I’m excited to present to you the fall 2018 edition of Wayne Lawyer.

In this issue, we explore Wayne Law’s impact in one of the most charged and gripping areas of the law right now — immigration law.

We’ll start by taking you behind the scenes of Wayne Law’s Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic, where our students gain real-world experience and serve the community while growing as people and lawyers.

Beginning on page 19, you’ll read about the contributions of featured alumni across the country. Laura Barrera ‘16, a Bernstein Fellow at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, passionately represents refugee children seeking asylum. Shahar Ben-Josef ‘16, is taking her career to the Boston Immigration Court. Angelo Paparelli ’76, a partner in the Business Immigration Practice Group of Seyferth Shaw LLP in Los Angeles, finds daily inspiration in his clients. Patricia Ice ’79 is on the front lines every day as director of the Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance’s legal project.

We bring things home to Michigan with inspiring alumni Ruby Robinson ’11, class of 2015 graduates Farah Al-khersan, Justin Hanna and Nora Youkhana — each one making remarkable contributions in their own way.

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of Wayne Lawyer and are as proud of our wonderful community as I am. Thank you for being a part of it.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Bierschbach
Dean and Professor of Law
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### About this publication

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**Wayne Lawyer**

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Wayne Law remembers Judge Arthur Lombard

Beloved former professor and retired Judge Arthur Jan Lombard died May 11 at the age of 76 following a long struggle with lymphoma.

Lombard, who joined the Law School faculty in 1966, rose through the ranks, eventually earning full tenure and teaching until 1986. He went on to serve as associate dean from 1978 to 1985. It was during his first year at Wayne Law that he met faculty member Frederica Koller, who he would eventually marry. Collectively, they taught hundreds of aspiring lawyers who now practice in Michigan and beyond.

“Arthur Lombard was the quintessential law professor for first-year courses,” said Distinguished Professor Alan S. Schenk. “In his early years at Wayne State, he resembled The Paper Chase’s Professor Charles Kingsfield Jr., even Kingsfield’s comment that ‘You teach yourselves the law, but I train your minds.’ Arthur trained those minds and his students, years later, remarked how he helped develop them as lawyers.”

After serving as dean of the Detroit College of Law (now Michigan State University College of Law), he was appointed judge in the Third Judicial Circuit in 1994, spending the majority of his time in the family division. Lombard had a passion for the protection of children in custody disputes. He proudly served on the bench until his retirement in 2015. He also served on the Michigan Civil Rights Commission.

Donations in Lombard’s memory may be sent to the Taconic Lymphoma Society.

Wayne Law among best in nation for practical training, public interest law

Wayne Law has been recognized by preLaw magazine as one of the best law schools in the nation for practical training and made the magazine’s Public Interest Honor Roll.

Practical training rankings are based on experiential learning opportunities, with data from the American Bar Association and individual law schools. Five categories were analyzed: clinics, externships, simulation courses, interschool competitions and “other.” The greatest weight was placed on clinical experience.

The Public Interest Honor Roll is based on academics (concentrations and centers), practical training opportunities (clinics and externships) and extracurricular opportunities (journals and student groups).

Wayne Law student Nusrat Hussain takes the Lawyer’s Oath at the winter 2018 Clinical Education Swearing-in Ceremony.

Help us recruit new law students

Wayne Law alumni interested in helping to recruit new law students are encouraged to contact Kathy Fox, assistant dean of admissions, at 313-577-3937 or foxk@wayne.edu.
When Stephen Ott was a law student, a large fire broke out in a warehouse near campus. “Smoke from the fire drifted toward our apartment, and you could hear the sirens of the arriving apparatus,” said Ott, a senior counsel with Miller Canfield. “I took a break from studying and joined a crowd that had assembled to watch the Detroit Fire Department work. I found it fascinating.”

Shortly after graduating from Wayne Law in 1979, he read that the Detroit Fire Department was reactivating its auxiliary force. He signed up and reported for training.

Years later, Ott and his family moved to Northville, where he learned that the city’s fire department was a pay-per-call volunteer department. His new home was a few blocks from the fire station, and Ott ended up joining.

Ott, who earned his bachelor’s in political philosophy with high honors from the James Madison College at Michigan State University, assists clients in defending product-related litigation and regulatory matters, with an emphasis on the discovery and information-gathering aspects of the work.

In 2014, Northville city officials asked Ott, then a captain and training officer with the fire department, to serve as chief. “Being the chief is a full-time job, and I was happy with the work I was doing at the firm,” he said. “But I realized I was entering the wind-down phase of my career as a lawyer, and that I had already begun the task of transitioning work and responsibilities to the younger partners in my group. At the same time, I was not ready to give up the practice of law altogether.”

He talked it over with his legal partners, clients, family, friends and city officials.

“We came up with a realistic plan that allowed me to transition from being a full-time lawyer and a part-time firefighter EMT to being full time with the fire department and part time with the firm,” said Ott, who became chief in the summer of 2014 of the Northville City Fire Department, which serves the 15,000 residents of the cities of Northville and Plymouth.

His legal knowledge is an asset in his role as chief. “A lot of the training in the handling of hazardous materials involves a review of the laws related to reporting incidents, transportation, storage, etc.,” Ott said. “Having a legal background is helpful in understanding the regulatory scheme. A fire chief is primarily an administrator, and legal training comes in handy when dealing with all of the administrative issues that cross your desk. Whether it is dealing with employee disciplinary issues, writing a proposal for city council about purchasing some new equipment, or reviewing the latest regulations from the state, the law degree is a big help.”

Stephen Ott on why he chose a law career: “Becoming a lawyer was actually not in the plans for a long time. My high school counselor actually suggested that it was something I should consider, and I remember being surprised about that. In my third year at MSU, many of my friends were taking the LSAT and looking at law schools, and I sort of followed along. Thinking back on it, though, it all makes sense. In college, being involved in student government and serving in various leadership roles, and studying the philosophy behind how societies organize themselves for the common good all pointed toward a career in the practical application of these things, which I believe the work of a lawyer to be.”
**Last week of classes**

**Graduates honored by State Bar of Michigan Taxation Section**

Catherine Ferguson and Charles Roarty, Wayne Law class of 2018, were nominated by faculty and selected and honored at the State Bar of Michigan Taxation Section annual meeting. Both students are pursuing their LL.M. degree this fall.

Each year, the section awards the outstanding tax students from each of the law schools in Michigan for excellence in the study of taxation. Ferguson and Roarty received their honors during the meeting on Thursday, May 24.

Ferguson was co-founder and editor-in-chief of the Wayne State University Journal of Business Law for the 2017-18 academic year. She will pursue her LL.M. at Georgetown Law in the fall. She said she was encouraged by both professors and workplace mentors to continue her education.

“During my time at Wayne Law, I was very fortunate in that I was able to work in the tax field and study tax law simultaneously,” Ferguson said. “I’m grateful for all of these experiences, the mentors who encouraged me along the way, and I’m extremely excited to learn more about my favorite area of the law.”

