work with the two clinics.
Lance Gable speaks, writes on various health law topics

Associate Dean Lance Gable spoke at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C., as part of its Global Health Governance Roundtable Series. The discussion was titled “Understanding a Framework Convention on Global Health in the Context of the Ebola Outbreak.”

Gable also spoke at a symposium on “The Future of Public Health Law” at the University of Michigan School of Public Health and on “Quarantine and Isolation Power: Legal and Ethical Considerations” at the Public Health and Disasters Conference sponsored by the University of Utah.


Julia Qin gives presentations on world trade protocols

Professor Julia Qin presented “Nature of WTO Accession Protocols” at the 15th World Trade Organization Annual Conference in London. It was co-sponsored by the British Institute of International and Comparative Law and Georgetown Law Center.


Brad Roth writes chapters, speaks on international law

Professor Brad Roth presented on the topic of his 2011 book, Sovereign Equality and Moral Disagreement: Premises of a Pluralist International Legal Order, at the University of Sheffield School of Law and Department of Politics in the United Kingdom.

He also presented “The Neglected Virtues of Bright Lines: International Law in the 2014 Ukraine Crises” at the University of Windsor (Canada) Department of Political Science and Transnational Law and Justice Network Conference. He spoke on “Self-Determination, Secession, and External Intervention” at the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, Berkeley Law-German Law Journal Colloquium on the Crisis in Ukraine.


Nick Schroeck co-authors article, speaks on panel

Assistant (Clinical) Professor Nick Schroeck, director of the Transnational Environmental Law Clinic, is co-author of “Petroleum Coke in the Urban Environment: A Review of Potential Health Effects.” The article was published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.

Schroeck also spoke on a panel that discussed using the Freedom of Information Act as a strategic tool in permitting legislative, regulatory and litigation strategies to protect water quality and human health from concentrated animal feeding operations. The panel was part of the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference at the University of Oregon School of Law.

Eric Zacks publishes article, presents about contracts


Zacks also presented “Bonding and Contract Drafting” at the 10th annual International Conference on Contracts at the William S. Boyd School of Law in Las Vegas.

Laura Bartell leads groups, publishing journal articles

Professor Laura Bartell was elected dean of faculty of the American Board of Certification, a national organization that certifies bankruptcy and...
consumer rights specialists. In this role, she is chair of the faculty committee that writes exam questions and grades exams.

In addition, she recently was appointed chair of the Executive Committee of the Institute of Continuing Legal Education.

Bartell has two articles forthcoming in the American Bankruptcy Law Journal: “Stay Imposed – The Failed Policy of Section 362(c)(4)” and “Motions to Withdraw the Reference – An Empirical Study.”

Robert Sedler part of historic marriage equality case

Distinguished Professor Robert Sedler was involved in the Michigan case that became part of the marriage equality case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Sedler, one of the attorneys in the Michigan case, was in the Supreme Court for oral arguments. In addition, Sedler was named an honorary professor of Ural State Law University in Russia. The ceremony took place during the ninth session of the Euro-Asian Juridical Congress in Yekaterinburg, where Sedler also presented two papers, “The President, Congress and American Foreign Policy” and “Constitutional Protection of Freedom of Speech in the United States.”

Noah Hall gives presentation at World Water Congress

Associate Professor Noah Hall presented “Law and Governance of the North American Great Lakes” at World Water Congress XV in Edinburgh, Scotland.

The event brought together experts and leaders in water use and protection. It was sponsored by the International Water Resources Association and the Scottish government.

Gregory Fox at WilmerHale as scholar-in-residence

Professor Gregory Fox returned to noted international law firm WilmerHale as a scholar-in-residence during June.

He was in the firm’s London offices researching an ongoing project, “The Multilateralization of Armed Conflict,” he’s working on with Professor Kristen Boon of Seton Hall University School of Law in New Jersey.

Fox began his legal career in the litigation department of Hale & Dorr (now WilmerHale) in Boston.

