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Wayne Law alumni and students are making their marks as entrepreneurs in various fields. From left are Jason Pearsall, ’13; second-year student Frank Oyelade; Jordan Jones, ’13; Alyssa Martina, ’82; and second-year student Jaspreet Singh. Read their stories beginning on Page 10.
Letter from Dean Jocelyn Benson

The ability of small businesses and entrepreneurs to succeed is critical to Detroit’s economic resurgence. At Wayne Law, I am proud that our alumni, students and faculty are playing such an impactful role.

The package of stories that makes up our magazine cover feature highlights the numerous ways in which our alumni – and students – are making their marks as successful entrepreneurs. Read about them on Pages 10 to 13.

Our contributions to Detroit’s renaissance and the people of Michigan don’t end there. On Page 16 is a must-read story about a significant public interest victory by our Disability Law Clinic.

Also be sure to check out our profiles of seven alumni, who are successful in a range of legal fields. Don’t miss the pages highlighting numerous student and faculty accomplishments, as well as the numerous pages noting awards, honors, publications and other successes of many of our more than 11,000 alumni.

Our Law School, too, has plenty of accomplishments to note in this issue of the magazine. Perhaps most notably, our class of incoming first-year students for 2015-16 marked a 10 percent increase over last year.

We’re particularly proud that with our boost in enrollment we also increased the caliber of our students with higher LSAT scores and grade point averages. You can read more about our first-year students on Page 41.

We’re also proud that, for the second consecutive year, Wayne Law was recognized as a Best Value Law School by The National Jurist and preLaw magazine. In addition, we were one of 14 law schools and the only one in Michigan named a Best Value Law School for a metropolitan region.

Finally, in this issue you can read about our new partnership with Oakland University, allowing Oakland students to earn a bachelor’s degree and law degree in six years instead of seven. We hope to expand this kind of partnership with other universities in the near future.

All of us in the Wayne Law family have a lot to celebrate. I hope you enjoy this success-filled issue of The Wayne Lawyer as much as we enjoyed creating it. Please help spread the word about the exiting news showcased here. And, as always, pass the magazine along to a prospective student when you’re done reading it.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Benson
Dean

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Wayne Law’s Alumni Speaker Series presented “Leading Successful Law Firms” on Sept. 16. Panelists were Michael W. Maddin, ’65, president emeritus, shareholder and founder of Maddin, Hauser, Roth & Heller PC; David L. Rogers, ’82, founding shareholder of Rogers & Associates PC; and Mark Zausmer, ’80, shareholder of Zausmer, August & Caldwell PC. Wayne Law Dean Jocelyn Benson was moderator.

Four attorneys discussed corporate counsel Oct. 29 as part of the Alumni Speakers Series. Panelists were Terrence B. Larkin, ’79, executive vice president, business development and general counsel, Lear Corp.; Aleksandra Miziolek, ’80, vice president, general counsel and secretary, Cooper-Standard Holdings Inc.; Angelo Vitale, ’83, executive vice president and general counsel, Quicken Loans; and Amy Peterson, associate counsel, Detroit Tigers. Professor Peter J. Henning was moderator.

The Alumni Speaker Series also hosted five alumni who discussed “Law in the Health Industry” on Nov. 19. Panelists were Dr. Ernest P. Chiodo, ’86, physician, lawyer, certified industrial hygienist and biomedical engineer; Dr. Fernando Diaz, ’95, chief of neurosurgery at Beaumont Hospital and chief of Beaumont Health System’s Neuroscience Center of Excellence; Bradley Lerner, ’95, of Beacon Health Options; Donna A. O’Connor, ’84, senior counsel in Dykema’s Health Care Practice Group; and David L. Rogers, ’82, founding shareholder of Rogers & Associates PC. Associate Dean Lance Gable, an internationally known expert on public health law and bioethics, was moderator.

On Sept. 2, Wayne Law’s Program for International Legal Studies hosted two White House officials who explained the nuclear deal negotiated with Iran. Speakers were Paul Irwin, director for nonproliferation at the National Security Council and one of the negotiators of the plan, and Matt Nosanchuk, associate director for public engagement and liaison to the American Jewish community on international issues.


Anna Melamud, an attorney-adviser for Western Hemisphere affairs with the State Department’s Office of the Legal Adviser, presented “Changing Course: Navigating the Legal Waters in Current U.S.-Cuba Relations.” Her talk Oct. 22 also was sponsored by the Program for International Legal Studies.

The program also presented John Cerone, who spoke about “International Humanitarian Law in the News: Recent Developments in Syria, Ukraine and Afghanistan” on Nov. 12. Cerone is the Paul Martin Senior Professor in International Affairs and Law at the University of Windsor Faculty of Law and visiting professor of international law at The Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy of Tufts University.

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.

We welcome alumni speakers

Dr. Ernest P. Chiodo, ’86, left, a physician, lawyer, certified industrial hygienist and biomedical engineer, speaks Nov. 19 at Wayne Law. With him is speaker Dr. Fernando Diaz, ’95, chief of neurosurgery at Beaumont Hospital and chief of Beaumont Health System’s Neuroscience Center of Excellence.

MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEOS: law.wayne.edu/series2015
Alumna speaks about marriage equality case

Dana Nessel, ’94, the principal lawyer in the Michigan case that was part of the U.S. Supreme Court decision holding unconstitutional the ban against same-sex marriage, spoke Nov. 16 at Wayne Law.

She discussed the arguments, strategy and outcome of DeBoer v. Snyder.

Nessel – with co-counsel Wayne Law Adjunct Professor Kenneth Mogill, Wayne Law Distinguished Professor Robert Sedler and attorney Carole Stanyar – originally filed the suit in federal district court on behalf of lesbian couple April DeBoer and Jayne Rowse, challenging Michigan’s ban on adoption by same-sex couples. The suit was amended to challenge the state’s ban on same-sex marriage.

The case made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where it was part of the decision in Obergefell v. Hodges.

Also at the event Nov. 16, the Wayne Law Team, a group of students who researched issues for the DeBoer litigation team, was honored:

- Wayne Law Class of 2015 – Kathleen Garbacz, Melissa Kliemann, Steven Knox, Pamela Wall and Patricia Woodruff.
- Third-year students – Linda Cleary, Alex Edelen, Tiffany Holland, Kelly Hwa, Alexandra Kavieff, Jessica Mills, Rachel Myung, Sean Riddell, Jim Sechelski, Haba Yono and Ashley Zacharski.
- Second-year students – Rachael Dubini, Emily Fields, Leslie Ledbetter, Michelle Lenning, Megan Mockeridge, Elaina Semos and Eryka Symington.

Michigan Lawyers Weekly honors 9 alumnae, 1 as Woman of the Year

Thirty of the Detroit area’s top women lawyers, as selected by Michigan Lawyers Weekly, cast their ballots in September and selected Dana Nessel, ’94, as the 2015 Woman of the Year.

Nessel put in four years of work on the Michigan case of DeBoer v. Snyder, which helped pave the way for same-sex marriage to be legalized nationally with the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark decision in June. Nessel practices with Nessel & Kessel Law.

Other Wayne Law alumnae recognized among the “Women in the Law” were:

- Megan Bonanni, ’93, Pitt McGehee Palmer & Rivers PC
- Ardiana Culaj, ’07, The Thurswell Law Firm PLLC
- Sara Kruse, ’96, Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC
- Laurel McGiffert, ’80, Plunkett Cooney
- Donna Medina, ’90, Williams Williams Rattner & Plunkett PC
- Sarah Nadeau, ’00, Garan Lucow Miller PC
- Hon. Wendy Potts, ’77, Oakland County Circuit Court
- Margaret Scott, ’88, Secret Wardle Lynch Hampton True & Morley PC

Second- and third-year students working in Wayne Law’s clinics and externships for fall semester 2015 participated in a swearing-in ceremony Sept. 8. The Honorable Marilyn Kelly, ’71, right, retired Michigan Supreme Court justice, Wayne Law’s distinguished jurist in residence and WSU Board of Governors member, administered the oath. Speakers included Lori Buiteweg, ’90, left, president of the State Bar of Michigan, and Wayne Law Dean Jocelyn Benson. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/fallclinical2015
State Bar of Michigan honors
3 Wayne Law alumni for 2015

Two of three public service awards and a Champion of Justice Award presented by the State Bar of Michigan went to Wayne Law alumni.

Timothy A. Baughman, ’74, and Adam A. Shakoor, ’76, were honored with the Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Service Award. Alicia J. Skillman, ’00, was honored with the Champion of Justice Award.

The awards were presented at the State Bar’s annual meeting in October. Wayne Law also recognized these alumni at its annual Alumni Reception.

Baughman retired from his position as chief of research, training and appeals with the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office in April, although he remains on staff part time offering legal advice and working on appellate briefs. He held the position for 30 years and served 40 years with the prosecutor’s office.

Shakoor, founding partner of law firm Adam Shakoor & Associates PC, served the city of Detroit as deputy mayor and chief administrative officer from 1989 to 1993 and served as judge of 36th District Court in Detroit from 1981 to 1989. He was chief judge of the court for two terms.

Skillman is principal attorney with AJ Skillman & Associates PC. She is a former executive director of Equality Michigan. Skillman is former executive director and current board member of Prevailing Community Development Corp. and a board member of the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion.

For a longer version of this story, visit law.wayne.edu/statebarhonors2015. For photos from the Alumni Reception, visit law.wayne.edu/statebar2015.

Dean, 2 alumnae inducted into Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame; alumnus also honored

Wayne Law Dean Jocelyn Benson and alumnae Sue Carter, ’91, and the late Janet C. Cooper, ’74, were inducted into the 32nd class of the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame.

They were among nine noted women inducted Oct. 29 in East Lansing.

Benson is one of the youngest women inductees in the history of the hall of fame, second only to Serena Williams, a 2012 inductee.

Benson was recognized for her leadership as Wayne Law’s 11th dean, the youngest woman to lead a top 100 law school in U.S. history, for co-founding Military Spouses of Michigan and for her service as a board member of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Carter is a trailblazing radio journalist, and Cooper (1931-2002) was a civil rights advocate.

Also during the ceremony, the Philip A. Hart Award was presented to Genesee County Family Court Judge David Newblatt, ’91, founder of Michigan’s first and only Girls Court.

Wayne Law Review Symposium focuses on ‘Corporate Counsel as Gatekeepers’

The Wayne Law Review Symposium on Oct. 16 brought together a former associate U.S. attorney general, corporate counsel and academic experts to discuss “Corporate Counsel as Gatekeepers.”

Tony West, former associate U.S. attorney general and executive vice president of government affairs, general counsel and corporate secretary of PepsiCo, was keynote speaker.

Among the 11 panelists and three moderators were John J. Collins, ’76, former managing director and general counsel, AlixPartners LLP; Emily Frascaroli, ’01, counsel, environmental, safety & regulatory, Ford Motor Co.; Timothy M. Guerriero, ’80, former general counsel, TI Automotive Ltd.; Peter J. Henning, Wayne Law professor and a former federal prosecutor; D’lorah L. Hughes, associate (clinical) professor and director of clinical education at Wayne Law; and Aleksandra A. Miziolek, ’80, general counsel, Cooper-Standard Automotive Inc.

Opening remarks included those by Wayne Law Dean Jocelyn Benson; Dennis Lienhardt, editor-in-chief of Wayne Law Review; and Judge Avern Cohn, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Former U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, chair of the Levin Center at Wayne Law and distinguished legislator in residence at the Law School, introduced West.

The event is made possible through the support of the Cohn Family Endowed Fund. The 2015 symposium was co-sponsored by the Association of Corporate Counsel Michigan.