Roarty was co-founder and managing editor of the *Journal of Business Law*. He also interned in Washington, D.C., during the summer of 2017 through the Levin Center at Wayne Law’s internship program.

“The professors and mentors I had at Wayne Law all helped push me to explore complex issues,” Roarty said. “Tax can be frustrating because it impacts many other areas of law, but my mentors were always willing to help. They inspired me to pursue my LL.M. despite the challenges it will present. I’ve also considered teaching as a result of their guidance.”

Roarty will attend New York University School of Law in the fall for his LL.M.

**Alumna awarded prestigious Equal Justice Works Fellowship**

Erin Mette ’18, is a recipient of a prestigious Equal Justice Works Fellowship. During her two-year fellowship, Mette is working for the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center to provide legal counseling and representation to families affected by home-based environmental health hazards in Detroit and Flint. She also will advocate for policy that advances environmental justice. Mette’s fellowship is supported by Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP and an anonymous sponsor.

Mette is one of 67 fellows selected this year from 446 applications. The Equal Justice Works Fellowship class of 2018 includes graduates from 40 law schools serving 64 nonprofit legal services organizations.

In the first six months of her fellowship, Mette will survey city, county and state agencies, community organizations and legal service providers to document the legal needs of families facing home-based environmental health hazards; identify families in need of immediate legal assistance accessing in-home lead testing, enrolling in water bill financial assistance programs and filing appeals of water bills and service shutoffs; and begin developing educational materials for compliance assistance workshops and legal services clinics.

Before attending law school, Mette worked with children and families in Detroit and Flint as an environmental educator.

**First week of classes**

**Duffy receives Ralph Freeman Award**

Arthur Joseph Duffy IV ’18, received the prestigious Ralph M. Freeman Scholarship.

Each year, the Federal District Court in the Eastern District awards a scholarship to one law student at each of Michigan’s five law schools. At Wayne Law, the scholarship is awarded to the student who excels in Evidence.

Duffy was an admissions ambassador for Wayne Law. He also participated in Mock Trial and was a third-year day governor for the Student Board of Governors during the 2017-18 school year. Duffy will join Dykema Gossett in Detroit.

Ralph M. Freeman was a U.S. District judge for the Eastern District for more than 35 years. The scholarships continue Freeman’s legacy of justice, advocacy and civility.

**Wayne Law Class of 2018**

Wayne Law School
Wayne Law’s 2018 commencement ceremony Monday, May 14, honored 149 recipients of degrees for December 2017 and candidates for degrees in May 2018 and August 2018.

Students eligible to participate in the ceremony included 141 for juris doctor and eight for master of laws. The ceremony was at the Detroit Opera House.

Delivering the keynote address was Michigan Supreme Court Justice Bridget Mary McCormack. McCormack was elected in 2012 and is the court’s liaison to Michigan’s business and tribal courts.

Also speaking were Dean Richard A. Bierschbach; Hon. Marilyn Kelly ’71, member of the WSU Board of Governors; WSU President M. Roy Wilson; James Kehoe, 2017-18 president of the Wayne Law Student Board of Governors; and Associate Dean Susan Cancelosi.

Receiving awards for Professors of the Year were Christopher C. Lund and William Ortman.

For more photos, visit go.wayne.edu/lawgrad18.
Throughout my time at Wayne Law, community has been key to my success as a rising attorney. My professors take the time to mentor and invest in me personally, administrative staff are supportive and responsive, and the tight-knit, collegial student population feels like family."

— Priscilla Ghita
Wayne Law class of 2020

Gerrymandering: The Power of Boundaries
Friday, March 22
Wayne State University Law School
Detroit
Presented by
The Journal of Law in Society and Levin Center at Wayne Law

The Emerging Blockchain and the Law
Friday, Feb. 22
Wayne State University Law School
Detroit
Presented by Wayne Law Review

Our degrees from Wayne Law have enabled us to make a real difference in people’s lives through our consumer protection work. Through our scholarship, we hope to encourage future graduates to practice in areas that will benefit others.”

— Mark Romano and Steve Stancroff
The Alumni Wall of Fame Award is the highest honor presented by the Law School. This distinction is awarded with great care to either alumni who have distinguished themselves by contributions that they have made in their own particular field of work or in the betterment of humanity, or to former faculty and staff who have had a significant impact on the Law School. The Wall of Fame, an interactive multimedia installment in the Law School lobby, was made possible by a donation from 1966 alumnus E. Powell Miller.

Five alumni were inducted into the Wall of Fame at a ceremony Wednesday, Sept. 12, at the Law School. From left, David M. Hempstead, Judge Edward Ewell (selection committee chair), Michael L. Pitt, Justice Marilyn Kelly, Elliott S. Hall and Bill Goodman (son of the late Ernest Goodman).

Nominate someone for the Alumni Wall of Fame

Nominations for the Wayne Law Alumni Wall of Fame will be received at any time. Nominations received by Oct. 31 each year will be considered for the awards given out the following fall. For guidelines and to nominate someone with our simple online form, visit law.wayne.edu/walloffame.

Ernest Goodman ’28 (posthumous), was a first-generation American and graduate of Detroit Public Schools. His list of achievements is long, emphasizing a life well lived as an advocate for civil rights. Goodman was a founder of the nation’s first interracial law firm, Goodman Crockett Eden and Robb. He was a force in the civil rights movement, leading the National Lawyers Guild to recruit lawyers from all over the country to represent activists who were arrested in the south. During the Vietnam War, Goodman represented scores of anti-war protesters who were arrested for civil disobedience.

Elliott S. Hall ’65, a native Detroiter, is an attorney at Elliott S. Hall PLLC in Birmingham, Michigan. He was previously with Dykema and had a 15-year career at Ford Motor Company. At the time of his retirement from Ford, he was vice president of dealer development. He has been Wayne County’s chief assistant prosecutor, law director for the City of Detroit, and president of the Detroit Bar Association and Wolverine Bar Association, in addition to numerous other appointments in Michigan and Washington, D.C. He currently is chairman of the board of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company.

David M. Hempstead ’75, is a member of Bodman PLC in Detroit. He is a member of the Probate and Estate Planning and Taxation sections of the State Bar of Michigan and a member of the Financial and Estate Planning Council of Detroit. He’s been listed among “The Best Lawyers in America” for more than 20 years under Trusts and Estates. Hempstead has been a board member for the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, Detroit Institute of Arts, and Henry Ford Health System, among numerous others.

Marilyn Kelly ’71, retired from the Michigan Supreme Court in 2013 after 24 years as a judge and was chief justice from 2009 to 2011. Kelly currently is a member of Wayne State University’s Board of Governors and is Wayne Law’s distinguished jurist in residence. She co-founded the Michigan Judicial Selection Task Force in 2010. This bipartisan group recommended needed reforms to Michigan’s method of selecting its judges. Among her numerous honors, she is a member of the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame, the recipient of several honorary degrees and this year was awarded the Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Service Award.