Notes

Assistant Professor Blanche Cook presented “Implicit Bias and Unpacking the Deaths of Unarmed African Americans” at Vanderbilt Law School in Nashville, Tenn.


Professor Peter Hammer, director of the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights, was a panelist discussing the “Critical Role of Asian Americans in Multi-Racial and Issue-Based Efforts” during an Asian American civic leadership forum sponsored by Asian & Pacific Islander American Vote – Michigan.

Professor Peter Henning was a panelist discussing “Obtaining and Negotiating Corporate Deferred and Non-Prosecution Agreements” at the spring meeting of the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association in San Francisco.

Professor John Mogk was honored with an Attorney Appreciation Award from the Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit.

Associate Professor John Rothchild served as program chair and moderator for a panel discussion about “Losing Control: Who Owns Your Devices Now That They are Connected to the Internet?” presented by Cyberspace Law at the American Bar Association Business Law Section spring meeting in San Francisco.

Distinguished Professor Alan Schenk is co-author of the book Value Added Tax: A Comparative Approach, which recently was updated in its second edition.

Assistant Professor Rachel Settlage, director of the Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic, spoke about “The Surge in Unaccompanied Children at the U.S.-Mexico Border: A Humanitarian Crisis” during a class at the University of Notre Dame.

Adjunct Assistant Professor Kathryn Smolinski, director of the Legal Advocacy for People with Cancer Clinic, co-authored three book chapters: “Oncology Social Work Throughout the Continuum of Cancer Care,” “Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Individuals Diagnosed with Cancer” and “Legal Issues that Affect Quality of Life for Oncology Patients and Their Caregivers” in The Handbook of Oncology Social Work: Psychosocial Care for People with Cancer.

Professor Katherine White was reappointed to the Plant Variety Protection Board for a two-year term. The board advises the secretary of agriculture on matters concerning intellectual property rights to developers of new varieties of plants.
Students serving public interest through summer fellowships

Seven Wayne Law students are gaining experience and serving a variety of agencies this summer, thanks to the support of the 2015 Public Interest Law Fellowships.

The 2015 fellowship winners and their organizations are:

- **Sabra Bushey**, rising second-year student – Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.
- **Alexandra Kavieff**, rising third-year student – Wayne County Solution Oriented Domestic Violence Prevention Court
- **Holland Locklear**, rising second-year student, Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice
- **Maureen O’Sullivan**, rising third-year student, Michigan State Appellate Defender Office
- **Justin Sterk**, rising third-year student, Detroit Land Bank Authority
- **Phaedra Wainaina**, rising second-year student, U.S. Attorney’s Office, Eastern District of Michigan
- **Ashley Zacharski**, rising third-year student, Detroit Center for Family Advocacy

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.

Students, alumnus gain international experience through fellowships, internships

Five Wayne Law students and one alumnus earned fellowships or internships to study, gain experience and advocate for human rights this summer. Their work is sponsored by Wayne Law’s Program for International Legal Studies.

The 2015 fellowship and internship winners and their organizations are:

- **Laura Barrera**, rising third-year student – International Public Interest Law Fellowship to work on refugee issues for Human Rights First in Washington, D.C.
- **Sarah Cravens**, rising second-year student – International Public Interest Law Fellowship to work with Mexico Unido Contra la Delincuencia, a nonprofit in Mexico City offering help to victims of crime and working to promote the development of crime prevention programs.
- **Joanna Harr**, rising second-year student – Internship to work in Mexico City at the law firm of Hogan Lovells, formerly Barrera Sequiros y Torres Landa.
- **George Ligori**, ’12 – Internship to work in the General Counsel’s Office at Tata Motors in Mumbai, India.
- **Tyler Kemper**, rising third-year student – Internship to work in the General Counsel’s Office at Tata Motors in Mumbai, India.
- **Alison Mueller**, rising third-year student – Freeman Fellowship to study for three weeks at The Hague Academy of International Law in The Netherlands.
Erica Shell wins honorable mention in competition

May graduate Erica Shell was awarded an honorable mention in a national environmental law writing competition.