EVENT PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/lawreview2015
Student Affairs arranged for a Pet Therapy event Dec. 2. Law students were able to take a break from studying and relieve stress by visiting with furry friends from Dr. Paws Therapy Dogs Inc., as well as meeting Coco Chanel, the newest addition to the Jackson family. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/dogs2015

Wayne Law partners with OU for fast track to bachelor’s plus law degree

Students will be able to earn a bachelor’s degree and law degree in six years instead of seven through a partnership announced in October between Oakland University and Wayne Law.

During the fourth year at Oakland, students will attend Wayne Law with the first two semesters of credits (30 credits) transferring back to Oakland for completion of the bachelor’s degree.

To apply, Oakland students must have completed a minimum of 75 credits in an approved undergraduate degree. The bachelor of integrative studies is the first program approved, and the list of eligible majors is expected to expand. Students must take the Law School Admission Test and meet all other Wayne Law admissions requirements.

“We are thrilled to work with Oakland University to offer their students this unique opportunity,” said Wayne Law Dean Jocelyn Benson. “Being able to complete their undergraduate and legal education in a shorter timeframe will allow these students to get a jumpstart on their careers and begin making a difference as legal professionals even sooner.”

Students who have completed their Oakland requirements must apply by June 1 to begin taking classes at Wayne Law in fall 2016.

Tuition and fees will be paid to Oakland for classes taken there and to Wayne Law for classes taken at the Law School.
Richard F. Griffin Jr., general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board, was the keynote speaker at the 23rd annual Bernard Gottfried Memorial Labor Law Symposium on Oct. 15 at Wayne Law.

The symposium was sponsored by Wayne Law, National Labor Relations Board Region 7 and the State Bar of Michigan’s Labor and Employment Law Section.

Other speakers included Adjunct Professor Joseph Canfield; Mary Ellen Gurewitz, ’74; Ingrid Kock, ’94; Patricia M. Nemeth, ’84, LL.M. ’90; Naomi N. Oglesby, ’05; Patrick Rorai, ’04; and Rana Roumayah, ’99.

The symposium honors the labor relations vision of Bernard Gottfried (1925-1992), who was director of Region 7 of the National Labor Relations Board from 1973 until his death. He taught at Wayne Law for many years.

EVENT PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/gottfried2015

In honor of National Cat Day, Wayne Law’s clinical faculty had Uber bring some kittens for a visit to the clinical faculty meeting Oct. 29. The UberKITTENS project works in cooperation with animal shelters. Visiting with the kittens are Assistant (Clinical) Professor Eric Williams and Assistant Professor Rachel Settlage. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/cats2015

July bar passage rate surpasses state average

Wayne Law’s state bar exam passage rate surpassed the state average for those who took the exam in July.

For first-time test-takers, Wayne Law’s passage rate was 79 percent. The state average was 72 percent. The statistics are after appeals.

Wayne Law’s overall July passage rate, which includes those retaking the test, was 74 percent. The state average was 62 percent.
Wayne Law alumni represent 29% of Top 100 Michigan Super Lawyers; 3 alums in Top 10

Wayne Law graduates represent 29 percent of the Top 100 Michigan Super Lawyers.

Twenty-nine of the Top 100, as named by Michigan Super Lawyers magazine in September, are Wayne Law alumni, more than any other law school's total.

Three of the state's Top 10 Super Lawyers are Wayne Law graduates, as well. They are Eugene Driker, ’61; David F. DuMouchel, ’75; and E. Powell Miller, ’86.

In addition, 15 of the Top 50 Women Super Lawyers named by the magazine are Wayne Law alumnae.

Super Lawyers is a rating service of attorneys from more than 70 practice areas. The selection process for the lists includes independent research, peer nominations and peer evaluations.

Wayne Law alumni named in this year’s list of Top 100 Michigan Super Lawyers are Frank T. Aiello, ’88; Joel D. Applebaum, ’83; Jason W. Bank, ’97; Jordan S. Bolton, ’03; Daniel J. Bretz, ’82; Douglas A. Dozeman, ’83; Eugene Driker, ’61; David F. DuMouchel, ’75; Earle I. Erman, ’74; Gene J. Esshaki, ’74; Gerald J. Gleeson II, ’95; Seth D. Gould, ’91; Mark R. Granzotto, ’78; George W. Gregory, ’80; Elizabeth P. Hardy, ’84; Donna M. MacKenzie, ’04; Mary Massaron, ’90; Lawrence D. McLaughlin, ’77; Bruce A. Miller, ’54; E. Powell Miller, ’86; Jon R. Muth, ’71; Kenneth F. Neuman, ’86; Martha J. Olijnyk, ’99; Michael L. Pitt, ’74; Steven M. Ribiat, ’91; Neil S. Rockind, ’93; Linda S. Ross, ’88; William D. Sargent, ’85; and I.W. Winsten, ’79.

Wayne Law alumnae named in this year’s Top 50 Women Super Lawyers are Tracy Lee Allen, ’80; Laura A. Brodeur-McGeorge, ’90; Judy B. Calton, ’86; Melissa N. Collar, ’94; Cynthia J. Haffey, ’97; Elizabeth P. Hardy, ’84; Donna M. MacKenzie, ’04; Mary Massaron, ’90; Patricia Nemeth, ’84, LL.M. ’90; Martha J. Olijnyk, ’99; Carol A. Rosati, ’80; Linda S. Ross, ’88; Noreen L. Slank, ’80; Wendy L. Zabriskie, ’91; and Susan Healy Zitterman, ’81.

Wayne Law again named ‘Best Value’

For the second year in a row, Wayne Law was recognized as a Best Value Law School by The National Jurist and its sister publication, preLaw magazine.

For 2015, 64 law schools were named to the list. Criteria for selection includes price of tuition, student debt accumulation, bar passage rate, cost of living and – given the greatest weight – employment rate.

In addition, the publications also identified the Best Value Law School in each of the largest metropolitan regions. Wayne Law was one of the 14 law schools named to the list and the only one in Michigan.

Susan Haack delivered the I. Goodman Cohen Lecture in Trial Advocacy on Oct. 7 at Wayne Law. She presented “Mind the Analytical Gap! Tracing a Fault Line in Daubert.” Haack is distinguished professor in the humanities, Cooper senior scholar in arts and sciences, professor of philosophy and professor of law at the University of Miami. 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 AND VIDEO: law.wayne.edu/cohenfall2015.
Two alumnae named Top Young Lawyers by *DBusiness* magazine

Two of the six Top Young Lawyers named by *DBusiness* magazine for 2015 are Wayne Law alumni.

**Ebony Duff,** ’02, is a shareholder with Garan Lucow Miller of Detroit. She’s the city attorney for Oak Park; counsel for Detroit Entertainment LLC, specifically MotorCity Casino; and general counsel for the Detroit Regional Convention Facility Authority, which operates Cobo Center.

**Jennifer Green,** ’05, a member with Clark Hill of Detroit, is a commercial litigation attorney who represented the city’s retirement system in Detroit Chapter 9 bankruptcy proceedings.


Associate Professor **Paul Dubinsky** hosted an international Thanksgiving luncheon Nov. 25 at the Law School for international students in the master of laws program. Each student brought an international dish to share.

**Notes**


A 10-member German delegation, including three members of the German Parliament, visited Wayne Law on Sept. 14. Professor **Peter Hammer**, director of the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights, presented “Dynamic Inequality in Detroit and Southeast Michigan.” The delegation was visiting Detroit through the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Former Gov. **James Blanchard**, right, asks questions of authors **Frank J. Kelley**, left, and **Jack Lessenberry** at an event Sept. 17 at Wayne Law. Wayne State University Press and Wayne Law celebrated the book launch of *The People’s Lawyer: The Life and Times of Frank J. Kelley, the Nation’s Longest-Serving Attorney General*. Kelley served as Michigan’s attorney general from 1961 to 1999. MORE PHOTOS AND VIDEO: law.wayne.edu/kelley2015
Every lawyer who hangs out a shingle is an entrepreneur.

But some attorneys are starting businesses that are a far cry from standard practice, due perhaps to a changing legal landscape as well as to the creative passions that inspire them.

Some, like Stephen Ross, ‘65, are wildly successful. Ross formed Related Companies in 1972. Related has developed more than $22 billion in real estate and owns real estate assets valued at more than $20 billion. He’s a noted philanthropist who grew up in Detroit and also owner of the Miami Dolphins and Sun Life Stadium.

Dan Gilbert, ’87, is another ultra-successful entrepreneur. He’s well-known for recognizing and investing in the potential of Detroit and the region. Gilbert is chairman of Rock Ventures, chairman and founder of Quicken Loans Inc. and majority owner of the NBA’s Cleveland Cavaliers.

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Other Wayne Law graduates may not have the name recognition of Ross and Gilbert, but they and even some Law School students are making their marks as entrepreneurs.

The company Alyssa Martina, ’82, founded, Metro Parent Publishing Group, is well-known in southeast Michigan. She’s president and publisher of that enterprise, and has other irons in the fire.

More recent graduates, too, are using their law degrees to help them launch new businesses.

Jason Pearsall, ’13, is founder, president and chief legal officer of Detroit-based tech startup Golfler. The Golfler app has been drawing rave reviews since its launch in August. It’s been the subject of tech reports in the media, and, in its first month, was named one of Google’s Top Two Sports Apps of 2015. Jordan Jones, ‘13, is senior vice president of corporate development for Golfler, and second-year law student Frank Oyelade is senior vice president and chief operating officer of the startup.

Oyelade isn’t the only Wayne Law student who’s also an entrepreneur.

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Oyelade isn’t the only Wayne Law student who’s also an entrepreneur.

Second-year student Jaspreet Singh is getting a lot of media attention for a company, 5 Water Socks, he started recently. Singh used online crowd-funding and partnered with a textile engineer to fuse hydrophobic nanoparticles with natural fibers to start his business making water-resistant socks.

Read more about these innovators in the following package of stories.
Alumni, student leading successful startup app for golfers

Just two weeks after launching its app for golfers, Detroit-based tech startup Golfler (www.golfler.com) won the Top Buyers Choice Award out of the more than 200 exhibitors at the 2015 PGA Fashion & Demo Experience.

Golfler founder, President and Chief Legal Officer Jason Pearsall, ‘13, said he and the other company officials at the show in August in Las Vegas had no idea that would happen.

“We didn’t even know they gave out awards,” Pearsall said. “We had only launched two weeks before the PGA, and we were competing against names like Titleist and Callaway.”

The Golfler app has been drawing rave reviews ever since. It’s been the subject of tech reports in the media and was named one of Google’s Top Two Sports Apps of 2015.

The company’s app – free to golfers to download and free of advertisements – offers golfers on-course, on-demand food, beverage and equipment deliveries from a golf course’s clubhouse. Golfler’s database includes 13,700 American golf courses with weather forecasts, a function that allows golfers to chat directly, a 3-D rangefinder, tee-time reservations and a digital scorecard. For golf course managers, the app monitors pace of play so that courses can identify and resolve bottlenecks that slow a golf course down.

Added Golfler Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Frank Oyelade, a second-year student: “It’s amazing how far we’ve been able to go in such a short amount of time.”

Through a dual degree program at Wayne State, Oyelade is working jointly on a master of business administration degree and a law degree.

Another officer of Golfler is Jordan Jones, ‘13, an attorney at Michigan Auto Law and senior vice president of corporate development for Golfler.

Jones credits his ability to aid Golfler’s corporate development to his work as a student with Wayne Law’s Business and Community Law Clinic under the direction of Assistant (Clinical) Professor Eric Williams.

“All the things I learned in law school, that clinic work was extremely helpful in Golfler,” Jones said.

The team agrees that their Wayne Law connections and legal training have been a major advantage to the start-up.

And, they’re excited about the future of Golfler.