Michael L. Pitt ’74, is president of Public Justice and a member of the Wayne Law Board of Visitors. He is managing partner and a founding member of Pitt McGehee Palmer & Rivers PC. His firm has handled a variety of important civil rights cases, including the landmark Neal v. Michigan Department of Corrections class action, which settled (along with its affiliated cases) after a dozen years, ultimately bringing justice to more than 400 female prisoners. Pitt also is the recipient of the Champion of Justice award from the State Bar of Michigan.
Horowitz, Levin open conference on Inspector General Act


More than 90 people attended the two-panel symposium in Washington, D.C., which honored the 40th anniversary of the Inspector General Act by bringing together current and former inspectors general (IGs) and other experts for a discussion on the critical role IGs play in congressional oversight. The event was recorded by C-SPAN and can be viewed at go.wayne.edu/levincenter-ig.

Levin Center sends 4 legal interns to Capitol Hill

The Levin Center at Wayne Law chose four law students to serve as legal interns in congressional committee offices in Washington, D.C. this summer.

Internships were awarded to:

• Marie Bonnici, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs (Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-OH)
• Marisa Hamel, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform (Congressman Trey Gowdy, R-SC)
• Shelbie Rose, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-MO)
• Marilyn Yousil, Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (Sen. Tom Carper, D-DE)

Each position involved work with congressional staff from both parties and a bipartisan approach to oversight. Students worked under the supervision of an experienced attorney who is engaged in conducting oversight on behalf of a congressional committee.

This is the third year for the 10-week internships, which include a financial stipend to offset travel and living expenses for the interns.
Students gain real-world skills through immigration clinic

Students immerse themselves in hands-on client representation in Wayne Law's Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic. And they make a difference to the people they represent.

Third-year student Samantha Topolewski, with fellow student Gina Derderian, spent the majority of her clinic time during the last semester — and more time, as well — representing an Iraqi national who was detained last summer. The students are under the guidance of Assistant Professor (Clinical) Sabrina Balgamwalla, who directs the clinic.

In June 2017, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers arrested about 150 members of the metro Detroit Chaldean and wider Iraqi community, intending to enforce old removal orders without giving the detainees a chance to explain to a court the current dangers they would face in Iraq. The raid was part of the Trump administration’s push to stem immigration enforcement.

“Our client came to the United States as a refugee, and has essentially lost all of his family, either through war or otherwise,” Topolewski said.

The man has had runs-ins with American law enforcement, but has never directly injured another person, she said. Thus, he was detained after years of living free in the country.

During the crisis of the raids, the American Civil Liberties Union, CODE Legal Aid Inc. and volunteer attorneys stepped in to make sure all detained Iraqi immigrants had representation. The Wayne Law clinic was a part of that effort.

“When we started the semester at the clinic, we had to hit the ground running, and within the first two weeks of classes, we made a visit to Youngstown, Ohio, to meet our client for the first time, as that is where he was detained,” Topolewski said. “We represented him for a bond hearing, filed a motion to reopen his case, completed his applications, filed his brief for his individual merits hearing and presented him before the immigration judge for his hearings. In order to complete all this, we had to get documents from many different places to support his application and essentially put together the life of this individual who never had someone advocating for him before.”

It was a difficult case, and the women worked hard. They were able to talk about it with fellow clinic students, and get feedback and emotional support. At the time of this publication, the client is still in detention.

Firsthand experience helps alumna aid immigrants

Immigration attorney Farah Al-khersan knows on many levels what her clients go through in their quest to live in America. The 2015 graduate of Wayne Law is the daughter of Iraqi parents who brought her and her siblings to the United States in the 1990s in the hope of a better future.

“My family went through the immigration process, which was long and arduous. It took us 15 years to obtain citizenship. I can personally relate to the struggles and experiences of immigrants, which allows me to better guide them through the legal process.”

When she learned about Wayne Law’s Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic and spoke to different professors at the school, she decided it was the right place for her. She worked as a student attorney with the clinic for nearly two years.

She works now for the Law Office of Michael Carlin PLLC in Ann Arbor, practicing family-based immigration and removal cases.

“Family-based immigration centers on individuals who want to immigrate to the United States through qualified relatives,” Al-khersan said. “I also represent individuals in immigration court as they are facing deportation. A lot of the work I do can take an emotional toll, because I am dealing with families facing separation in many cases, and individuals having to go back to countries where their lives may be in danger.”

In January 2017, Al-khersan gained new insight into what it can be like to cross the U.S. border if you’re not native-born. She and her husband, Iraqi-born Osamah Fadel, a pharmacist who is a legal resident of the United States and a Canadian citizen, were visiting his relatives in Sarnia, Ontario, when President Donald Trump signed an executive order banning entry to the United States by people from some Muslim-majority countries, including Iraq. The order created confusion at the border, where customs and border protection agents had been given no rules or explanations of how to enforce the executive order.

When Al-khersan and her husband tried to return home after their visit, they were detained, based solely on their countries of birth. They were ordered out of their car, and their keys were confiscated, as were their passports and Fadel’s green card. The car was searched, and at one point agents told Al-khersan that she could leave, but her husband could not. She stayed with him.

After four hours, for no reason that was ever explained, the couple was allowed to go home.

Al-khersan went public with what had happened, and she was interviewed by media far and wide about her experience. She wanted people to know what effect the ban was having.

“I believe it is very important to speak out and provide accurate information about what is really happening throughout the country,” she said. “There is so much misinformation out there about immigration law and policies.”

She continues her work with passion to help others, and still believes in the promise of America.

“This country is my home, and it has always thrived on diversity,” Al-khersan said. “I am proud to be an American citizen and will always believe the United States to be a country for people of all different backgrounds. Despite all the chaos and negativity surrounding the immigration debate, I am humbled by all the people who have chosen to stand up for equality and justice. The United States has been a country where my family has been able to grow and thrive, and I hope that it continues to be that way for other families.”
Attorney Laura Barrera is on the front lines of America’s immigration crisis every day.

A 2016 graduate of Wayne Law, Barrera represents unaccompanied refugee children — nearly all of whom are Central American victims of trauma who are seeking asylum — in deportation proceedings before the Immigration Court and before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services agency of the Department of Homeland Security.

Without her and other pro bono attorneys, the children, some as young as 4 years old, face Homeland Security lawyers alone in deportation proceedings before the Immigration Court and Homeland Security Officers of Chief Counsel.

“On an almost daily basis, I am talking with kids who have been raped, had guns put to their heads, had parents or close family murdered or kidnapped,” Barrera said. “Most of this violence is perpetrated by gangs, and the kids that come here are kids who refuse to join the gang or comply with its demands. When you refuse the gang, they kill you. Instead of waiting to be killed, the kids flee. Sometimes it’s in the middle of the night with only the clothes on their backs.”

Barrera knew right away she was passionate about public interest law. During her first two years of law school, she volunteered there with an organization helping Sudanese refugees. While attending Wayne Law, Ben-Josef earned a master’s in dispute resolution from the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. Through a Wayne Law Public Interest Law Fellowship, she also worked as a law clerk at the Council on American-Islamic Relations, helping file asylum applications for Syrian refugees, and attended The Hague Academy of International Law’s prestigious summer program.