Shell’s entry in the Environmental Law Institute’s 2014-15 Beveridge & Diamond Constitutional Environmental Law Writing Competition was “The Final Auer: Constitutional Challenges to a Fundamental Principle of Administrative Law.” Her article, one of the top three in the contest, will be published in an upcoming edition of Environmental Law Reporter News & Analysis.

Shell has been hired to work at Bodman PLC, where she worked as a legal clerk and as a summer associate in 2014-15. She also worked as a legal assistant for the River Rouge City Attorney Office and participated in Wayne Law’s Transnational Environmental Law Clinic.

National Lawyers Guild honors Kathleen Garbacz

May graduate Kathleen Garbacz was honored Feb. 7 as an Outstanding Law Student of the Year by the National Lawyers Guild Detroit and Michigan Chapter.

“She’s a great comrade in struggle,” said Nicholas Klaus, her friend, fellow law graduate and fellow activist with the WSU chapter of the guild. He nominated Garbacz for the award.

“Without Kathleen, the WSU-NLG chapter would not be as successful as it is today,” Klaus said. “She was integral in getting it off the ground.”

Garbacz served as a student attorney with Wayne Law’s Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Clinic and on the board of The Journal of Law in Society. She was an intern and volunteer with the Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice in Detroit and worked for civil rights law firm Goodman and Hurwitz PC and the United Auto Workers Office of General Counsel.

Nicholas Klaus awarded social justice scholarship

May graduate Nicholas Klaus received a scholarship recognizing work that promotes peace and social justice.

The Abraham Lincoln Brigade Veterans Scholarship goes each year to WSU undergraduate and graduate students who best exemplify the values of the university’s students who fought fascism in Spain in the 1930s.

Assistant Professor Eric Zacks nominated Klaus, who was Wayne Law’s student representative to the Michigan-Detroit chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, as well as the guild’s national student vice president and a member of its National Executive Committee.

As part of the guild, Klaus was an official legal observer of protests in Ferguson and St. Louis and twice served as an official election observer in El Salvador.

More than 100 Wayne Law students were recognized March 26 at an Honors Convocation for achievements, awards and scholarships they earned. Dean Jocelyn Benson congratulated the students on their honors as they were presented by Associate Dean Lance Gable. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/convocation2015
Wayne Law students rise to top at competitions

Wayne Law students performed consistently well at legal competitions across the nation during the winter 2015 semester.

The team of Alex Bowman and Arius Webb won first place in drafting at a regional competition of the National Transactional LawMeet competition hosted by the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law. It was the third year in a row for a Wayne Law team winning in drafting. Wayne Law’s team of Whitney Baubie and Emily Decker competed in the Chicago regional and took home third place in drafting and fourth place overall. The teams were aided by students Robert Clemente and Ian Hickman. Justin Hanna was chairman for this year’s teams, which are advised by Assistant Professor Eric Zacks.

Wayne Law’s team won the U.S. Midwest Regional of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition at Loyola University School of Law in Chicago, topping the field of 22 law schools from across the nation. Team members were Shahad Atiya, Elizabeth Cacevic, Milica Filipovic, Fatima Mansour and Frank Moran. Additionally, the team, including editor Mansour, took home the award for Best Memorial. Moran tied for Best Oralist out of nearly 90 speakers in the region. Professor Gregory Fox, director of the Program for International Legal Studies, is the team’s faculty advisor.

John Scott Buell, Alexander Kemp and Lena Pantely made up the team that won the Michigan and Ohio regional round of the National Trial Competition. Wayne Law’s team of Deborah Johnson Germany and Marcy West made it to the competition’s final round. The competition was hosted by Wayne Law at the Theodore Levin U.S. Courthouse in Detroit and organized by Associate (Clinical) Professor Nick Schroeck, director of the Transnational Environmental Law Clinic.