For a longer version of this story, visit law.wayne.edu/golfler.
For Jaspreet Singh, business is just plain fun. The second-year student at Wayne Law got a lot of media attention for a company, 5 Water Socks, he started, but he’s got other ventures in the works, as well.

When Singh has an inspiration, he automatically starts considering how to turn it into a business.

Take the sock company. The inspiration came when Singh was taking a class on public speaking at the University of Michigan, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in neuroscience. He was running late and was unprepared for the assignment, which was to pitch some sort of product. As he dashed through a puddle on his way to class, his feet got soaked. Brainstorm! He stood before his classmates and ad-libbed his way through a pitch for water-resistant socks.

He decided those socks really were a good idea and began to do some research in his spare time. With a product he thought could be manufactured and sold to a lot of people, Singh needed capital to get the business going. He turned to crowd-funding online via Kickstarter. He ended up with more than $20,000 in donations – but not solely by luck.

“I spent months and months doing promotions and getting many subscribers excited about our launch,” Singh said.

Early on in the process, he hit a snag on the way to sock-making success. Naturally, he is turning that snag into another business.

“I was scammed during the crowd-funding by a marketing company out of California,” Singh said. “So, I have created a course (‘How I Blew Past My Crowdfunding Goal with Kickstarter’) to help people find out how to do marketing without hiring someone.”

The course website, www.udemy.com/crowdfunding101, can be linked to through 5 Water Socks’ website, www.5watersocks.com, where you also can order those water-resistant socks.

Somewhere in the process of creating the course, Singh, who is a full-time law student and works as a real estate agent, had another inspiration. He has created an organization called The Minority Mindset (www.theminoritymindset.com), through which Singh hopes to inspire other young minority entrepreneurs.

Singh loves Detroit and chose Wayne Law to be in the heart of the city, where he now lives.

“I feel like I fit in Detroit, where things are emerging,” Singh said.

He was born in the United States and grew up in a traditional Indian household with his parents and grandparents in Canton and then Northville.
Alyssa Martina is passionate about turning ideas into opportunities and sharing her business expertise with startups and students.

Martina, ’82, launched Metro Parent Publishing Group in 1986. The venture was so successful that, a year later, Wayne Law named her among the Most Outstanding Alumni, and WSU in 1988 honored her with a Headliner Award. She worked as a staff attorney with Wayne County Circuit Court from 1982 to 1987 and then gave her energy full time to her business.

Her magazines – Metro Parent (www.metroparent.com) and BLAC (www.blacdetroit.com), which stands for Black Life, Arts & Culture – continue to thrive.

“Metro Parent came about because of a need for parenting resources that didn’t exist at the time,” Martina said. “It’s so astonishing to meet people who claim it as their ‘parenting bible’ and say that their moms relied on it as much as they do with their own children and families today.

“For BLAC, a friend approached me about launching the magazine. He had started a similar publication in Orlando that was ultimately purchased by The Tribune Co. He thought that it would be great to partner with us and launch a similar publication in Detroit. About four years into it, he had to pull out, so we sought African-American partners in the Detroit region. In fact, Paul Riser (of WSU’s TechTown) is chair of our board. It’s been a great journey, and I’m very proud of that magazine.”

She has a bachelor’s degree in history and master’s degree in business administration from the University of Michigan.

Today, she’s an adjunct professor at U of M’s Law School, teaching business law and entrepreneurship courses. She also has taught entrepreneurship at Fordham University School of Business in New York and what is now WSU’s Mike Ilitch School of Business, where she also serves on the Board of Visitors. She has lectured frequently, as well, including many times for WSU’s journalism program. Martina was the keynote speaker at the 2012 Inaugural Business Address for the university’s TechTown business accelerator and incubator and the WSU Center for the Study of Citizenship.

“I’ve always had an entrepreneurial spirit, since I was a child,” Martina said. “My father, who was a cardiovascular surgeon and taught at the Wayne State School of Medicine, was also an entrepreneur, and he taught me that you should never box yourself in and that opportunities exist all around us if we’re open to them. I always have been passionate about exploring ideas that could turn into business opportunities.”

MORE ONLINE
For a longer version of this story, and for a brief Question & Answer report with Alyssa Martina, visit law.wayne.edu martina.
Conference in D.C. focuses on congressional oversight of classified programs

About 100 people attended a half-day conference, “Congressional Oversight of Classified Programs – 40 Years after the Church Committee,” presented in Washington, D.C., by the Levin Center at Wayne Law.

The conference, which was Oct. 20 in the Kennedy Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building and also was live streamed online, consisted of three panel discussions featuring 11 experts. It reviewed the status of the Church Committee reforms and Congress’ ability to oversee classified programs.

The U.S. Senate’s Church Committee, convened in 1975 and led by Sen. Frank Church of Idaho, was tasked with investigating federal intelligence operations in the wake of the Watergate scandal and the revelation of spying by the CIA on anti-war activists.

The conference offered a timely subject in light of the disputes between Congress and the Executive Branch over the CIA interrogation program and the National Security Agency’s expansive eavesdropping on the American public.

Opening the conference and presenting the day’s final panel were former U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, chair of the Levin Center, distinguished legislator in residence at Wayne Law, former chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and senior counsel to Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP in Detroit, with former U.S. Sen. Richard Lugar, president of The Lugar Center and former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Levin Center provides training in Ukraine

The Levin Center at Wayne Law had its first international training in December for legislative staff in Ukraine on how to conduct oversight investigations.

Elise Bean, center co-director, conducted the two-day training for 22 Ukrainian Parliamentary staffers in cooperation with the Committee on Corruption Prevention of the Ukraine Parliament and with the Anti-Corruption Action Center, a Ukrainian public-interest group.

The “boot camp,” or oversight training program, provided information about how to conduct fact-based, in-depth, multi-party investigations and hearings. It took place in the Ukrainian Committee hearing room in Kiev, with welcoming remarks from the committee chairman and a representative of the U.S. Department of State, which provided funding for the workshop.

Bean also gave two presentations. At the Open University of Reforms in Kiev, she presented “Using Oversight Investigations to Effect Change.” The U.S. Embassy sponsored her second presentation, “Using Oversight Investigations to Fight Corruption,” at the America House in Kiev.

Boot Camp trains congressional staffers

The Levin Center at Wayne Law joined forces with the Project On Government Oversight and The Lugar Center to sponsor an intensive training for congressional staff to improve bipartisan, fact-based oversight investigations.

Eighteen congressional staffers participated in the Oversight Boot Camp on Aug. 11 and 12 on Capitol Hill. Within an hour of being announced, the boot camp was booked to capacity and had a significant wait list. The staffers came from the House and Senate and the Democratic and Republican parties.

The boot camp instructors – two each from Democratic and Republican offices – were former congressional investigators with decades of combined oversight experience.
Diverse leaders tackle structural racism through equity lab

Thirty leaders from local organizations are furthering the cause of racial equity as the second year’s cohort for Wayne Law’s Detroit Equity Action Lab.

The lab at the Law School’s Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights is under the leadership of Professor Peter J. Hammer, director of the Keith Center, and 2014 Wayne Law alumna Eliza Perez-Ollin, project coordinator. The lab is made possible by a three-year, $1.3 million grant awarded in 2014 by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The lab’s purpose is to bring groups in different fields together to address the issues of structural racism in Detroit.

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

This year’s cohort members represent multiple dimensions of diversity. They range in age from their 20s to their 60s. They include members of the African-American, Arab-American, Asian-American, Latino, Mexican-American and Native-American communities. They represent a variety of organization sizes, geographic reach and perspectives with sectors including arts, civil rights, economic development, education, faith, health care, labor, media and policy.

Members met for a retreat Sept. 25 and 26 and meet monthly for workshops, trainings and discussions led by local and national experts. Members are initiating group projects to identify and address long-standing racial disparities in Detroit.

The cohort is working with the Detroit Historical Museum preparing to mark the 50th anniversary of Detroit’s 1967 civil uprising to make sure issues of racial equity are fairly addressed, Perez-Ollin said.

Member Jenny Lee is executive director of Allied Media Projects and a member of Detroit Digital Justice Coalition.

“I signed up for the cohort because I believe Detroit has the opportunity to set an example for a kind of revitalization that reckons with, and ultimately transforms, deep legacies of racialized inequality, that tackles deep-rooted problems creatively and holistically,” Lee said.

Detroit Equity Action Lab 2015-16 cohort

- Fatina Abdrabboh, American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Michigan Region
- Hanifa Adjuman, Detroit Black Community Food Security Network
- Rasha Almulaiki, Z Collective
- Rabbi Alana Alpert, Detroit Jews for Justice
- Rhonda Anderson, Sierra Club
- Agustin Arbulu, Medical Services of Detroit
- Kate Baker, Detroit Historical Society
- Anthony Benavides, Clark Park Coalition
- Shane Bernardo, Detroit Asian Youth Project and Earthworks Urban Farm/Capuchin Soup Kitchen
- Dustin Block, MLive Media Group
- Kibibi Blount-Dorn, Detroit Food Policy Council
- Marifer Calleja, Wayne County
- Piper Carter, The Foundation of Women in Hip Hop
- Dessa Cosma, Economic Justice Alliance of Michigan
- Lacy Dawson, Michigan Voice
- LaNesha DeBardelaben, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History
- Bryce Detroit, Detroit Afrikan Music Institution
- Alicia Farris, Restaurant Opportunities Center of Michigan
- Nickole Fox, American Indian Health and Family Services
- Ayesha Ghazi, American Citizens for Justice
- Sunil Joy, The Education Trust – Midwest
- Randy LeBar, American Indian Services Inc.
- Jenny Lee, Allied Media Projects
- Lisa Leverette, Community Connections Grant Program
- Monica Lewis-Patrick, We the People of Detroit
- Adela Nieves, Detroit Community Health Collective
- Tawana Petty, James and Grace Lee Boggs Center to Nurture Community Leadership
- Julie Phenis, Focus: HOPE
- Taurean Thomas, SerMetro/Youthbuild
- Akua Woolbright, Detroit Black Community Food Security Network
Disability Law Clinic wins speech-generating devices for 3 children

Three school-age children with developmental disabilities who cannot talk are able to communicate using speech-generating devices, thanks to student lawyers at Wayne Law.

The children are insured via Medicaid HMOs, and, in separate instances, doctors and speech therapists recommended all three get funding for the devices.

The machines cost thousands of dollars, and Michigan Medicaid’s coverage rules allow them to be funded only for people who once could speak, such as stroke victims, or people who are unable to speak because of a damaged part of the body, such as a cleft palate. The state's Medicaid rules don't allow them for people who never have been able to speak because of developmental disabilities.

With the electronic devices, users can select a picture on a screen to generate words. For example, pressing on a drawing of food might generate the words: “I’m hungry.”

All three children’s requests to their HMOs for the devices were denied in 2013. Wayne Law’s Disability Law Clinic learned of the situation and got involved, taking the cases in 2014, said Associate (Clinical) Professor David Moss, clinic director.

The children have different congenital conditions. One has DiGeorge Syndrome, and one has Microcephaly. A third has Down syndrome, as well as Type I diabetes, and needs insulin shots many times a day. That case had an emotional impact on Lawrence Mann, an adjunct professor for the clinic and associate director of professional skills at Wayne Law.

“The girl couldn’t say ‘I’m hungry, I’m sick, I’m dizzy,’ ” he said. “When you have a kid with diabetes who requires insulin, that’s huge.”

In two cases involving the same HMO administering Medicaid funds, the appeals were successful.

In the case of the girl with diabetes, who is covered under a different HMO, an administrative law judge denied the appeal. In August, the clinic and co-counsel filed suit against the state in federal court.

“In September, we began settlement negotiations with the state, and the state persuaded the HMO to approve the device,” Mann said.

In October, the girl got her device. The lawsuit is ongoing.