“The Department of Justice Honors Program is an amazing opportunity to continue my path of public service while gaining invaluable knowledge and experience,” she said. “I see this work as fitting with the goals that I had as a law student, it just wasn’t necessarily the path that I envisioned. I’m learning that it’s difficult to plan exactly what your career will take, as you never know what opportunities may present themselves.”

She spent a year after graduation interning at the Interfaith Council for Peace and Social Justice in Ann Arbor, and spent a summer with the International Conflict Resolution Program in Geneva and London.

She also lived for a summer with her grandparents in Israel and volunteered there with an organization helping Sudanese refugees. While attending Wayne Law, Ben-Josef earned a master’s in dispute resolution at WSU, and a graduate certificate in peace and security studies from the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies. Through a Wayne Law Public Interest Law Fellowship, she also worked as a law clerk at the Council on American-Islamic Relations, helping file asylum applications for Syrian refugees, and attended The Hague Academy of International Law’s prestigious summer program.

“The judges sitting at the Detroit Immigration Court inspire me every day without fail. They fairly adjudicate each case that comes before them, and consider all legal advice and factual issues that come before them, while balancing the competing needs for due process and judicial efficiency. Despite their incredibly busy schedules, they make time to give unending advice and support to everyone around them. I have been lucky enough to supervise interns at the court, and they have inspired me to be a better teacher and have taught me the importance of sharing my knowledge with others.”

She advises law students who want to practice immigration law to get as much experience as possible.

“There are so many people who inspire me, most of whom I don’t even know, including immigrants and refugees who are courageous enough to share their stories, and attorneys and other professionals who fight on behalf of human rights and civil liberties around the world and in the United States every day.”

IMMIGRATION LAW – LAURA BARRERA ’16

IMMIGRATION LAW – SHAHAR BEN-JOSEF ’16

IMMIGRATION LAW – FALL 2018

IMMIGRATION LAW – FALL 2018

WAYNE LAWYER – FALL 2018

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For couple, immigration crisis a reminder of what it means to be a lawyer

On Sunday, June 11, 2017, Justin Hanna got an urgent phone call from his then-fiancée, Nora Youkhana.

She told him that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers were arresting about 150 members of the metro Detroit Chaldean and Iraqi community, intending to enforce old removal orders without giving the detainees a chance to explain to a court why it was no longer safe for them to return to Iraq.

“I called CODE to help the detainees, and so did Hanna’s firm. The ACLU mobilized to help the detainees, and so did Hanna’s firm. The very next day, we had a group of 20 attorneys and paralegals from throughout the firm at the ready, transforming our executive board room into a makeshift command center, to assist CODE in their efforts ensuring all detainees had legal representation.”

The Jaffe team provided more than $180,000 worth of pro bono legal services, and funded legal fees for others, Hanna said.

“The day after the raids occurred, Ira Jaffe walked into my office and asked how the firm could help,” Hanna said. “The very next day, we had a group of 20 attorneys and paralegals from throughout the firm at the ready, transforming our executive board room into a makeshift command center, to assist CODE in their efforts ensuring all detainees had legal representation.”

The Jaffe team provided more than $180,000 worth of pro bono legal services, and funded legal fees for others, Hanna said.

Both Hanna and Youkhana sprang into action when the raids took place.

“As attorneys, we hold a lot of power that we sometimes take for granted. We oftentimes don’t realize how amazing it is to be able to speak to a judge or know the law. Every day, since this incident, I remind myself of just how much responsibility we have in our role as attorneys and counselors.”

For Hanna, learning the ins and outs of immigration law as fast as he could during the crisis was “like drinking from a firehose.”

Youkhana was not an expert in immigration law either, but in 2016, she, with Nadine Youssif Kalasho ’12, founded nonprofit CODE Legal Aid Inc. to help immigrants with legal counsel.

“I came to start CODE Legal Aid because I am an immigrant myself and I saw firsthand the need in the community,” Youkhana said.

When the raids took place, CODE was flooded with calls from frightened families. The small nonprofit opened its office that evening after the attorneys had worked all day at their regular jobs, and hustled to organize a response to the crisis. Youkhana called Hanna, and also called another friend from law school, Bonitsu Kitaba ’14, who works for the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan.

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When the raids took place, CODE was flooded with calls from frightened families. The small nonprofit opened its office that evening after the attorneys had worked all day at their regular jobs, and hustled to organize a response to the crisis. Youkhana called Hanna, and also called another friend from law school, Bonitsu Kitaba ’14, who works for the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan.

The Jaffe team provided more than $180,000 worth of pro bono legal services, and funded legal fees for others, Hanna said.

“The day after the raids occurred, Ira Jaffe walked into my office and asked how the firm could help,” Hanna said. “The very next day, we had a group of 20 attorneys and paralegals from throughout the firm at the ready, transforming our executive board room into a makeshift command center, to assist CODE in their efforts ensuring all detainees had legal representation.”

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Both Hanna and Youkhana sprang into action when the raids took place.

“As attorneys, we hold a lot of power that we sometimes take for granted. We oftentimes don’t realize how amazing it is to be able to speak to a judge or know the law. Every day, since this incident, I remind myself of just how much responsibility we have in our role as attorneys and counselors.”

For Hanna, learning the ins and outs of immigration law as fast as he could during the crisis was “like drinking from a firehose.”

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“I came to start CODE Legal Aid because I am an immigrant myself and I saw firsthand the need in the community,” Youkhana said.
Leading the charge

Ruby Robinson is co-managing attorney for the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, an organization that spearheads the effort to stand up for immigrant rights in the state.

A 2011 graduate of Wayne Law, she began work for MIRC in 2012, after a year of holding down three part-time legal jobs. The full-time job “combined my passions for poverty law and immigration legal services,” she said. Having one full-time position also gave her the opportunity to stop driving between three different offices six days a week.

But working for MIRC is far from a break for Robinson when it comes to the volume of work she handles and the emotional toll it can take. Nevertheless, she is dedicated to his job and the mission of the organization.

“An intake could come from a family member calling about a relative who was just detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a survivor of domestic violence living in a shelter, or a farmworker requesting assistance about workers’ compensation coverage for an on-the-job injury,” Robinson said.

“On days when we receive calls from detention or there has been a large enforcement action, it could be 15 more intakes.”

Robinson, who grew up in Franklin, Michigan, graduated from the University of Michigan and worked as an AmeriCorps VISTA in New York before deciding to attend law school at WSU. As a law student, she volunteered for Lakeshore Legal Aid, and served as a student attorney with Wayne Law’s Asylum and Immigration Law Clinic.

“A 1976 alumnus of Wayne Law, Angelo Paparelli is a partner with Seyfarth Shaw LLP and has a bicoastal practice in southern California and New York City. He is founder and past president of the Alliance of Business Immigration Lawyers, a worldwide coalition of leading immigration firms.