The team of Derek Boyd and Shell reached the final round in the American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition Regionals in St. Louis. Boyd was named 7th Best Advocate and Shell was named 9th Best Advocate among all participants in the competition. The team of Buell, Kathleen Cieslik and West reached the regional competition’s semi-finals. Faculty advisor is Amy Neville.

The team of Jenna Hunt and Ameena Sheikh-Walczak took home the second-place award for brief at the 31st annual Cardozo/BMI Entertainment & Communications Law Moot Court Competition at Pace Law School in White Plains, N.Y. In addition, Shell was named Best Oralist twice. Team coach is Assistant (Clinical) Professor Nick Schroeck, director of the Transnational Environmental Law Clinic.

May graduates Kiefer Cox and Brent Farago were selected by faculty to be honored at the recent State Bar of Michigan Taxation Section annual meeting. Professor Linda Beale, Associate Professor Susan Cancelosi and Distinguished Professor Alan Schenk selected Wayne Law’s winners.

Alex Bowman and Jack McIntyre won the Wayne Law Moot Court Law Day Competition Finals on March 24.

Milica Filipovic and Ray Kort were the winning team Feb. 27 in Wayne Law’s Student Trial Advocacy Program Inside Competition Finals.

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Free Legal Aid Clinic celebrates 50th year

The Free Legal Aid Clinic Inc. celebrated its 50th anniversary of providing free legal services to metro Detroit residents March 28 at the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle.

More than 150 Wayne Law students, alumni, faculty and staff, as well as local lawyers, judges and other clinic supporters, attended the anniversary celebration.

The clinic is the only student run, 501(c)(3) nonprofit legal aid organization in the nation.

It was founded in 1965 with the assistance of the National Lawyers Guild when Wayne Law students recognized a need for legal assistance to the low-income community. Law students are guided by licensed attorneys in providing legal assistance. This includes legal aid to some of the area’s most vulnerable groups, such as victims of domestic violence and the elderly. The clinic works to serve the community by closing the gap between need and justice.

The clinic has partnered with the Elder Law and Advocacy Center and Lakeshore Legal Aid. The clinic assists elderly Wayne County residents with varied and sundry issues, including eviction defense, credit fraud, estate planning, garnishments, contract disputes, mortgage issues and foreclosures, and elder abuse. The clinic also handles family law cases, primarily divorce and child custody disputes. Additionally, the clinic assists dozens of domestic violence survivors each year in escaping their abusers, procuring personal protection orders against them and reclaiming control over their lives.

Guests at the anniversary celebration perused historical documents and photos from the 50 years of the clinic’s operation, bid on items donated by Detroit businesses to the clinic’s annual silent auction and enjoyed music by the Cat’s Pajamas and the Grateful Dads, two bands composed of clinic alumni and supporters.

Several speakers topped off the evening, highlighting the history of the clinic:

- Distinguished Professor Alan Schenk
- Pamela Wall, clinic vice chair for 2014-15, reading a statement on behalf of James Lafferty, past executive director of the National Lawyers Guild and co-founder of the clinic
- Ronald Helveston, ‘66, founding member of the clinic
- John Royal, president of the Detroit and Michigan Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild
- Sonya Bellafant, clinic supervising attorney for the Elder Law and Advocacy Center
- Jillian Peterson, clinic chair for 2014-15
- Victoria Lencione, clinic chair for 2015-16

To view more photos from the 50th anniversary celebration, visit law.wayne.edu/flacphotos.
1950s

Hon. Carroll Little, ‘57, was the focus of a Detroit News column, “Berman: The state's most tenacious judge.” He is a state administrative judge and the state's longest-serving public employee.

1960s

Eugene Driker, ’61, was honored with the WSU College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts Advocacy Award. He is a founding partner at Detroit-based Barris Sott Denn & Driker PLLC.