“The lawsuit continues to try to correct the problem for our individual client and for any other child who might encounter the same problem,” Moss said.

Involved in the lawsuit are Abathar Alkudari, ’15; Rachel Pinch, ’15; and third-year students Dylan Beadle, Benjamin Noe and Emily Sullivan.

For Noe, helping the girl with Down syndrome get her device was rewarding.

“I learned so much from Professors Moss and Mann about how to actually go about conducting these cases – the ins and outs of federal cases,” Noe said. “I also learned from them the power of simply filing a lawsuit: It forces those against whom you seek relief to actually sit up and pay attention to what effect their policies have on the lives of everyday people, especially young disabled children who quite literally cannot speak for themselves.”

For a longer version of this story, visit law.wayne.edu/devices.

Lauren Burnett, left, social work intern with Wayne Law’s Legal Advocacy for People with Cancer Clinic, and Kathryn Smolinski, ’11, clinic director, show some items donated for the fourth annual Winter Wishes drive to help clinic clients. Eleven families, including 17 adults and eight children in need, had a warmer holiday season thanks to the drive supported by students, faculty, staff and friends of the Law School. The goal – to provide $3,000 worth of goods to families – was exceeded by $2,850, or 49 percent, for a total of $5,850 worth of gifts provided. This year’s drive brought in donated items, including blankets, boots, coats, gift cards, hats, scarves and toys. Monetary donations were used to buy similar items.
Grant allows Wayne Law to hire environmental justice coordinator

Unifying people to give them a more powerful voice is a skill Jeremy Orr brings to his job.

The new environmental justice coordinator with Wayne Law’s Transnational Environmental Law Clinic, he also serves as coordinator of the Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition.

The coalition, founded in 2009, comprises more than 15 organizations and nonprofit entities, including Wayne State University, working to promote fair treatment and involvement of all people with respect to environmental policies in Michigan. Wayne Law’s clinic involves students working with community organizations and the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center in a variety of environmental legal issues, including environmental justice.

Orr’s three-year position, which began in December, is made possible through a $450,000 grant the clinic received last summer from the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation.

“We are very grateful to the Erb Family Foundation for supporting environmental justice work in Detroit and southeast Michigan,” said Assistant (Clinical) Professor Nick Schroock, ’07, director of the clinic and executive director of the environmental law center.

“The support will enable us to set up an Air Advisory Committee for environmental justice communities and to engage in policy research and development aimed at reducing the impacts of pollution on these communities.”

Orr had been working as executive director of the Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council and spent nearly three years as the lead community organizer with the Gamaliel Foundation affiliate in Kalamazoo. He holds a master’s degree in criminal justice with a focus on conservation criminology and a bachelor’s degree in public health, both from Michigan State University. Later this year, he expects to earn his law degree from MSU’s College of Law, where he has focused his studies on environmental and natural resources law.

He gained experience with environmental policy and environmental justice as part of the management team of Transportation for Michigan, Board of Directors of the Michigan Student Sustainability Coalition, Social Equity Committee of the Michigan Association of Planning and Executive Committee Recruitment Team of the Sierra Club’s Michigan Chapter.

An important part of his job is to bring people affected by the issues together to join their voices.

“It’s about building power that actually affects real change,” Orr said. “The only way you can do that is through genuine relationships. It can’t just be surface networking. It’s about building trust. That’s what forms organizations that have lasting bonds.”
Professionals, students mingle during An Evening at the Ballpark with Wayne Law

Sixty rising second- and third-year students cheered on the home team as they mingled with legal professionals Aug. 20 at Wayne Law's sixth annual An Evening at the Ballpark with Wayne Law.

The students met judges, lawyers and other professionals from 57 law firms, courts and corporations, and all enjoyed a picnic-style buffet dinner on a Comerica Park picnic deck while watching the Detroit Tigers beat the Texas Rangers.

A total of 190 people were in attendance for the Wayne Law event, cheering when Mike Tucker of BorgWarner, as sponsored by Young Basile, threw out the first pitch.

Wayne Law’s Career Services Office organized the outing, which was sponsored by eight area law firms: Butzel Long, Brooks Kushman, Dykema, Honigman, Jaffe, Varnum, Warner Norcross & Judd and Young Basile.

Waiting for the first pitch during An Evening at the Ballpark with Wayne Law are, from left, Olivia Vizachero, Jaron Bentley, Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Michael Talbot, Ian Larkin, Chris Rambus and Ethan Schultz.

Mike Tucker of BorgWarner talks with attendees about his on-field experience. Tucker threw out the first pitch on behalf of Wayne Law and Young Basile.


Career services director serving on Equal Justice Works committee

Diane H. Fears, ’89, director of career services and the Student Voluntary Pro Bono Program at Wayne Law, was named to the 16-member Equal Justice Works National Advisory Committee.

“Diane was selected from a crowded field of qualified candidates in a highly competitive nationwide search,” said Krystal M. Gardner, Wayne Law’s assistant dean of career services. She was appointed based on her impressive professional achievements and her commitment to public interest work.”

For example, Fears worked with Kimberly Adams, ’13, to help her win an Equal Justice Works Fellowship for a program helping veterans gain legal and support services.

As a national committee member, Fears helps the organization develop goals and initiatives to expand public interest opportunities for law students and lawyers across the country. She also serves as an ambassador to the 200 member schools and the legal services community. She’s been involved with Equal Justice Works since 2007.

Wayne Law’s Legal Advocacy for People with Cancer Clinic grew out of an Equal Justice Works Fellowship awarded to Adjunct Assistant Professor and clinic Director Kathryn Smolinski, ’11, when she was a student at Wayne Law.
Bodman attorneys claim victory in Law Firm Challenge fundraiser

Wayne Law alumni working at Bodman PLC won the Law Firm Challenge by pledging the most money and having the most participation for the fundraiser to benefit the Law School.

The Law Firm Challenge provides Wayne Law alumni who work at law firms an opportunity to reconnect with their alma mater and promote giving to the Law School. The competition ran from mid-May through mid-July.

Firms participating in the challenge competed for the highest percentage of alumni giving and the most dollars raised. Gifts and pledges made through the challenge support the programs and initiatives of the Law School, in particular its annual and student scholarship funds.

Results are:
- First place – Bodman PLC, 100 percent participation by 42 Wayne Law alums
- Second place – Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP, 83 percent
- Third place – Clark Hill PLC, 39 percent

Serving as team leaders were:
- Bodman – G. Christopher Bernard, ’00, and David M. Hempstead, ’75
- Clark Hill – David M. Hayes, ’67

Wayne Law Dean Jocelyn Benson, left, and a few of the 95 people in attendance are ready to cheer for the Detroit Tigers at the 12th annual Mark Weiss Day on Aug. 7 at Comerica Park. The event raised more than $6,000 for the Mark Weiss Memorial Scholarship Fund. Contributions from more than 250 lawyers, judges, friends and family members have helped the fund surpass its original goal of $250,000. Weiss, ’69, devoted his skills to fighting for the rights of the poor and powerless and protecting the civil rights of all litigants. He died in 2003. To date, 43 scholarships have been awarded in his memory. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/weiss2015
Honor Roll of DONORS

Dean Jocelyn Benson and the faculty, staff and students of Wayne Law recognize the individuals, estates, corporations, foundations and organizations who made gifts of at least $10,000 to the Law School during calendar year 2015. Your generosity has enabled the Law School to maintain excellence in scholarship, research and service.

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For more information about making an impactful gift, call the Law School Development team at 313-577-4141.
Adam Shakoor has been called throughout his life to make a difference, especially for the people of Detroit.

That calling led him to a career in law, standing up for the rights of others as an attorney and a judge; to a career in teaching, helping students learn that they, too, can make a difference; and to a career in government, serving as deputy mayor and chief administrative officer of Detroit under Mayor Coleman Young.

In all of his careers, Shakoor, ‘76, has been a leader.

He grew up in the Sojourner Truth public housing complex on Detroit’s northeast side.

“I had the good fortune of being at Wayne State University at the time when there were many articulate activists involved in anti-war issues, the civil rights movement, student rights movement,” Shakoor said. “These things I was exposed to furthered my desire to learn more and be more active and engaged in making society better.”

At Wayne State, he earned a bachelor of science degree in 1971 and a master of education degree in 1974. He began teaching at Wayne County Community College District. Today, he continues teaching business law, criminal justice and African-American studies courses at WCCCD, as well as working as a full-time attorney with his firm, Adam Shakoor & Associates PC.

In 1981, Shakoor was appointed as a judge of the Common Pleas Court for Wayne County by Gov. William Milliken. It was the first time in the nation’s history that a Muslim served as a judge. Shakoor went on to serve for two terms as chief judge, overseeing the judicial and administrative operations of 31 judges, six magistrates and more than 500 employees.

In 1989, Young asked Shakoor to serve as deputy mayor of Detroit. Shakoor became known as Detroit’s “crime czar” for his efforts coordinating city, state and federal agencies to fight the drug problem, for his development of crime-fighting activities that also involved substance abuse treatment and prevention, and for overseeing the forfeiture of all assets seized from drug dealers by Detroit police.

In 1994, Shakoor returned to private practice. He founded his current practice in 2004.

Over the years, he’s received more than 100 awards and honors for his work in law, government and teaching and for his community activism. Shakoor is appreciative, but he isn’t one to boast about his accomplishments.

“I stood for those things I believed were right, and I advocated for those,” he said.

For a longer version of this story, and for a brief Question & Answer report with Adam Shakoor, visit law.wayne.edu/shakoor.
A serious car accident caused by a drunken driver eventually led Dianna Collins, '98, to her career as a prosecutor.

“When I was in sixth grade, my brother and sister were hit by a drunk driver and seriously injured,” Collins said. “It turned our family’s world upside down. The driver fought the ticket that he received, and my parents allowed me to attend the proceedings. When I saw the prosecutor in action, I knew that being a prosecutor was exactly what I wanted to do with my life, and I’ve never looked back.”

She earned her bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Michigan. In law school, she was active in many arenas, including moot court, Free Legal Aid Clinic and Student Bar Association Board of Governors. Today, she’s an assistant prosecuting attorney for Washtenaw County, responsible for prosecuting all felony crimes, excluding sexual assaults. She’s been with the prosecutor’s office since 1999.

“My first murder trial involved a triple homicide where one of the victims was an infant,” Collins said. “There were four co-defendants and ultimately the case was tried before two juries simultaneously. It was quite a daunting task for my first murder trial.”

The job still can be nerve-wracking, but it’s also incredibly fulfilling, she said.

“There certainly is an emotional toll,” Collins said. “Learning how to compartmentalize things has been a challenge. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to help people during some of the most difficult times in their lives. I continue to be amazed at the strength and bravery that people, especially children, display during such difficult times.”

Collins developed close friends in law school and continues to play a part in its tradition, serving on Wayne Law’s Board of Visitors.

Collins and four friends from her Law School class – Marcy Hahn, Stacey King, Samantha Lord and Mary Margaret O’Donnell – made a pact when they graduated to get together once a month for dinner. During one dinner in 2012, the classmates decided to create an endowed scholarship to be given to a deserving law student each year.

Dianna Collins, ‘98, and four friends from her Wayne Law class created the Brass Ring Endowed Scholarship, which is given to a deserving law student each year. They dedicated the scholarship to their “enduring friendship and their collective and individual quests to live life to its fullest.”
Rasul Raheem, ’84, LLM. ’03, describes Wayne Law as empowering. “I have good memories from law school – friendships, first-year classes and study groups, and meeting my wife, a law student at another school out of state, by pure chance. Twenty years later in getting my LL.M., I found that Wayne Law is one of the few, if not the only, programs in the state with a serious corporate finance curriculum and faculty.”

In the world of corporate and finance law, Rasul Raheem is someone you don’t want to mess with.