Paparelli is widely published and quoted by media, and his public policy blog, Nation of Immigrants, is a result of his mission to help Americans accept and welcome immigrants for the good of the nation.

A native Detroiter, Paparelli, grandson of Italian immigrants, studied international law during law school, hoping it would be a way for him to travel the world. After clerking for the late Michigan Supreme Court Justice Dorothy Comstock Riley (Wayne Law class of 1949), he joined Ziegler Dykhouse and Wise, and practiced international business law.

“Wise, and practiced international business law.

He described one of his cases that has gone on for many years.

“hailing from a destitute and strife-torn African nation,” Paparelli said.

His wife, born in Iran, introduced him to other Iranians, some of whom asked him to help them submit asylum applications. His wife, born in Iran, introduced him to other Iranians, some of whom asked him to help them submit asylum applications.

“His work, he said, has given him hope, despite the mounting challenges created weekly. I would be lying if I didn’t say the work is overwhelming.”

The 11 attorneys of MIRC represent without charge all of the immigrant children in Michigan in federal foster care.

“Are these children who arrived in the United States unaccompanied and who have become unaccompanied as a result of the ‘zero tolerance’ policies,” Robinson said. “Our role is to advocate for our children and help them be reunited with their families, if that is what they want. Alternately, for some children — especially those who entered on their own — their goal is to seek protection from the violence and persecution they fled, which may well be their families. Representing young children requires exceptional patience, ethics, skill, creativity and resilience.”

MIRC attorneys represent any number of other situations for immigrants, as well.

“This experience opened my eyes in so many ways to the additional barriers that non-citizens face in regard to access to justice.”

“It is easy to be passionate about this work when I have such wonderful clients, coworkers and colleagues around the state,” he said. “And when injustice is rampant, it helps to be in a position to effect and lead positive change. I am fortunate to work for an organization that provides direct representation, performs impact litigation, often in partnership with others, mentors pro bono attorneys, answers technical questions, and overall finds itself not only in the middle of but also leading the charge in Michigan to stand up for immigrants and immigrant rights.

“ar the superb work that my coworkers and colleagues perform every day gives me hope, despite the mounting challenges created weekly. I would be lying if I didn’t say the work is overwhelming.”

Robinson is active with several Jewish community nonprofits and synagogues; sits on the board of the Jewish Community Relations Council/American Jewish Committee; and enjoys spending time with his family, friends and fiancée, as well as running and cooking, when he can find spare time.
Losinski awarded scholarship from Community Foundation

Third-year Wayne Law student Brant Losinski was awarded the Judge Philip J. Glennie Law Student Scholarship from the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan.

This scholarship is awarded to graduates of a high school in Alcona, Alpena, Montmorency and Presque Isle County. Losinski was honored at a luncheon on Friday, June 15, in Alpena.

Losinski is the chairman of the Wayne Law ACLU chapter and president of the Law School’s Environmental Law Society. The Philip J. Glennie Law Student Scholarship honors Glennie, who served the 26th Judicial Circuit for a quarter-century. Glennie was known for his leadership and civic engagement in Alpena and was instrumental in establishing CFNEM in 1974.

Losinski was an extern this summer in the legal department of the National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Lab of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Ann Arbor. He earned his bachelor’s from the University of Michigan.

Nelson wins Women Lawyers Association of Michigan scholarship

Wayne Law student Jaime Nelson was named the 2018 Dawn Van Hoek Scholar by the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation. The foundation makes financial awards to female law students at each of Michigan’s law schools. Scholarships are determined on the basis of the students’ demonstrated leadership capabilities, community service, commitment to diversity, and potential for advancing the position of women in society. Dawn Van Hoek graduated from Wayne Law in 1976.

Nelson is involved with the Women’s Law Caucus, Damon J. Keith Students for Civil Rights, Mock Trial and Wayne Law’s Free Legal Aid Clinic. She also is the graduate teaching assistant for Wayne State University’s Criminal Justice program, where she’s pursuing a dual degree.

“Wayne Law has given me great opportunities to pursue my passion for public interest, and this award has only strengthened my resolve to become an attorney that represents the people who need it most,” Nelson said.

For more than 10 years Nelson has worked as a community organizer, statewide coordinator for The Prison Creative Arts Project through the University of Michigan, and as an investigator of prisoner complaints for the state legislature. Nelson earned her bachelor’s from the University of Michigan.

Two students awarded prestigious workers’ rights fellowship

Phillip Keller and Lauren Marie Pereny were awarded prestigious 2018 Peggy Browning Summer Fellowships for their commitment to workers’ rights.

Keller, a third-year student, was a Peggy Browning Fellow at the United Auto Workers in Detroit. He is an executive board member of Wayne Law’s chapter of the National Lawyers Guild and an intern for the Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice. Keller has also done volunteer work to bring justice to residents affected by the Flint water crisis and Detroit residents facing foreclosure. Keller earned his bachelor’s from Michigan State University.

Pereny, a second-year student, was a Peggy Browning Fellow at the Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice. She is an executive board member of Wayne Law’s chapter of the National Lawyers Guild and the Law School’s chapter of the ACLU.

Before starting her studies at Wayne Law, Pereny worked with at-risk youth and their families in Boston and was involved with several nonprofit organizations. She earned her bachelor’s from Michigan State University.

This year, the fund supported 80+ public interest labor fellowships nationwide. More than 400 people applied for the fellowships.

The mission of the Peggy Browning Fund is to educate and inspire the next generation of law students to become advocates for workplace justice. It was established in memory of Margaret A. Browning, a prominent labor attorney and member of the National Labor Relations Board.

Fiordellisi awarded scholarship from Macomb County Bar Foundation

Mallory Fiordellisi, a third-year Wayne Law student, was awarded the Philip F. Greco Memorial Scholarship from the Macomb County Bar Foundation.

The scholarship is awarded to a second- or third-year law student in good academic standing who has a commitment to serve the Macomb County legal community. It honors the memory of Greco’s exemplary commitment to the betterment of the legal and civic communities.

Fiordellisi has served as a student assistant with the Law School’s Admissions Office and as a representative on the Student Board of Governor.

She spent the summer as an extern at Wayne State University’s Office of the General Counsel. Last summer, Fiordellisi interned with the U.S. Senate’s Claire McCaskill’s office as an intern for the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee through the Levin Center at Wayne Law.

Mallory Fiordellisi

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Students awarded international internships, fellowships

Three Wayne Law students studied and worked abroad this summer through fellowships and internships sponsored by the Law School’s Program for International Legal Studies.