1970s

Louis Ognisanti, ’73, was reappointed by the governor to Michigan’s Workers’ Compensation Board of Magistrates. He first was appointed to the board in 2011.

Thomas Guyer, ’74, was honored by the Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit during its annual Attorney Appreciation Awards. Guyer is a partner with Guyer Rose PLLC and a volunteer attorney with Legal Aid and Defender Association Inc. who has prevented many evictions.

Chokwe Lumumba, ’75, who died in 2014, was honored by the Detroit City Council, which is adding a second street sign to Warren Avenue, naming it for him. Lumumba, a longtime civil rights activist, was mayor of Jackson, Miss., at the time of his death.

Dawn Van Hoek, ’76, was named one of 30 “Leaders in the Law” for 2015 by Michigan Lawyers Weekly. She is director of the State Appellate Defender Office.

We welcome alumni news

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

Richard Kaufman, ’77, a partner at Farmington Hills-based Zausmer Kaufman August and Caldwell, has been named deputy Wayne County executive.

Lawrence McLaughlin, ’77, a partner at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP and chair of its real estate department, was named to the 2014 Commercial Real Estate Hall of Fame by Midwest Real Estate News. McLaughlin is one of only three attorneys among the 70 professionals named this year.

Steve Howell, ’78, was named one of 30 “Leaders in the Law” for 2015 by Michigan Lawyers Weekly. He is with Dickinson Wright PLLC.

Jules Olsman, ’78, was named one of 30 “Leaders in the Law” for 2015 by Michigan Lawyers Weekly. He is with Olsman Mueller Wallace & MacKenzie.

Wayne Miller, ’79, was named one of 30 “Leaders in the Law” for 2015 by Michigan Lawyers Weekly. He is with Miller & Tischler PC.

1980s


John Willems, ’80, principal of Miller Canfield Paddock and Stone in Detroit, was elected chairman of the Creative Many Michigan, formerly ArtServe Michigan.

David Marmon, ’81, was reappointed to the Michigan Tax Tribunal, an administrative court that hears appeals on several categories of Michigan taxes.

Sandra Glazier, ’82, presented “What Every Estate Planner Should Know About Undue Influence: Recognizing It, Insulating Against It and Litigating It” with two co-authors during the American Bar Association’s Spring Symposia in Washington, D.C. Glazier is a shareholder of Lipson Neilson Cole Seltzer & Garin PC.

Lee Hornberger, LL.M., ’82, has been elected chair of the Traverse City Human Rights Commission.

Patricia Stamler, ’83, is author of “Unique Aspects of Litigating Federal False Claims Act Cases” in the December issue of the Michigan Bar Journal. She is a partner with Hertz Schram PC.

Hon. Edward Ewell, ’85, Wayne County circuit judge, received the Purple Sport Coat Award at the sixth annual Tertzag Tribute Dinner. The award is given to those who exemplify Judge Kaye Tertzag’s motto: “Be prompt. Be prepared. Be polite.”

Joseph Fazio, ’85, was re-elected to a two-year term as a managing director at Miller Canfield. Fazio is a principal in the Real Estate Group in the firm’s Ann Arbor office.

Lynn A. Gandhi, ’86, was recognized as one of the best in the tax profession by State Tax Notes. She was the only private practice attorney chosen from a pool of practitioners, scholars and government officials. She also was lauded for her key role in creating a better business tax policy environment for Michigan taxpayers.
Ken Neuman, ’86, managing partner with Neuman Anderson PC, presented a session on new changes to the laws governing real estate lending to the Home Builders Association of Michigan.

Kelly Ann Ramsey, ’86, was appointed to the Governor’s Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. The 11-person board promotes the health, safety and welfare of Michigan’s children and families by funding local programs and services that prevent child abuse and neglect.

Robin Axelrod, ’87, president of the Jewish Community Center of Greater Ann Arbor, was appointed director of education for the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus in Farmington Hills.

Kathy Browne, ’87, received a fourth honor from the Daughters of the American Revolution, a state award for “recognition for efforts in conservation and protection of our Michigan resources.”