The 1984 alumnus of Wayne Law has twice (2013 and 2014) been named First Chair Top Outstanding Assistant General Counsel for his work as senior vice president and assistant general counsel with Bank of America Corp.

And he has a fourth-degree black belt in Isshinryu karate.

He returned to Wayne Law, earning his master of laws degree in corporate and finance law in 2003.

He became fascinated with corporate finance law in the late 1990s and early 2000s, when scandals involving Enron, WorldCom, hedge funds and the like were hot topics.

After graduation, Raheem worked for a small law firm, Kirk McCargo & Arbulu, in Detroit. In 1988, he began his career in banking law as vice president and senior counsel with Michigan National Corp. From 2001 to 2007, he worked as first vice president and senior counsel for LaSalle Bank Corp. In 2007, he joined Bank of America in his current position.

Promoting diversity has been important to Raheem throughout his career. He’s the immediate past president of the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association. Last year, Raheem was recognized as a Man of Excellence by the Michigan Chronicle. The award celebrates African-American men in southeast Michigan who inspire others through their vision, leadership, achievement and community service.
Debra Nance, ‘99, is a judge of the 46th District Court, which serves the communities of Southfield, Lathrup Village, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin Village.

She spent a large portion of her professional life in human resources after earning a bachelor’s degree from the University of Detroit.

“I originally planned to specialize in employment law, utilize my human resources background and remain with my employer in the automotive industry,” Nance said. “When I was accepted into three law schools, I chose Wayne because of its successful bar passage history, tuition cost and location. From my vantage point, it appeared to be the best education in town for the money.”

However, her legal career goals began to change. At a reception for law students during her first semester in 1996, Nance heard Oakland County Circuit Judge Denise Langford Morris speak.

“She said, ‘Consider a career as a judge,’ ” Nance said. “And a little light bulb went off in my head.”

One evening Nance saw a notice advertising Wayne Law’s Mock Trial program (then called the Student Trial Advocacy Program). She decided to sign up to gain experience.

Nance knew then that working in a courtroom was going to be her career.

“I wanted to have a positive and profound impact upon the lives of others,” she said. “I wanted to use the law to make a difference.”

After graduation, Nance worked on assignment to the Office of the General Counsel at Ford Motor Co. In 2001, she went into private practice at the Kemp Klein Law Firm, where she developed a successful litigation practice.

She first got her name on the ballot in the district court race in 2010, running against an incumbent judge. Nance lost the race, but she gained valuable experience. When a seat opened in 2012 due to a retirement on the bench, she ran again.

She won the general election Nov. 6, 2012.

As a judge, Nance investigates programs and practices “creative sentencing,” including sentencing offenders to classes, treatment programs or mental health counseling.

Nance stays active in the community and speaks often to elementary and high school students, as well as seniors.

“My advice to my legal colleagues is you never know who is watching and listening. I’ve been inspired by national figures and local leaders I’ve never met. We all make an impact on others every day. We are all role models.”

Alumna finds inspiration on way to district court bench

MORE ONLINE

For a longer version of this story, and for a brief Question & Answer report with Debra Nance, visit law.wayne.edu/nance.

As a judge, Debra Nance, ‘99, practices “creative sentencing” by viewing each case individually. “I estimate that 80 percent of my criminal defendants have not finished high school,” Nance said. “If appropriate, I sentence them to complete their GED and then enroll in college classes or certificate programs. I’ve had parents thank me afterward for ordering their adult son or daughter to earn a GED. Hopefully, that’s another young person I’ll never see in court again on a criminal matter.”
Michael Gibbs, ’99, worked for the Free Legal Aid Clinic the summer between his first and second years of Law School. “I wouldn’t trade that for anything,” he said. “I actually got to go to court before most of my other classmates, and it was valuable to see how court actually worked, how to file something, where to go, hearing other lawyers argue. And at the same time, you’re helping people that really needed it.”

Michael Gibbs worked for 15 years in the business world before deciding what that arena really needed was a lawyer who understood it better.

He worked for a power company, as an entrepreneur and in other industries before deciding to go to law school. He already had a master of business administration degree from Emory University and a bachelor’s degree in biology and economics from Ripon College.

“I went right into business after I got my M.B.A.,” Gibbs said. “Along the way, I interfaced with a lot of attorneys, and, often, I didn’t think they were speaking the language of business. I wanted to be a counsel for business.”

He chose Wayne Law to make that goal a reality and graduated in 1999.

“My wife was working in Detroit, and Wayne Law had a sterling reputation,” Gibbs said. “It seemed like a lot of judges came from Wayne Law. Thanks go to my wife, Cindy, for encouraging me to quit my job and go to law school full time, while she paid the bills.”

Today, he’s general counsel and senior vice president for Whataburger, a Texas-based 787-unit restaurant chain in 10 states. Hired in 2005, he was the family owned company’s first general counsel and now heads a legal department with more than a dozen members in San Antonio.

“I deal with corporate governance, intellectual property, franchising, contracts, labor and employment, and a lot of legislative affairs and regulatory compliance issues,” Gibbs said.

His coursework at Wayne Law went a long way to preparing him for his current job, he said. His first-year Contracts classwork and other business law classes laid a good foundation.

“One course I really enjoyed was Professor Jonathan Weinberg’s Administrative Law. The professors at Wayne Law took a personal interest in my study, and, when I graduated, I felt prepared for the professional world.”

He likes working for a family owned company and being a part of its management team, Gibbs said.

Gibbs knows well what it means to be a team member, too. He spent his first days on the job at Whataburger flipping hamburgers and making fries. The experience gave him a hands-on look at the company’s operations and a strong respect for its workers.

“In any management executive position, my attitude and deference to other employees matters as much as my legal counsel,” Gibbs said. “You want to be setting an example that embodies the company culture, which at Whataburger is one of respect and collaboration.”

For a longer version of this story, and for a brief Question & Answer report with Michael Gibbs, visit law.wayne.edu/gibbs.
Nedda Shayota, vice president of Sigma Associates Inc., is making a mark beyond the business world as a community and cultural leader.

Shayota, ’06, plays a key role in the expanding Sigma, a Detroit-based consulting firm delivering a full range of engineering, program management, construction management, information technology and staffing support services to clients throughout the Midwest and mid-Atlantic regions of the country.

Although she doesn’t formally practice law day-to-day, Shayota says the critical thinking skills and deep understanding of business law she gained at Wayne Law have been invaluable tools in moving the family business forward.

“My two brothers and I all have very defined roles and complementary skill sets,” Shayota said. “I am focused on strategic planning, business development, marketing, staffing and, of course, legal.”

With a passion for the arts, Shayota pursued an art history degree from Wayne State and graduated with honors. Upon graduation, she began working at Sigma. She quickly moved up within the company and in 2003 decided that a law degree would enhance her ability to continue adding value to her expanding role.

Wayne Law was her first choice.

“I would put Wayne State’s Law School up against any other school,” Shayota said. “It was a great education and an outstanding experience. We are fortunate to have such an excellent teaching staff. We have judges teaching classes and professors litigating in front of the Supreme Court. Our program is unique in that we have the privilege of having many of the best working lawyers in the region leading and guiding our students.”

Beyond her role within the company, Shayota provides leadership and support within the community. She is a member of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute Board of Directors, a board member of the Friends of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts and a member of the museum’s Building Committee. She is also a board member of the Mayor’s Residence Restoration Society.

She has served as a gubernatorial appointee to the Michigan Humanities Council, board member for Vista Maria, founder and member of the New Leaders of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, executive board member of the Detroit Institute of Arts Founders Junior Council and steering committee member of the Detroit Historical Society Campaign.
Zachée Pouga Tinhaga, LL.M. ’10, enjoys his work in international tax law because it allows him to interact with people around the world every day.

“I got interested in international tax law after spending some time with accomplished lawyers in general and great tax minds in particular,” he said. “I quickly realized that even though tax law is generally cast as a boring area of law, international tax law is the most exciting area of law, and the work requires tremendous intellectual capacities. It is always stimulating from its complexity, and it’s always exciting to be able to think simultaneously from local and global law perspectives.”

For Zachée Pouga Tinhaga, practicing international tax law continually stimulates his intellect and creativity.

A native of Cameroon, Pouga Tinhaga’s first trip to the United States was to attend Wayne Law, where he earned a master of laws degree in corporate and finance law in 2010, followed by a master of laws degree in international taxation in 2013 from the University of Michigan Law School. He earned his initial law degree in 2007 at the University of Douala Faculty of Law in Cameroon and a then a master in business law degree there in 2008.

“I came to the United States in 2009,” said Pouga Tinhaga, who is fluent in French, English and some African dialects and knows conversational Spanish. “I started at the Wayne State English Language Institute, as I did not speak much English when I first came to the United States.”

“My experience at Wayne Law was absolutely eye-opening,” Pouga Tinhaga said. “The professors were very understanding of my beginner’s language skills. They were always available to answer my questions. I was even able to develop a personal relationship with some of my professors that continues today, and there was a fantastic student body from all over the world. It was my first contact with an American university, and I am happy it was Wayne. It remains one of my greatest experiences in the United States to this day as it also led me to me meet my now wife, Kathryn.”

Pouga Tinhaga has worked as an international tax attorney with Ernst & Young LLP in New York City since 2013 and expects to complete a doctor of juridical science degree at the University of Michigan Law School in 2016. On his dissertation committee is Wayne Law Distinguished Professor Alan Schenk.

At Wayne Law, Pouga Tinhaga worked as a research assistant for Schenk and for Professor Linda Beale, director of the LL.M. program.

When he was 8 years old, Pouga Tinhaga decided he wanted to be a lawyer. It was an ambitious goal for a child who was one of 10 children born to parents living in poverty.

He makes a point of sharing his good fortune with others through charity work with the Bowery Mission, as well as private sponsorships of kids in Africa to go to school.

“Giving back is at the very core of my personal belief system,” Pouga Tinhaga said. “I am where I am partly because of the generosity of others.”
Alumni gathered for a Wayne Law Reunion on Oct. 16 at the Westin Book Cadillac in Detroit. The reunion honored the classes of 2005 to 2014, 1980 and 1965. Special guest was Stephen Ross, ’65, who has built a legacy through real estate developments, philanthropy and sports team ownership. All alumni enjoyed a cocktail reception. Speaking at the reception were Mike Friedman, ’65; Wayne Law Dean Jocelyn Benson and WSU President M. Roy Wilson. Alumni from the classes of 1980 and 1965 continued the reunion celebration with special dinners following the reception. MORE PHOTOS: law.wayne.edu/reunion2015
STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Twenty-three students competed Nov. 13 in Wayne Law’s second annual Transactional Law Competition.

Winners were:

- **Negotiations (seller’s counsel)** – First place, **Gabriel Appel** and **Matthew Coffee-Tavi**, and second place, **Amy Huang** and **Stephen Reaume**, all second-year students.
- **Drafting (seller’s counsel)** – First place, **Robert Clemente** and **Ian Hickman**, and second place, **Stephen Lovell** and **A. Rachel Myung**, all third-year students.
- **Negotiations (buyer’s counsel)** – First place, **Haley Jonna** and **Lena Pantely**, and second place, **Nana Osipova** and **Yana Osipova**, all third-year students.
- **Drafting (buyer’s counsel)** – First place, Jonna and Pantely tied with Nana Osipova and Yana Osipova.

The live-round competition is part of a one-credit course created and supervised by Assistant Professor **Eric Zacks. Justin Hanna** was chair of the competition. He is pursuing a law degree and master of business administration degree and will be graduating this academic year. Hanna is assisted by student board members **Whitney Baubie**, **Alex Bowman** and **Emily Decker**, all third-year students.