The 2018 internship and fellowship winners and their organizations are:

- **Vera Hansen**, second-year student – Internship at the General Counsel’s Office at Tata Motors in Pune, India
- **Chelsea Kozar**, third-year student – Internship working at WilmerHale’s International Arbitration Practice Group in London
- **Layla Zarkesh**, third-year student – Freeman Fellowship studying for three weeks at The Hague Academy of International Law in the Netherlands

Tata Motors is the largest auto manufacturer in India and a global Fortune 500 company with offices and facilities throughout India and the world. The International Arbitration Group at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr in London routinely handles some of the most challenging investment disputes in the world. The Freeman Fellowship allows a Wayne Law student to study public or private international law at The Hague Academy of International Law, which is the academic wing of the International Court of Justice, also known as the World Court.
Bean offers exclusive profile of Sen. Levin in new book
Elise Bean, Washington, D.C.
co-director of the Levin Center at Wayne Law, wrote Financial Exposure: Carl Levin’s Senate Investigations into Finance and Insider Abuse. The book was published by Palgrave Macmillan.

Bierschbach joins Justice Kennedy for Bibas investiture
In the spring, Dean Richard A. Bierschbach joined Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, former Assistant U.S. Solicitor General James Feldman, White House Counsel Don McGahn and U.S. Circuit Court Judge Cheryl Ann Krause in presenting formal remarks before the en banc U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Philadelphia at the investiture of Judge Stephanos Bibas. He also delivered the keynote address at the Michigan Law Review’s inaugural banquet in Ann Arbor.

Bierschbach spoke on the “Institutional Structure of Modern Constitutional Sentencing Law” at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools in Florida in August. Wayne Law joined SEALS as an affiliate member school this year. He is scheduled to speak at the Ninth Annual Constitutional Law Colloquium at Loyola University (Chicago) School of Law in November.

Ackerman examines Roberts Court, communitarianism
Professor Robert M. Ackerman wrote “Communitarianism and the Roberts Court” for the Florida State University Law Review.

The article reviews several Roberts Court decisions through a communitarian lens. From the abstract: “Ackerman asks whether, in cases ranging from Citizens United to Obergefell, the court has adequately considered the role of intermediate communities — what we call ‘civil society’ — in pursuing the good and animating citizens to connect with one another.”

Ackerman presents work on antitrust, communitarianism
Sanjukta Paul presented as part of the antitrust experts’ panel at the University of Virginia School of Law’s Business Law and Business Symposium “Regulating the Sharing Economy.”

Qin proposes new approach to identifying government subsidies in international trade
Professor Julia Qin’s paper, “Market Benchmarks and Government Monopoly: The Case of Land and Natural Resources under Global Subsidies Regulation,” is forthcoming in the University of Pennsylvania Journal of International Law. The article addresses the vexing question of how to identify a subsidy, for international trade law purposes, when a government provides a company with access to a government-controlled natural resource such as Canadian softwood lumber, Indian minerals, Indonesian timber or Chinese land.

Paul joins antitrust experts’ panel
Professor Sanjukta Paul presented on the “Institutional Structure of Modern Constitutional Sentencing Law” at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools in Florida in August. Wayne Law joined SEALS as an affiliate member school this year. He is scheduled to speak at the Ninth Annual Constitutional Law Colloquium at Loyola University (Chicago) School of Law in November.

Fox, Roth analyze Franck article on democratic governance
Professors Gregory Fox and Brad Roth, leading scholars on ideas of democratic legitimacy in international law, wrote “The Dual Lives of The Emerging Right to Democratic Governance,” for the American Journal of International Law’s Unbound Symposium. The event marked the 25th anniversary of Thomas Franck’s landmark article “The Emerging Right to Democratic Governance.”

Pound Civil Structure Affects Constitutional Forum, “State Constitutional Structure Affects Access to Civil Justice.” He spoke to 150 state appellate judges about the ways state constitutional provision protects citizens from laws that affect their access to remedies in court.

Choike presents on reimagining legal education
Professor (Clinical) Anne Choike presented at a workshop on “Reimagining Legal Education: From Mapping to Action” at a conference on Legal Issues in Social Entrepreneurship and Impact Investing – in the U.S. and Beyond. The conference was hosted by the Gruin Center for Law and Social Entrepreneurship at New York Law School. Law Co-consortialists were Flynn Coleman of NYU School of Law, Stephanie Dangel of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and Susana R. Jones of The George Washington University Law School.

Sedler offers analysis of SCOTUS decisions for The Conversation
Distinguished Professor Robert A. Sedler offered fresh analysis in the wake of two highly anticipated Supreme Court decisions that discuss NFIRA v. Becerra in "Supreme Court hands victory to pro-life crisis pregnancy centers," and covers Janus v. AFSCME in "Janus decision extends First Amendment ‘right of self-determination’ both articles were published by The Conversation.

Henning explores progression of insider trading law
Professor Peter J. Henning wrote “Making Up Insider Trading Law as You Go Along” for the Washington University Journal of Law & Policy.

In the article, from the abstract: “The law of insider trading has developed through a combination of ad hoc judicial decisions and administrative regulations, along with legislative inaction to correct or redirect its application. Although some might fear that traditional notions of due process and fair notice have not been adequately addressed, these concerns have not had an impact. Rather than rational legal development along a relatively clear statutory path, we continue to see that insider trading is for the most part made up as we go along by the courts, including the Supreme Court, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.”

Henning, a former federal prosecutor, offers expertise and commentary in his weekly column White Collar Watch for The New York Times DealBook.
Carlson, Gable named inaugural Levin Center Research Scholars

The Levin Center at Wayne Law has named Associate Professors Kirsten Matoy Carlson and Lance Gable the inaugural Levin Center Research Scholars.

The research award will be presented on an annual basis to a member of the Wayne Law faculty in an effort to support scholarship central to the mission of the Levin Center. Carlson focuses her research on the empirical study of how legislative advocacy by American Indian nations advances the formation of federal policies affecting Indians. Her research, which is funded by the National Science Foundation and Social Science Program, seeks to develop a more comprehensive understanding of how, when and with what success the 573 Indian nations in the United States use the political process to change law and policy. As a part of this larger project, Carlson is investigating how Indian nations have used legislative advocacy to oversee Congress’ commitment to the Tribal Self-Determination Policy, to encourage Congress to monitor closely the implementation of the policy by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other agencies, and to persuade Congress to extend the policy to housing and other government programs.

Gable is focusing his research on the various approaches to achieving accountability for governmental officials and carefully analyzing the relative merits of each approach. Approaches may include legal mechanisms of accountability, accountability via the democratic process and in some cases accountability through external criticism. He will use this analysis to develop a hierarchy of accountability useful to both scholars and government officials in thinking about government decision-making, and incentivizing civil discourse and good governance.

Carlson, Gable named inaugural Levin Center Research Scholars

Most recently, she presented her paper “Lobbying Against the Odds,” at the Yale/Stanford/Harvard Junior Faculty Forum. The paper is forthcoming in the Harvard Journal on Legislation.

Gable, a public health law expert, has focused in his prior work on the design of emergency preparedness and response systems, particularly how law and the legal environment impact the ability of governments and others to stage successful responses to public health emergencies. He recently co-authored the article “Criticized, Fired, Sued, or Prosecuted: Hindsight and Public Health Accountability” which discusses using criminal law to seek accountability in the Flint water crisis. The article was published in Public Health Reports.