John Walsh, ’87, was appointed director of strategy within Gov. Rick Snyder’s Executive Office.

Hon. Nanci Grant, ’89, chief judge of Oakland County Circuit Court, was presented the 2015 WONder Woman Award at the Women Officials Network Award Ceremony. The award recognizes women who have improved the quality of life in southeast Michigan through their civic, philanthropic and professional accomplishments.

Geoffrey Rettig, ’89, was appointed chief assistant prosecuting attorney for Midland County.

Pamela Zarkowski, ’89, provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of Detroit Mercy, was keynote speaker at the Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine commencement. Zarkowski is former executive associate dean of the UDM School of Dentistry.

1990s

Hon. Vikki Bayeh-Haley, ’90, is new judge on the 67th District Court bench in Genesee County. She was assistant county prosecutor.

Laura Brodeur-McGeorge, ’90, joined the Detroit office of Kotz, Sangster, Wysocki PC as a labor and employment law practice group leader.

Patricia Nemeth, ’90, was selected by her peers as a Leading Lawyer in labor and employment law for 2014-15. She also was selected for The Best Lawyers in America 2015.

Jennifer Lord, ’92, joined Pitt McGehee Palmer & Rivers as a partner, returning to the firm where her career as an employee rights advocate began.

Anna Maiuri, ’92, was selected for National Law Journal’s inaugural list of 50 Energy & Environment Trailblazers. She was featured in the April issue of National Law Journal. She is a member of Dickinson Wright PLLC.

Andrey Tomkiw, ’92, of Tomkiw Mackewich PLC was a guest speaker in Professor Robert Ackerman’s Alternative Dispute Resolution class about the negotiations that transpire after a law student or recent graduate receives a job offer.

Kevin Elsenheimer, ’93, is new executive director of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

Marcy Ford, ’93, managing partner at Trott Law, was named an honoree of the inaugural Career Mastered: Women’s Leadership in Action Award by Linkwick & Associates, a human resources consulting firm.

Neil Rockind, ’93, founder of Southfield-based criminal defense law firm Rockind Law, was named among the Top 10 Criminal Defense Attorneys in Michigan by the National Academy of Criminal Defense Attorneys. Separately, Rockind was named a Leading Lawyer in the Michigan debut of that listing for 2014-2015. He also marked the 15th anniversary of Rockind Law and was named one of 30 “Leaders in the Law” for 2015 by Michigan Lawyers Weekly.

Sangeeta Shah, ’93, was named a charter member of global nonprofit The Indus Entrepreneurs. She is a shareholder of Brooks Kushman.

Peter Webster, ’93, was reappointed to the seven-member State Board of Ethics. Webster is a member of Dickinson Wright PLLC in Troy.

Robert Horwitz, ’94, was elected a member of Dykema by the firm’s executive board. He is a Detroit-based attorney in Dykema’s financial services practice group.

Rebecca Davies, LL.M., ’95, was a featured presenter during Walsh College’s Entrepreneur-You Conference in Troy. Her presentation was “How Not to Get Burned by a Bad Hire.”

Clint Gage, ’95, was appointed practice group manager of Roetzel & Andress LPA’s Business Services Group.

Dwight Hamilton, ’95, was named chief diversity officer at Smith College in Northampton, Mass. He had been serving as associate vice president for affirmative action and Title IX officer at Grand Valley State University.

Jennifer Johnson, ’96, joined Couzens Lansky as an associate attorney. Her primary concentration areas include estate planning, trust administration, probate, corporate law and business transactions.

Eric Nemeth, LL.M., ’97, was named one of 30 “Leaders in the Law” for 2015 by Michigan Lawyers Weekly. He is with Varnum LLP.

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Nathaniel Wolf, ’97, of Mika Meyers Beckett and Jones has been appointed by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights to serve on the Michigan Advisory Committee.