The first-place winners from Wayne Law’s negotiation rounds will represent the Law School at the regional LawMeets competitions in the spring. The first-place winners for drafting will help the negotiation teams prepare for the regional competitions, including assisting with the drafting that will be required for the regional competitions and conducting practice negotiation rounds.

At both the in-school and regional competitions, professional transactional experts judge which two-member teams are most adept.

After weeks of drafting and revising, the day of the Wayne Law live competition brought the teams together for two rounds of negotiations. The panel of judges – composed of 10 attorneys – offered feedback after each round.

Attorneys serving as judges included alumni **Christopher Attar**, ’14, of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP; **Lise Barrera**, ’97, of Quicken Loans; **Danielle Graceffa**, ’06, of Dykema; and **Arius Webb**, ’15, of Ford Motor Credit Co.

Lauren Rennert wins 3rd prize in religious liberty writing competition

**Lauren Rennert**, who graduated in May from Wayne Law, won the $1,000 third prize in the 2015 Founding Fathers Religious Liberty Student Writing Competition.

The J. Reuben Clark Law Society and International Center for Law and Religion Studies at Brigham Young University sponsor the competition. Awards were presented in October.

Rennert’s piece, “Get While the Getting is Good: An Analysis of Civil Remedies as a Solution to the Agunah,” is about the resolution of Jewish law and constitutional law in regard to a get (a Jewish divorce). Under Jewish law, the only way a marriage can be dissolved is the death of a spouse or by deliverance of a get. In the absence of a get, a Jewish woman is deemed an agunah (chained woman), who isn’t able to remarry. Alternatively, a man may freely remarry in the absence of a get.

Rennert’s paper analyzes case law, Jewish law and various civil remedies that serve as potential constitutional solutions to the plight of the agunah.

Rennert works in patent litigation at Brooks Kushman.
Anthony Casaletta, Matt Opperman win Mock Trial final

Students Anthony Casaletta and Matt Opperman won the Wayne Law Mock Trial in-house final competition Nov. 9.

Casaletta and Opperman for the defense competed against Brooke Mathis and Madeline Young, the finalist team for the prosecution.

The competition for fall semester began with 14 teams, each completing two trials, one as the prosecution and one as the defense.

Finalists were determined by win-loss ratio and point differential in those trials. In the criminal case for the finals, a defendant was charged with assault and domestic violence for allegedly hitting his girlfriend on the head with a hammer.

Serving as presiding judge was Dan Williams, ’08.

Other members of Mock Trial served as the jury. Members, first-year students and alumni were witnesses.

Mock Trial also selected its teams for two upcoming national competitions, one sponsored by the Texas Young Lawyers Association and one sponsored by the American Association for Justice. Both competitions will take place in the spring.

Alexander Kemp is Mock Trial commissioner. Lawrence Mann, ’80, is Mock Trial faculty advisor and head coach for both national teams. Other coaches are Greg Wix, Paul O’Neil, Kristyn Mattern and Allegra Lanni, ’13.

Brandon Barlog, Lauren Potocsky win Moot Court Arthur Neef Competition

Students Brandon Barlog and Lauren Potocsky won the Wayne Law Moot Court Arthur Neef Competition finals Nov. 16.

Barlog and Potocsky competed against Linda Cleary and Olivia Vizachero.

This year’s Moot Court team comprises 36 junior members and 35 senior members. All junior members are required to compete in teams of two members for four in-house oral arguments and to write an appellate brief.

After arguing in the in-house competition, eight teams moved on to quarterfinals. Four teams then moved on to semifinals and two teams to the finals.

Quarterfinal matchups were:

- Barlog and Potocsky v. Michael McCullough and Joseph Vaccarino.
- Michael Cassar and Amy Huang v. Matthew Paradiso and Stephen Reaume.
- Sarah Cravens and Jonathan Demers v. Natalie Ghannam and Christopher Rambus.

Semifinal matchups were:

- Barlog and Potocsky v. Paradiso and Reaume.
- Cassar and Cravens v. Cleary and Vizachero.

Judges for the finals included alumni Judge Elizabeth L. Gleicher, ’79, and Mark Granzotto, ’78.

Amy Neville is faculty advisor. Michelle Champane is chancellor, and Zena Fares is vice chancellor. Junior member advisor is Haba Yono, senior member advisor is Gina Shkoukani, outside competitions director is Aris Papaioannou and editor-in-chief is James Buster.

Other awards given were:

- Top individual in oral advocacy – first, Rambus; second, Vizachero; third, Barlog; fourth, Demers; and fifth, Baxter.
- Top individual in brief writing – first, Cravens; second, Huang; third, Paradiso; fourth, Vizachero; and fifth, Demers.
- Top teams, overall – first, Barlog and Potocsky; second, Cleary and Vizachero; third, Cravens and Demers; fourth, Cassar and Huang; and fifth, Paradiso and Reaume.
Blanche Cook presents on race, criminal justice

Assistant Professor Blanche Cook presented “Biased and Broken: The Criminal Justice System and the Profiling, Policing, and Peril of Unarmed Black Bodies” at a conference on race and politics at Duke Law School in North Carolina.

She also spoke at the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Section’s Fall Institute in Washington, D.C., as part of a panel discussion, “The Media’s Role in Fostering Racial Perceptions and What It Means for Criminal Justice Policy.”

Brad Roth lectures abroad, publishes journal articles

Professor Brad Roth gave several talks in Taipei, Taiwan. They were “Russia’s Near-Abroad ... and China’s: Implications of the Ukraine Crises for the Future of Taiwan’s International Legal Status” presented to the Asia-Pacific Regional Research Forum of the International Law Association and to the Taiwan Think Tank; “Graduate Legal Education in the United States: A View from Wayne State University in Detroit” presented at National Chengchi University and at National Taiwan University; and “Sovereignty Equality and Non-Liberal States” presented at National Taiwan University.

Additionally, Roth’s article, “Non-Consensual State Dissolution in International Law: The Badinter Innovation in Retrospect” was published in Politicka Misao (Croatian Political Science Review)’s symposium on the breakup of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the origins of the contemporary Croatian state.

Also, his article, “The Virtues of Bright Lines: Self-Determination, Secession, and External Intervention,” was published in a special issue of the German Law Journal about the journal’s symposium, “The Crisis in Ukraine.”

D’lorah Hughes speaks at conference, joins committee

Associate (Clinical) Professor D’lorah Hughes, director of clinical education, presented “Curriculum Innovation in Experiential Education” at the 30th annual Midwest Clinical Conference at Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

She also was appointed to the State Bar of Michigan’s Equal Access Initiative Committee, where she will help develop policies and programs to benefit underserved populations.

Eric Zacks publishes articles, speaks in Netherlands

Assistant Professor Eric Zacks spoke about business law and entrepreneurship at Fontys University of Applied Sciences in Venlo, Netherlands, during that university’s International Week.

In addition, two of his articles were published. “A Standing Question: Mortgages, Assignment, and Foreclosure” was featured in Probate & Property, the bi-monthly magazine of the Real Property, Trust & Estates Law Section of the American Bar Association. Another article, “The Moral Hazard of Contract Drafting” was published in Florida State University Law Review.

Kathryn Smolinski speaks, writes on cancer issues

Adjunct Assistant Professor Kathryn Smolinski, director of the Legal Advocacy for People with Cancer Clinic, was the keynote speaker at the third annual Johns Hopkins Cancer Survivorship Conference in Baltimore. She also presented “Legal Concerns for Survivors” at the conference.

Smolinski also was invited to speak at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University’s 18th annual Oncology Nursing Conference. Her presentation was “Decision Making in End of Life Care.”

In addition, she co-wrote a chapter, “Educating and training professional social workers in psycho-oncology,” in the new third edition of Psycho-Oncology, a textbook on psychosocial oncology.

Kirsten Matoy Carlson chosen to present research

Assistant Professor Kirsten Matoy Carlson was selected to present a paper to the Legislation and Law of the Political Process section at the Association of American Law Schools annual meeting. Her paper is “Gambling on Congress: Indian Nations’ Federal Recognition Strategies.”

She also was chosen to present her
Linda Beale leads program, receives several appointments

Professor Linda Beale was named director of graduate studies. She oversees the Law School’s master of laws program.

She also became editor of ABA Tax Times, the American Bar Association Tax Section’s digital news magazine.

In addition, Beale was named to the American Bar Association Section of Taxation: Appointments to the Tax Court Committee for a two-year term, and she was accepted for fellowship in the American College of Tax Counsel.

Nick Schroeck co-authors article, speaks on clean water

Assistant (Clinical) Professor Nick Schroeck, director of the Transnational Environmental Law Clinic, co-authored “What is a Pond? Michigan Court of Appeals Interprets ‘Waters of the State’ Under Michigan Law.” It was published in the spring-summer edition of the Michigan Environmental Law Journal.

He also was part of a water law panel discussing Lake Erie algae and efforts to curb agricultural runoff at the American Agricultural Law Association’s annual educational symposium in Charleston, S.C.

In addition, he participated in the opening keynote panel on Current Michigan Water Issues at the joint conference of the East and West Michigan chapters of the Air and Waste Management Association and the Environmental Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan.

Noah Hall moderates panel, speaks at symposium

Associate Professor Noah Hall moderated a panel discussion on challenges arising from the network of petroleum pipelines in and near the Great Lakes at the 15th annual Great Lakes Water Conference. The conference was sponsored by the University of Toledo College of Law and the University of Toledo College of Law Legal Institute of the Great Lakes.

He also spoke on a panel at the University of Virginia School of Law about Current Issues in Riparian Law at the Virginia Environmental Law Journal Symposium, Water Rights in the Eastern United States.

Notes

Professor Charles Brower was listed for the second year in the global edition of Who’s Who Legal: Arbitration. He is one of only 120 in the United States and two from Michigan to be accorded this honor.

Professor Peter Hammer, director of the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights, received the Avern Cohn Award for Excellence in Collection, Preservation, and Interpretation of Michigan Legal History for his book, Crusader for Justice: Federal Judge Damon J. Keith. The award is presented by the Historical Society of the District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Professor Peter Henning is co-author of the book White Collar Crime: Law and Practice, which recently was updated in its fourth edition.

Former U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, chair of the Levin Center at Wayne Law and distinguished legislator in residence for the Law School, received the 2015 Milliken Distinguished Leadership Award.

Assistant Professor Justin Long was awarded tenure as an associate professor.

Associate Professor Christopher Lund spoke at the Notre Dame Law Review annual symposium, which examined the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council’s Declaration on Religious Freedom.

Lawrence Mann, associate director of professional skills, and Associate (Clinical) Professor David Moss, director of the Disability Law Clinic, spoke at the 30th annual Midwest Clinical Conference at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. They presented “Team Teaching Live-Client Clinics: The Benefits of Pairing Instructors from Diverse Teaching & Practice Backgrounds.”


Assistant Professor Rachel Settlage, director of the Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic, was a panelist during the LatCrit 2015: Twentieth Anniversary Conference presented by Latina and Latino Critical Legal Theory Inc. in southern California. Her panel’s topic was “Victim/Survivor-Based Immigration Relief and the Realities of Immigration Enforcement.”

Professor Katherine White was elected to the Corporate Board of Directors of Old National Bancorp.
We welcome alumni news

The Alumni Notes in this issue of The Wayne Lawyer include items submitted from June 1 through Dec. 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.

1950s
Bruce Miller, ’54, of Miller Cohen PLC received the annual Spirit of King Community Service Award from Local 600 of the United Auto Workers.