1960s

Eugene Driker ’61, received the William Davidson Lifetime Achievement Award from the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit. Driker, a founding member of Barns Sott Diner and Driker, is chair of the Levin Center at Wayne Law’s advisory board. He also is a member of the advisory board of Wayne State University’s Cohn-Haddow Center for Judicis Studies and the board of directors of the National Yiddish Book Center.

Stephen M. Ross ’65, was honored with the ROBIE Lifetime Achievement Award from the Jackie Robinson Foundation at their Annual ROBIE Awards Dinner. Ross was recognized for embodying the humanitarian ideals of Jackie Robinson through devotion to the promotion of social justice, excellence and human dignity.

1970s

John Voepel ’72, earned his Ph.D. in philosophy from University of South Florida. He spent a career practicing environmental law before attending the University of South Florida.

Howard Hertz ’76, received the CFPACA Arts Advocacy Award at Wayne State University’s College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts’ 39th Annual Arts Achievement Awards. Hertz is lead attorney for Hertz Schram’s Entertainment Practice Group and specializes in entertainment law. He earned his bachelor’s from Wayne State University.

Michael Pitt ’74, was selected for the Champion of Justice Award by the Michigan Association of Justice. He also was elected president of Public Justice for a one-year term. Pitt is co-founding partner of the Royal Oak-based law firm Pitt Megee Palmer & Rivers. He earned his bachelor’s from Michigan State University. Cary P. Gordon ’76, was recognized by the W&M-Cooley Law Review for his winning brief, AFT v. State of Michigan, filed with the Michigan Supreme Court in 2017. He is a member at Dykema Gossett PLLC and earned his bachelor’s from Michigan State University.

Michael D. Foster ’77, joined global law firm Greenberg Trautig LLP as a shareholder in its Los Angeles office. He earned his bachelor’s from Wayne State University and LL.M from New York University School of Law.

Hon. Linda S. Hallmark ’77, was co-moderator at the annual Family Court Forum in June. This year’s topic was “Heck No, I Won’t Go – Children Who Resist Parenting Time.” Hallmark is the Oakland County Probate Chief Judge Pro Tempore. She earned her bachelor’s from Michigan State University.

Jeffry M. Aronsson ’78, was featured in the New York Times for its report, “Fashion Help Detroit Make a Comeback.” Aronsson plans to create a fashion hub in Detroit that would be part of the city’s economic revival. Aronsson is founder and CEO of Aronsson Group. He earned his bachelor’s from the University of Michigan and master’s from New York University.

John Obez ’78, is a co-author of the book Mississippi’s Exiled Daughter, which tells the story of Brenda Travis and her compelling involvement in the civil rights movement at age 16 in her hometown of McComb, Mississippi.

1980s

Magistrate Judge Timothy P. Greeley ’80, announced his retirement from the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan, which he’s served since 1988. Greeley earned his bachelor’s from Western Michigan University.

Laurel F. McGiffert ’80, was appointed as Plunkett Cooney’s first ever director of diversity and inclusion. In this role McGiffert, who is a founding member of the firm’s diversity committee, is responsible for leading the firm’s efforts to create a more diverse and inclusive workforce. She earned her bachelor’s from Vassar College.

Thomas R. Meagher ’81, was inducted as a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Meagher is a shareholder at Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC in Lansing. He earned his M.J.M. from the American Graduate School of International Management and his bachelor’s from Michigan State University.

Joanne Gahawan Swanson ’81, is president-elect of the Detroit Bar Association for 2018-19. Swanson is a member at Kerr Russell where she focuses on civil litigation practice. She earned her bachelor’s from Michigan State University.
Wayne State University Law School

Alumni achievements continued

Sandra D. Glazier ’82, was selected by the American Bar Association to be on a panel that discussed attorney’s roles and responsibilities in protecting aging clients and their assets. Glazier is a shareholder at Lipson Nellon PC. She earned her bachelor’s from Wayne State University.

Rasul M. Raheem | D. ’84, L.L.M. ’93, was honored at The D. Augustus Straker Bar Association’s 25th Annual Trailblazers Dinner, an event that recognizes local leaders who are making positive contributions to the law and the community. Raheem is a senior attorney at Plunkett Cooney.

Margaret Carroll Alli ’85, was named managing shareholder of Ogletree Deakins’ Detroit office. Alli focuses her practice on the representation and counseling of management concerning the umbrella of employment laws and regulations affecting corporate clients, not-for-profit organizations and educational institutions. She earned her bachelor’s from Michigan State University.

Mark Rubenfire ’87, was named president of the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit. He will serve a two-year term as lay leader of the organization, working with the executive director and board of directors. Rubenfire is a partner at Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss PC, where he specializes in real estate law, real estate lending and real estate lending and workouts. He earned his bachelor’s from the University of Michigan.

U.S. Sen. Gary Peters ’89, received the Champion of Science Award from The Science Coalition. This award recognizes Peters’ “commitment to funding research that keeps the U.S. and Michigan at the forefront of scientific and medical discovery and technological innovation.”

1990s

Karen D. Dodge ’90, was named a finalist for the Partnership for Public Service’s 2018 Samual J. Heyman Service to America Medals program. Dodge was recognized for her work on the team that brought justice and restored financial losses of nearly $600 million for hundreds of thousands of people who were defrauded by money transfer scams. Dodge is a staff attorney at the Federal Trade Commission in Chicago.

Mary Massaron ’90, was recognized by the WHU-Cooley Law Review for her winning brief, Nexteer Automotive Group v. Mando American Corp., filed with the Michigan Supreme Court in 2017. Massaron is a partner at Plunkett Cooney PC. She earned her bachelor’s from Marygrove College.

Christopher Keane ’92, received the Consumer Attorneys of California 2017 Street Fighter of the Year Award for his representation of a child abuse victim in the landmark child abuse reporting case, BH v. County of San Bernardino. Keane graduated from London’s Hansard Scholar Parliamentary Program and the University of Michigan.

Roberts Kengis ’92, was appointed by the governor to the 48th Circuit Court in Allegan County. Kengis has worked as a prosecutor in Allegan County since 1992, and was the chief assistant prosecuting attorney from 2011 to 2016 before being elected prosecutor in 2016. He earned his bachelor’s from the University of Michigan.

Jeans Wool ’93, managing partner of Wool & Wool PC, announced that her law firm was one of the three top winners in the 2018 Detroit Home Design Awards, and was recognized in the category of Commercial Design – Office. She was also named chair-elect of the Birmingham Bloomingfield Art Center. Wool earned her bachelor’s from the University of Michigan.

Catherine P. Kaufman ’94, was named by the governor of Michigan to the Marihuana Advisory Panel established under the Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act. She will represent the interests of townships. Kaufman earned her bachelor’s from Michigan State University and her master’s from the University of Michigan.

Hala Jarbou ’97, was honored at the event of Justice Award at the Chaldean American Bar Association’s 25th Anniversary Scholarship and Awards Dinner. Jarbou, who is a judge for the Oakland County Circuit Court, earned her bachelor’s from the University of Michigan.