Julie Nichols, ’98, was elected partner with Collins Einhorn Farrell PC.

Hon. Kathryn Viviano, ’99, Macomb County circuit judge, was named the bench’s second business docket jurist by the Michigan Supreme Court. Viviano was appointed to serve in the post until April 1, 2019.

2000s

Michelle Crockett, ’00, director of professional development and a principal at the Detroit office of Miller Canfield, was named to the Michigan Chronicle’s 2015 Women of Excellence list.

Lee Kellert, ’00, was appointed co-chair of the corporate practice group at Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC, where he is a partner.

Nicole Wilinski, ’00, joined Collins Einhorn Farrell PC in its insurance coverage practice group.

Jasen Witt, ’00, was appointed as Oakland Community College’s associate vice chancellor of human resources. Witt previously was assistant superintendent of human resources for Troy School District.

Melissa Graves, ’02, was elected partner with Collins Einhorn Farrell PC.

Kathryn Hickner, ’03, joined Ulmer & Berne’s Cleveland office as co-chair of the firm’s health care practice group.

Damian Aquino, ’04, was voted a full-equity principal at the global intellectual property law firm Harness Dickey.

Liza Kelly, ’04, was hired as executive director of labor relations and personnel for Howell Public Schools.

Jill Vandercook, ’04, was promoted to shareholder at Sullivan Ward Asher & Patton PC.

Ian Williamson, ’04, was appointed to Ferndale Planning Commission. Williamson is a partner with Mantese Honigman Rossman and Williamson PC.

Samantha Ball, ’05, was made partner at the Law Offices of Ball Johnson PC.

Brad Brelinski, ’05, of Curtis & Curtis PC in Jackson was confirmed to a term on the Jackson County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners.

Mark Wilkinson, ’05, joined the Kalamazoo office of Miller Johnson. He represents and counsels clients on labor and employment law with a focus on employment litigation and labor relations.

Gillian Yee, ’05, was exclusive winner of International Law Office’s 2015 Client Choice Award in the Employment and Benefits Chapter for Michigan. She is a shareholder with Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart PC.


Danielle Graceffa, ’06, was elected a member of Dykema by the firm’s executive board. She is a Detroit-based attorney in Dykema’s real estate practice group.

Rodney Ploucha, ’06, was elected partner at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP. He is a member of the real estate department in the firm’s Detroit office.

Joseph West, ’06, joined Pear Sperling Eggan & Daniels PC and is based in the firm’s Ann Arbor office. He specializes in commercial litigation at both the trial and appellate levels, business law and a broad range of issues relating to real property.

Celeste Arduino, ’07, was admitted as a member at Bodman PLC’s Detroit office.

Joel Bowers, ’07, was selected as a member of the Michiana Forty Under 40 Class of 2015, which honors the Michiana, Ind., area’s young professionals for their contributions and accomplishments in the workplace and community. Bowers is a partner with Barnes & Thornburg LLP.

Charles Russman, ’07, was admitted as a member at Bodman PLC’s Troy office.

Steven Migliore, ’08, a partner in the corporate department of Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP, has been selected as a member of the 2015 Oakland County Executive’s Elite 40 under 40 class. The program honors young professionals and leaders who excel in their field, have demonstrated dynamic leadership and have made significant contributions to the quality of life in the region.

Timothy Monsma, ’08, has been elected to partnership at Varnum.

Eric Novetsky, ’08, was named partner at Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC in Southfield.

Andrew Schuster, ’08, was admitted as a member at Bodman PLC’s Troy office.

Anna Frushour, ’09, of Reiser & Frushour in Ann Arbor is new president of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, Washtenaw Region.
Scott Hogan, ‘09, co-wrote an article, “Making Sense of Non(ce) sense – Seeking Broad Claim Coverage and Avoiding Unwanted Means-Plus-Function Treatment,” published in Bloomberg BNA’s Patent, Trademark & Copyright Journal in May. Hogan is a shareholder with Reising Ethington PC.