1960s
William Hampton, ’63, of Secrest Wardle was selected for The Best Lawyers in America 2016.
Stephen Ross, ’63, created the Ross Initiative for Sports and Equality to address racism through athletics.
Brian Einhorn, ’67, of Collins Einhorn Farrell was selected for The Best Lawyers in America 2016. Einhorn was named Metro Detroit Lawyer of the Year for his work in professional malpractice law-defendants.
Daniel Matson, ’68, retired after 45 years as city attorney for DeWitt.
Stanley Prokop, ’68, of Plunkett Cooney was selected for The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in insurance law. He also was selected by DBusiness magazine for its 2016 Top Lawyers list.
Joel Serlin, ’68, of Seyburn Kahn received the Oakland County Bar Association’s Professionalism Award. He is the first and only Oakland County Circuit Court ombudsman.
Arnold Weintraub, ’68, was appointed director of AfterMaster Audio. He is the company’s patent and intellectual property attorney and a member of The Weintraub Group PLC.

1970s
John Locks, ’70, CEO of Celebration Cinemas, was elected chair of the National Association of Theater Owners.
Hon. William Murphy, ’70, chief judge of Michigan Court of Appeals, received the Judicial Excellence Award from the Michigan Association for Justice.
Hon. Roy Gotham, ’73, announced his retirement after 25 years as circuit court judge in Gogebic and Ontonagon counties.
Timothy Baughman, ’74, retired as chief of research, training and appeals with the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office, although he remains on staff part time offering legal advice and working on appellate briefs.
Dennis Hertel, ’74, was appointed professor by the National Defense University for the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies.
Hon. Daniel Kelly, ’74, a St. Clair County Circuit Court judge, was the subject of a feature story, “Judge Dan and Mary Kelly together in law,” in the Times Herald.
Hon. Joan Young, ’74, received the first Justice Marilyn J. Kelly Award for Outstanding Service. Young is chief judge pro tempore of Oakland County Circuit Court, serving in the family division. She is presiding judge of the men’s section of the Oakland County Adult Treatment Court.
Brian Mackie, ’75, was appointed by the governor to the Crime Victim Services Commission. Mackie is prosecuting attorney of Washtenaw County.
Freddie Burton, ’76, was named chief justice for Wayne County Probate Court for the remainder of 2015.
Richard Marek, ’76, was elected president of Vermont State Historical Society. He ended 12 years of service in Vermont House of Representatives in 2015, after retiring from practicing corporate law.
Hon. Linda Hallmark, ’77, chief judge pro tem of Oakland County Probate Court, served as chairperson for the 18th annual Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect Summit. She also was honored for 35 years of service to the county.
Lawrence Jordan, ’77, of Jaffe Raitt Heuer and Weiss PC was elected to the council of the State Bar of Michigan’s Arts, Communication, Entertainment and Sports Section.
Garcey Lindsay, ’77, was named regional director of the National Labor Relations Board Regional Office in Cincinnati.
William Perrone, ’77, of Dykema was appointed to the Michigan Board of Dentistry for a four-year term.
Brad Rayle, ’78, of Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC was selected for The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in labor law-management.
Thaddeus J. Kedzierski, ’79, of Charfoos and Christensen PC was re-elected for a second four-year term as mayor of Grosse Pointe Shores.

Michael Leib, ’79, launched LeibADR in Bloomfield Hills to provide metro Detroit law firms and the courts with mediation and arbitration services.

Steven Sonenberg, ’79, was appointed public defender in Pima County, Ariz.

1980s

Kathryn J. Humphrey, ’80, of Dykema Gossett PLLC spoke to students in Professor Laura Bartell’s Effective Oral Communication for Lawyers Seminar.


Michael O’Neill, ’80, was lead plaintiff’s counsel in the longest civil jury trial in the history of the New York City courthouse.

Noreen Slank, ’80, of Collins Einhorn Farrell PC was selected for The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in appellate practice, insurance law and medical malpractice law-defendants.

John Cabaniss, ’81, was admitted to the State Bar of Arizona and has opened an office in Phoenix. He also will maintain his Milwaukee office.

Hon. Darnell Jackson, ’81, gave a TED Talk on “The Value of Human Worth.” He is a judge with Saginaw County Circuit Court.

Stanley Pitts, ’81, was elected to a four-year term on the Board of Directors of Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP.

Francyne Stacey, ’81, joined Hooper Hathaway PC in Ann Arbor as a member. Stacey’s expertise in public employee law and representation of individuals rounds out the firm’s labor and employment practice.

Sandra Glazier, ’82, of Lipson Neilson served on the faculty of the 41st Notre Dame Tax and Estate Planning Institute, co-presenting “Undue Influence, Recognizing It, Insulating and Planning Against It, and Litigating It.” She was a featured presenter on this topic at the American Bar Association’s 2015 Spring Symposia, and an article she co-authored on the topic was in the July-August 2015 issue of Bloomberg BNA’s Tax Management: Estates, Gifts and Trusts Journal.

Lee Hornberger, ’82, presented “2015 Michigan Arbitration and Mediation Case Law Update” at the State Bar of Michigan Alternative Dispute Resolution Section Annual Meeting and Conference. He also joined Professional Resolution Experts of Michigan, a group of alternative dispute resolution neutrals.

R. Craig Hupp, ’83, of Bodman PLC was appointed by the governor to the new Michigan Pipeline Safety Advisory Board.

Cathy White, ’83, was named a 2016 fellow for the Michigan Political Leadership Program at Michigan State University.

Brad Arbuckle, ’84, of Miller Canfield played a key role in the firm’s representation of AVIC Automotive of China in the acquisition of Henniges Automotive from Littlejohn. The transaction represented the largest overseas acquisition by a Chinese automotive supplier in history. He also was selected for The Best Lawyers in America 2016. He was named Metro Detroit Lawyer of the Year for his work in mergers and acquisitions law.

Kenneth Marcus, ’84, of Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP was named to the Life Members Council of the American Health Lawyers Association. Marcus played a leadership role in establishing the council.

Patricia Nemeth, ’84, LL.M. ’90, of Nemeth Law was named one of Metropolitan Detroit’s 101 Best & Brightest Companies to Work For in 2015 by the Michigan Business and Professional Association. She also was selected for The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in employment law-management, labor law-management and litigation-labor and employment.

Robert Stead, ’84, of Barnes & Thornburg was selected for The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in corporate law and mergers and acquisitions law.

Linda Burwell, ’85, was selected for The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in employment law-management, labor law-management and litigation-labor and employment. She served as a panelist at the American Conference Institute’s 23rd national conference on employment practice liability insurance.

Gil Kaminski, ’85, joined Pepper Hamilton LLP’s Detroit office as special counsel in the corporate and securities practice group.


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Alumni notes continued

Holli Targan, ‘85, of Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC was appointed presidential advisor to the Merchant Acquirers Committee Board of Directors.

Lynn Gandhi, ‘86, of Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP was elected to the Board of Directors of the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit.

Kris Dighe, ‘87, senior counsel in the U.S. Justice Department’s Environmental Crimes section, presented at the American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy and Resources Conference. He was on a panel, “Behind the Scenes: An Insider’s View on Environmental Enforcement Priorities, Results, and Strategies.”

Margaret Scott, ‘88, of Secrest Wardle was named chair of Michigan Arson Prevention’s government resources committee. She received the Bob Sattler Award from the North Central Regional Chapter/International Association of Auto Theft Investigators, an award for professional excellence for service to the Michigan State Police and the William Liddane Award from the Help Eliminate Auto Theft Organization. She also was presented with a Challenge Coin for her service to the North Oakland County Veteran’s Treatment Court.

Theresa Asoklis, ‘89, of Collins Einhorn Farrell PC was selected for The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in professional responsibility law.

Donald Campbell, ‘89, of Collins Einhorn Farrell PC was selected for The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in ethics and professional responsibility law.

Greg Dodd, ‘89, is president of the Washtenaw County Bar Association.


Steven Weinstock, ‘89, was promoted from vice president/regional manager to first vice president at Marcus & Millichap.

1990s

Lori Buiteweg, ‘90, of Nichols Sacks Slank Sendelbach and Buiteweg PC was elected president of the State Bar of Michigan for the 2015-16 bar year.

Matthew Casey, ‘90, of Warner Norcross & Judd LLP was named to the Wayne State University Mike Ilitch School of Business Board of Visitors.

Steven Lefkofsky, ‘90, joined Jaffe Raitt Heuer and Weiss PC as a partner in the firm’s Litigation Practice Group.

Mary Massaron, ‘90, of Plunkett Cooney was selected for The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in personal injury litigation.

Robert Raitt, ‘92, of Michigan Auto Law was selected for The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in personal injury litigation.

Joseph Hart, ‘93, was named president and CEO of Dale Carnegie Training.

Robert Iwrey, ‘93, of The Health Law Partners was named by the American Health Lawyers Association as one of 30 Pro Bono Health Champions for his work with Beaumont Children’s Hospital NoBLE Anti-Bullying Program and the Oakland County Medical Society.

Julie Markgraf, ‘93, has joined Hall Render Killian Heath and Lyman’s Detroit office. She focuses her practice on health care law.
Neil Rockind, ’93, of Rockind Law was invited to represent Michigan on the advisory board for the National Academy of Criminal Defense Attorneys. He also presented a seminar, “Identifying Theme and Theory” at the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan fall conference.

Jessica Woll, ’93, of Woll & Woll PC hosted the Fine Art of Summer fundraiser to benefit the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center.

Dr. Anton Anderssen, ’94, was named vice president of the Poetry Society of Michigan.

Dana Nessel, ’94, of Nessel & Kessel Law was the focus of a Pride Source article, “You can’t win a case that you never file,” after the June U.S. Supreme Court decision on same-sex marriage.

Sean Cook, ’95, of Warner Norcross & Judd LLP was elected chair of the Board of Trustees for the Michigan School of Professional Psychology in Farmington Hills.

Bradley Lerner, ’95, was named Beacon Health Options’ first director of mental health parity compliance in addition to his associate general counsel duties.

Donald DeNault Jr., ’96, of O’Reilly Rancilio PC became the 87th president of the Macomb County Bar Association.

John Gonway, ’96, joined the Troy office of Dickinson Wright PLLC as a member. Gonway specializes in real estate, mergers and acquisitions, commercial transactions and secured lending.

Jermaine Wyrick, ’96, of the Law Offices of Jermaine A. Wyrick PLLC was selected to the Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit Board of Directors. He also was honored as one who is “Committed to Make a Difference in the World” at the first World Changers Banquet for C.H.O.I.C.E.Z.

Hala Jarbou, ’97, was appointed by the governor to fill a vacancy as judge of Oakland County Circuit Court. Previously she was a federal prosecutor in the Drug Task Force Unit under U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade in Detroit.

Alexander Domenicucci, ’98, of Maddin Hauser Roth & Heller was elected vice chair of the State Bar of Michigan’s Taxation Section. He also was appointed chair of the Oakland County Bar Association Tax Committee.

Stephen Tupper, ’98, was the subject of a feature story in the Legal News focusing on his service with the Civil Air Patrol.

Jill Bloom, ’99, was named of counsel at Fragomen Worldwide’s Phoenix office. She advises multinational clients in a wide range of industries regarding all aspects of U.S. business immigration and works closely with individuals involved in family based immigration matters.

Thomas Schramm, ’99, of Nemeth Law PC co-presented “Litigating the Pregnancy Discrimination Claim” to a large industry trade group in Cleveland.

Daniel L. Villaire Jr., ’99, was named a shareholder with Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC in Royal Oak. He concentrates his practice in labor and employment law.

2000s

Laura Baucus, ’00, was appointed office managing member of Dykema’s Bloomfield Hills office.

Christopher Darrow, ‘00, launched an intellectual property law firm in Northville. Originally named The Darrow Law Firm, it since has been renamed Darrow Mustafa PC.

James Harlan, ’00, joined InterDigital Communications as director of standards and competition policy. He represents InterDigital across the globe before standards-setting organization IP policy committees and working groups regarding patent, standards-setting, competition and licensing policy matters.