Amy Nickin ’97, was listed as a top entertainment lawyer in Variety’s 2018 Legal Impact Report. The report highlights the leading attorneys in the entertainment industry over the past year. She was also listed on Hollywood Reporter’s Power Lawyers 2018: Hollywood’s Top 100 Attorneys list. Nickin is partner at Frankfurt Kurnil Klein & Selz in New York.

2000s

Lisa J. Hamameh ’00, was elected to the State Bar of Michigan’s 2018-19 Board of Commissioners and will serve a three-year term. The board provides oversight to the bar on finance, public policy, professional standards and member services and communications. Hamameh, who is a shareholder with Foster Swift Collins and Smith PC, earned her bachelor’s from Wayne State University.

Angela Pavolitis ’00, joined the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board (MDSVTB) as a staff policy attorney. MDSVTB is a seven member, governor-appointed board with the mission to lead statewide efforts to eliminate domestic and sexual violence in Michigan. Pavolitis earned her bachelor’s from the University of Michigan.

Chandra W. Baker ’03, received the Prosecutor of the Year award from the Michigan Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators. Baker is a lead attorney for the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office’s Arson Unit. She earned her bachelor’s from the University of Michigan.

Carmen Bickerd ’03, was promoted to partner at Bowman and Brooke, where she represents both national and international clients in product liability, toxic tort and warranty litigation. Bickerd was featured in the Detroit Legal News for this achievement. She earned her bachelor’s from the University of Michigan.

Steve Cappellino ’03, joined Varnum LLP’s Detroit office as a member of the tax planning, compliance and litigation practice team. He earned his bachelor’s from Miami University and his LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center.

Tammy Lundstrom ’04, was named senior vice president and chief medical officer of Trinity Health. In this role, Lundstrom will be responsible for leading local physician engagement and alignment efforts across Trinity Health’s 22 states and more than 33,000 employed and affiliated physicians. She earned her M.D. from the University of Minnesota.

Terrence J. Reeves ’08, was appointed to the Michigan Strategic Fund board of directors by the governor. The fund invests in local businesses that create a venture capital attorney with Tatt Stettinus & Holstein. He earned his bachelor’s from Eastern Michigan University and his master’s from the University of Notre Dame.

Pamela Morgan ’06, wrote Cryptocash: Inheritance Planning: A Simple Guide for Owners. The book is about inheritance planning for those holding cryptocurrency, tokens, collectibles and other cryptosteos. Morgan is the founder of Third Key Solutions LLC. She earned her bachelor’s from Davidson College.

Colin M. Batterby ’07, joined McDonald Hopkins as counsel in the firm’s national Data Privacy and Cybersecurity Practice Group. He earned his bachelor’s from the University of Michigan.

Tanya Juarez Lundberg ’07, was promoted to assistant dean of career services and outreach at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. Lundberg also was sworn in as president of the Women’s Bar Association, the Oakland Region of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan, for the 2018-19 bar year. She earned her bachelor’s from the University of Michigan.

Susan A. Babcock ’08, was elected partnership at Williams Rattner & Plunkett PC in Birmingham, Michigan, where she serves as outside general counsel to businesses. Babcock earned her bachelor’s from the University of Michigan-Dearborn.
Alumni achievements continued

2010s

Fadwa Hammoud ’10, was reappointed by the governor to the Commission on Middle-Eastern American Affairs. Hammoud is an assistant prosecuting attorney in the Wayne County Prosecutor’s Office. She earned her bachelor’s from the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Rachel A. Smith ’10, was appointed president of the Michigan Intellectual Property Law Association for the 2018-19 term. Smith is shareholder at Brooks Kushman where she focuses primarily on domestic and foreign patent prosecution in the electrical arts. She earned her bachelor’s from Ohio Northern University.

Emily G. Thomas ’12, joined Olsman MacKenzie Peacock & Wallace, where she will continue to represent victims injured as a result of birth trauma. She earned her bachelor’s from Michigan State University James Madison College.

Dan Ringo ’13, is president and CEO of Ringo Services. His company was recognized as one of “2018 Michigan 50 Companies to Watch” by Michigan Celebrates Small Business. Ringo Services provides strategic facility operations solutions through engineering, custodial services and program management.

Alex Szypa ‘14, became a shareholder at Carlson Gaskey & Olufs in Birmingham, Michigan. Szypa focuses his practice on patent prosecution and IP litigation. He earned his bachelor’s from the University of Michigan.

Fadi A. Zayto ‘14, is a co-founder and partner at Signature Legal PLLC in Warren, Michigan. Zayto focuses his practice on immigration, criminal law and estate planning. He earned his bachelor’s from the University of Michigan.

Stephen C. Johnston ‘14, is a co-founder and partner at Signature Legal PLLC in Warren, Michigan. Johnston focuses his practice on estate planning, probate litigation and administration, trust litigation and administration and landlord/tenant disputes. He earned his bachelor’s from Kalamazoo College.

Rebecca Wrock ’14, was featured in a report for the Grand Rapids Legal News, “VP of Attorneys for Animals specializes in pet trust work.” Wrock, who helped launch Wayne Law’s first Animal Law class in 2012, is an attorney with Couzens Lansky Fealk Ellis Roeder & Lazar PC in Farmington Hills. She earned her LL.M. in Taxation from the University of Alabama School of Law and bachelor’s from the University of Michigan.

Irina Sullivan ’15, was recognized by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) of Southeastern Michigan for “key contributions to IEEE SEM Women in Engineering and outstanding leadership in the 2018 spring conference organization.” Sullivan is a registered patent attorney at Brooks Kushman PC. She earned her master’s from University of Michigan-Dearborn and her bachelor’s from Kettering University.

Justin A. Hanna ’16, was named one of Crain’s Detroit Business’ Twenty in their 20s. Hanna is an associate at Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss. He earned his bachelor’s from Wayne State University and his master’s from WSU’s Mike Ilitch School of Business.

M. Alex Monahan ’17, joined Lippitt O’Keefe Gombrin PLLC in Birmingham, Michigan, as an associate attorney. His areas of expertise include business and corporate law, real estate law and commercial litigation. He earned his bachelor’s from Michigan State University.

Elyse Palombit ’17, joined Rossman Saxe PC as an associate attorney where she will focus her practice on business litigation and transactions. She earned her bachelor’s from Michigan State University.

In memoriam

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

Herman J. Anderson ’58
William M. Bremer ’69
Douglas C. Dahn ’65
Murray R. Feldman ’73
Hon. J. Andre Friedlis ’68

Alan M. Hurvitz ’81
A. Ray Kalliel ’59
Hon. Allen E. Keyes ’56
Bette J. Lahti ’84
Hon. Arthur Lombard

Lloyd E. Powell ’71
Hon. James A. Scandirito ’70
Duane T. Triemstra ’68
James G. Vantine Jr. ’78
Captain Gerald F. Weigle ’60
The next generation of lawyers, advocates and leaders.