Matthew Moussiaux, ‘09, was elected partner at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP. He is a member of the corporate department in the firm’s Detroit office.

2010s

Melanie Van Antwerp, ‘10, was elected partner at Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP. She is a member of the corporate department in the firm’s Kalamazoo office.

Ruth Lyons Goldner, ‘11, opened Goldner Deeg PLLC, a family law practice in Royal Oak.

Christopher Jacobson, LL.M., ‘11, was named deputy general counsel for investments and compliance for the Municipal Employees’ Retirement System of Michigan.

Ruby Robinson, ‘11, of the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center was a panelist at an immigration workshop presented by The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee.

Glenn Ross, ‘11, joined Tomkiw Mackewich in Royal Oak.

Caroline Gersch, ‘12, joined Traverse City firm Brandt Pezzetti Vermetten & Popovits.

Carolyn Noble, ‘12, joined the Mount Clemens office of Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook. Noble practices in the area of medical malpractice defense with a focus on birth trauma.

Chelsea Zuzindlak, ‘12, wrote a chapter, “Tell ‘Em You’re From Detroit,” in the book Asian Americans in Michigan: Voices from the Midwest. She is a staff attorney with Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP.

Dylan Holland, ‘13, joined the professional liability practice group of Collins Einhorn Farrell PC.

Lisa Lucido, ‘13, joined Hall Render Killian Heath & Lyman.

Dan Ringo, ‘13, was promoted to operations vice president for Chicago with facilities management service SodexoMAGIC.

Robert Thomas, ‘13, was one of 17 finalists to fill a vacancy on the Detroit City Council.

Meagan Drewyor, ‘14, joined Christensen Law.


Jason Tejani, ‘14, has joined Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC in the firm’s Royal Oak office. Tejani concentrates his practice in intellectual property law with a focus on preparing and prosecuting U.S. and foreign patent applications in the chemical arts.

In memoriam

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

Steven D. Adams, ‘79
Norman L. Block, ‘67
Anthony M. Bonadio, ‘63
Maurice D. Bublick, ‘55
Arthur R. Cox, ‘56
Gordon G. Duff, ‘70
Hon. Richard A. Enslen, ‘58
Sheldon W. Gordon, ‘63
Enrico V. Gualtieri, ‘62
Hon. Jules I. Hanslovsky, ‘63
Hon. Harold Hood, ‘59
Sheldon L. Klimist, ‘57
Charles P. Lockwood, ‘51
Dr. Thomas D. McLennan, ‘81
Roy S. Mills, ‘71
Carl Mitseff, ‘52
Barry L. Moon, ‘72
Emmit D. Moore, ‘38
J.D. Mullins, ‘82
George W. Parker, ‘67
Hon. Francis Pitts, ‘74
Ramon S. Regan, ‘47
Robert D. Sharp, ‘70
Curtis W. Smith, ‘79
Thaddeus M. Stawick, ‘73
Lawrence R. Ternan, ‘65
George A. Warren, ‘39
Louis Weiss, ‘69
Cherie D. Zuccarini, ‘89
More than 200 students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community and business leaders welcomed Stephen Ross, ’65, for “An Evening with Stephen Ross at Wayne Law” on April 9.

Dean Jocelyn Benson provided a question-and-answer session with Ross, discussing his career and accomplishments for the past 50 years. Speakers included WSU President M. Roy Wilson and Gov. Rick Snyder.

Ross has built a legacy of world-class real estate developments, philanthropy and NFL sports team ownership.

He is chairman and founder of Related Companies, through which he developed the Time Warner Center in New York City. His latest project, Hudson Yards, is described as building a new city within Midtown Manhattan. Formed in 1972, Related includes more than 2,500 professionals. It has developed more than $22 billion in real estate and owns real estate assets valued at more than $20 billion.

Ross also is owner of the Miami Dolphins and Sun Life Stadium. He is working on a project to combat bullying through sports.

MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/ross2015