Lona Julien, ’00, was named Branch County Friend of the Court referee, a position in which she supports the court with family law issues including divorce, paternity, custody and support.

Mark Rossman, ’01, formed a new law practice, Rossman Law PC. The firm is in Troy and specializes in business litigation and transactions. Rossman also created a publishing company, publishing313 LLC, which is focused on promoting, editing and publishing the literary works of Detroit area writers. The Michigan Bar Journal awarded Rossman second place for his short story fiction, “The Last Bullet,” which examines the questions and contradictions inherent in an act of vigilante justice.

Ruth Tyszka, ’01, was part of an art exhibit, “Just Desserts,” at the Janice Charach Gallery in West Bloomfield. Her primary medium is sculptural mixed media mosaic.

Kristopher Hulliberger, ’03, of Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC was selected for The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in patent law.

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Robert Kaatz, ’02, was named partner and shareholder at Cardelli Lanfear PC.

Allen Pittoors, ’03, joined intellectual property law firm Darrow Mustafa PC in Northville as a partner.

Timothy Pratcshler, ’03, was admitted as a principal in the tax practice at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, leading the firm’s Greater Michigan Market controversy practice.

Terry Bonnette, ’04, of Nemeth Law presented “Managing Religion in Long-Term Care” at the Healthcare Association of Michigan Center for Assisted Living conference. At the Nemeth Law Raising the Bar series, Bonnette co-presented “Employee Leave Policies that Work.”

Sarah J. Brutman, ’04, joined Maddin Hauser Roth and Heller PC as an associate in the firm’s Defense and Insurance Coverage Practice Group. She concentrates her practice on commercial insurance coverage and liability defense.

Mike Hindelang, ’04, was elected to Honigman’s Board of Directors. He also was recognized by Michigan Lawyers Weekly as one of 30 “Up and Coming” attorneys for 2015.


Jonathan Mann, ’04, became board-certified in appellate practice by the Florida Bar. He is with the Law Offices of Robin Bresky in Boca Raton, Fla.

Suzanne Sukkar, ’04, of Dickinson Wright PLLC was appointed to a three-year term on the state’s Middle Eastern American Affairs Commission.

Matthew Van Dyk, ’04, joined the Kalamazoo office of Miller Johnson. He specializes in real estate law.

Mariam Bazzi, ’05, an assistant prosecuting attorney for Wayne County and a trustee on the Dearborn Board of Education, was appointed to a three-year term on the state’s Middle Eastern American Affairs Commission.

Joseph DeVito, ’05, of Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC was selected for The Best Lawyers in America 2016 in corporate law.

Stefan Osterbur, ’05, joined intellectual property law firm Reising in front of his law firm at 1207 Eureka Road in Wyandotte.

Zachary Fallstich, ’06, opened The Little Free Law Library with books on topics of widespread interest available in front of his law firm at 1207 Eureka Road in Wyandotte.

Matthew Mann, ’06, was appointed general counsel of St. Joseph Mercy Health System in Pontiac.

Paul Saba, ’06, joined Marriott International for the Middle East and Africa at its office in Dubai, UAE, as corporate counsel.

Ronda Tate Truvillion, ’06, was named partner at Lewis & Munday PC. She is a member of the Detroit firm’s Litigation Group.

Andrew Hopko, ’07, joined the Trusts and Estates Practice Group of Plunkett Cooney. He is a member of the firm’s Bloomfield Hills office and practices in the areas of estate planning, probate and trust administration, elder law, special needs planning and probate litigation.

Gary Kravitz, ’07, has joined Maddin Hauser Roth & Heller PC’s Real Estate, Corporate and Business, and Franchise practice groups.

Evan Leibhan, ’07, of Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP was elected president of the Board of Directors of Kadima, a social service agency serving individuals with mental illness in Oakland County.

Stephen Sinas, ’07, of the Sinas Dramis Law Firm gave a presentation on the Affordable Care Act during a People’s Law School session. He also was elected to the board of the Michigan Brain Injury Provider Council.

Timothy Bradley, ’08, joined the Intellectual Property Practice Group at Carlson Gaskey & Olds PC.

Danielle Bullock, ’08, joined Colodny Fass as an associate. A member of the Florida Bar, she is certified to practice law in all 15 member nations of the Caribbean Community.
Paul Kittinger, ’08, was named partner and shareholder with Cardelli Lanfear PC.

Nadine Mustafa, ’08, joined intellectual property law firm Darrow Mustafa PC in Northville as a partner.

Shannon Phillips, ’08, joined the Insurance Coverage Practice Group of Collins Einhorn Farrell PC.

Robert Riley, ’08, of Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP was elected president by the Detroit Center for Family Advocacy’s Board of Directors.

Kimberly Yourchock, ’08, joined Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP as a partner in its Labor and Employment Department’s Wage and Hour Practice Group. She will be in the firm’s Detroit office.


Allison Christensen, ’09, of Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Collier County Women’s Bar Association Inc. in Florida. Christensen also was named chair of the Membership Committee.

Robert Murkowski, ’09, of Miller Canfield was named a 2015 “Up & Coming Lawyer” by Michigan Lawyers Weekly.

Kristen Benvenuti Pytel, ’09, joined Bodman PLC as a staff attorney with the Enterprise Procurement Group in the firm’s Troy office.

2010s

Fadwa Alawieh, ’10, was selected as a trustee for the Dearborn Board of Education to fill a vacancy. She is a Wayne County assistant prosecutor.

Eric Jones, ’10, was named interim fire commissioner for Detroit.

John Wright, ’10, founded John Wright Law PLLC, a solo law practice in Detroit focusing on trademark, copyright and business law.

Matthew Zmijewski, ’10, joined the General and Automotive Liability Practice Group at Collins Einhorn Farrell PC.

Paul Isso, ’11, launched a law firm in Phoenix. The Isso Law Firm focuses on legal ethics; criminal defense; civil litigation; and entertainment, media and sports law. The firm was selected to participate in an event with the NBA’s Phoenix Suns.

Chris Jacobson, ’11, was named senior counsel at Grand Rapids law firm Bloom Sluggett Morgan.

Reuben Metreger, ’11, was promoted to the leadership team at Detroit Cristo Rey High School.

Samantha J. Orvis, ’11, joined the General and Automotive Liability Practice Group at Collins Einhorn Farrell PC.

Bryan Robbins, ’11, established Robbins and Licavoli PLLC, a Bloomfield Hills law firm specializing in family law, bankruptcy and immigration.

Christopher Roelofs, ’11, joined intellectual property law firm Darrow Mustafa PC in Northville as an associate attorney.

Kelly Blumline, ’12, joined the Troy office of Hall Render Killian Heath & Lyman. She focuses her practice on real estate and business transactions.

Michael Klinefelt, ’12, was appointed to serve out a term on the Eastpointe City Council.

Mallory Tomaro, ’12, joined Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP as an associate in its Real Estate Department. She will work in the firm’s Detroit office.

Adam Blaylock, ’13, Bloomfield High School’s assistant forensic coach, was named the Michigan Speech Coaches Inc. High School Assistant Coach of the Year 2015.

Ryan Carnago, ’13, joined intellectual property law firm Darrow Mustafa PC in Northville as an associate attorney.

Sam A. Fares, ’13, was named a shareholder with Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC in Royal Oak. He concentrates his practice in intellectual property law with a specialized focus on patent preparation, prosecution and clearance matters in the electrical and computer arts.

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Dan Ringo, ’13, was named chief operating officer of Continuum Services, a building maintenance and facility services company in Southfield.

Lindsay Schmidt, ’13, joined Garan Lucow Miller PC as an associate attorney.

Alexander Showalter, ’13, joined intellectual property law firm Darrow Mustafa PC in Northville as a technical advisor.

Michael Skoczylas, ’13, joined Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC as an associate in the firm’s Tax Practice Group.

Justin Spurlock, ’13, joined Cantor Colburn LLP as an associate. An aerospace engineer, he is a registered patent attorney with experience in preparing and prosecuting domestic and international patent applications in the mechanical, electronics and electromechanical arts. He also has experience in litigation matters, intellectual property licensing, and patentability and infringement opinions.

Melissa Brown, ’14, joined Pitt McGehee Palmer and Rivers as an associate attorney.


Rachael Kohl, ’14, joined Pitt McGehee Palmer and Rivers as an associate attorney.

Nicholas Tloczynski, ’14, has taken a position as a research assistant for the Michigan Court of Appeals in Lansing.

Daniel Chojnowski, ’15, has joined Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC. He will focus on intellectual property law and will practice out of the Royal Oak office.

Erica Shell, ’15, joined Bodman PLC’s Detroit office as an associate with the Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution Practice Group.

In memoriam

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

Hon. Robert A. Benson, ’61
Walter H. Bentley III, ’02
John M. Bergman, ’74
Hon. Edwin M. Bladen, ’65
Robert George Brower, ’78
Mark A. Chadwick, ’84
Hon. S.J. “Sandy” Elden, ’50
Mary E. Flanagan, ’78
Arvis V. Freimuts, ’80
Ronald E. Guilbault, ’75
Hon. Kenneth A. Hansen, ’66
Bruce G. Hartrick, ’77
David G. Heilbrun, ’58
Dorothy Hendricks, ’45
Priscilla V. Hirt, ’80
Eugene S. Hoiby, ’65
Donald B. Lawrence Jr., ’68
Paulette M. LeBost, ’67
Max D. McCullough, ’60
Donald S. Paul, ’58
Charles Perlman, ’47
Daniel E. Rhodes, ’70
Robert J. Sevigny, ’81
Marvin Skupski, ’78
Henry Starkman, ’64
Clive W. Summers, ’57
Neal A. Waldrop Jr., ’50
Richard G. Ward, ’59
Theodore N. Williams Jr., ’80
Ronald Zajac, ’70

Save the date

Treasure of Detroit

Thursday, April 21
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Gem Theatre
333 Madison St.
Detroit

Watch for your invitation in March.
With 131 incoming first-year students for 2015-16, Wayne Law marked a 10 percent increase over last year’s 119 first-year students.

“I’m proud that with our boost in enrollment, we’ve also not only maintained but increased the caliber of our incoming students,” Dean Jocelyn Benson said.

She noted that the median LSAT score of the incoming class is 157, up from 156 last year, and the median grade point average is 3.42, up from 3.29.

Hyunjin Eugene Cho of Howell, a senior infrastructure architect with Volkswagen Group of America, said he chose Wayne Law because of its reputation, affordability and flexibility of its evening program.

“My area of interest in law is data privacy and cyber law,” he said. “Working in the information technology industry and seeing the new technology trends and how they are being leveraged in the global economy, there are many challenges and questions that arise on how information is collected, stored and used. My goal after graduation is to use my knowledge of the law and technology to help my clients or my employer use these new technologies while maintaining appropriate data privacy policies and controls.”

Cho holds a bachelor’s degree in physics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a master’s degree in physics from Northern Illinois University. He studied hydrosystems engineering at the University of Illinois, as well.

For Rachel McDuffie of Belleville, it was the civil rights law program and the extensive alumni network that convinced her to choose Wayne Law.

“I’m interested in criminal law, civil rights and employment and labor law, especially where these intersect,” she said. “… I’m committed to bridging the gaps that cycles of mistrust have created in our communities, and a law degree will help lay the foundation for effective practice.”

She earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Xavier University of Louisiana and a master’s degree in public health from the University of Michigan.

During her prior education and her work as a research administrator at the University of Michigan, she found herself seeking opportunities to advocate for others and make sure they knew their rights, she said.

“I realized that ‘hobby’ was actually a passion for law,” McDuffie said.
Save the date

Wayne Law Golf Outing

Monday, June 6, 2016

Country Club of Detroit, Grosse Pointe Farms

Proceeds benefit scholarships

Details: law.wayne.edu/golf

For more information:
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