



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON  
COLLEGE *of* LAW

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ALUMNI  
REUNION  
WEEKEND

October 26-28, 2023



# Reconnect, Relive, Revel.

**We are thrilled to welcome** our cherished American University Washington College of Law alumni back for a weekend of celebration, camaraderie, reminiscence, and discovery!

**#AUWCLReunion2023**

# SCHEDULE *of* EVENTS

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023

### **6:00pm - 8:30pm | Class of 1997 and 1998 Reception | The Atrium**

The classes of 1997 and 1998 will host a joint reception and welcome alumni from those years back to campus to kick-off reunion weekend. Included in this fun evening will be drinks, heavy appetizers, and live music.

**Co-hosted by:** Dan Zelenko '97, Justin Antonipillai '97, Amanda LaForge '97, Robin Mahler Weisman '97, Stacy Linden '98, Kelly McCormick '98, Cathleen Huang '98, Mina Malik '98, Karhlton Moore '98



## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2023

### **10:00am – 7:00pm | Registration Check-In Open | Founder's Lobby**

Alumni should check-in when they first arrive on campus. Attendees can pick up the reunion swag bag, visit the AUWCL Bookstore, and take a professional headshot photo.

### **10:00am – 11:00am | Campus Tour**

### **11:00am – 11:45am | WCL Program Highlights | Claudio Grossman Hall**

Check out all of AUWCL's highly ranked programs at this fun and informative expo! Members from our programs will share highlights and how they're engaging with our students, alumni, and broader community.

### **11:45am – 1:00pm | Lunch Featuring Congressman Jamie Raskin | Claudio Grossman Hall**

Join us for a social lunch where alumni can connect with former classmates and network, featuring Congressman Jamie Raskin, Maryland's 8th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, former AUWCL Professor of Law and Director of Law and Government Program.

### **1:00pm – 2:30pm | Panel: From Wall Street to K Street |**

#### **Claudio Grossman Hall**

Hear from industry leaders and legal experts in the fields of finance, technology, hospitality, antitrust, private equity, and global manufacturing about lessons they've learned over the past five years, what's hot now, and what trends they're seeing for the immediate future.

#### **Featured Speakers:**

- **Professor David Snyder**, Business Law Program Director, American University Washington College of Law
- **Elan Blutinger** '84, Chairman and CEO, AudioNow
- **Tanisha James** '08, Founder/CEO of Flow Forward Capital, Emerging VC Fund Manager, and Lawyer
- **Jason Kanner** '97, Finance Lawyer and Senior Partner, Kirkland & Ellis LLP
- **Omar Vargas** '98, Vice President & Head of Global Public Policy, GM

### **2:30pm – 4:30pm | Career Pitstop | The Commons**

Drop-In Hours to discuss your career, job- search, resources, and professional development questions.

*Hosted by Matthew Pascocello, Director of Alumni Professional Development*

### **3:00pm – 4:30pm | Student & Alumni Session: (Re)Finding Your Passion |**

#### **The Commons, Warren Lobby**

This is an opportunity for alumni to meet with current students and fellow alumni! Participants will gather in small groups, organized by the following practice areas, to discuss career paths and strategies.

- Business/Corporate
- International (Public and Private)
- Nonprofit
- IP/Technology
- Administrative Law/Legislative/Policy
- Environmental/Health Law

### **5:00pm – 6:00pm | State of the School Address | Claudio Grossman Hall**

*Dean Roger A. Fairfax Jr.* is leading a transformational shift at American University Washington College of Law (AUWCL). The Dean will share updates about what is on the horizon for our community. This is an exciting time for the Law School and we are committed to ensuring a world-class experience for our alumni.

### **6:00pm – 8:00pm | Reception | Claudio Grossman Hall, Founder's Lobby**

All reunion classes will gather for a reception along with special guests that include faculty, Program Directors, and Program Advisory Councils members!

### **8:00pm – 10:00pm | Class Social | Surfside Restaurant**

Catching up with old friends, from near and far, is what will make the reunion a memorable experience! The AUWCL DC Metro Area Alumni Chapter will host this informal event. Light appetizers provided and cash bar available.



# SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023

## 9:00am | Registration Open

## 9:30am – 10:30am | Resume Roundtable | The Commons

*Hosted by Matthew Pascoello, Director of Alumni Professional Development.* Alumni who wish to participate should email their resumes to Matthew Pascoello: mpasco@wcl.american.edu by Wednesday, October 25th. Space is limited to 15 people. Resumes will be reviewed and marked-up and then distributed in a packet within the group so we can discuss and learn from each other.

## 10:30am – 12:00pm | Panel: Supreme Court - On the Docket for the Upcoming Term | Claudio Grossman Hall

Get a front-row seat to the legal realm as we dissect the pressing issues awaiting the Supreme Court in the upcoming term. Our panel of legal experts will provide invaluable perspectives on the cases that will shape the future of our nation.

### Panelists:

- **Elizabeth Earle Beske**, Associate Professor of Law, American University Washington College of Law
- **Andrew Kim** '12, Partner, Appellate and Supreme Court Litigation, Goodwin Procter
- **Jessica Waters** '03, Assistant Professor, Department of Justice, Law and Criminology, and Director of SPA Leadership Program, American University School of Public Affairs
- **Professor Stephen Wermiel** '82, Professor of Practice in Constitutional Law, American University Washington College of Law

## 12:00pm – 2:00pm | Family and Friends BBQ | Yuma Cafe, Patio

Join us for food, fun, and laughter!

## 2:00pm – 3:00pm | Campus Tour

## 2:00pm – 4:00pm | Alumni Networking (Free time or Optional Activities)

DC Engagement is an AUWCL priority! Alumni class leaders will host fun excursions in the city. Tour the AUWCL campus as well.

- Five Iron Golf (Access to a state-of-the art Trackman technology simulator for 2 hours, appetizers and unlimited soft drinks are included)
- Docent-led Tour at the Smithsonian American Art Museum starting at 2:30pm

## 5:00pm - 7:00pm | Closing Reception Featuring Richard Verma '93, Deputy Secretary of State | The Atrium

The closing reunion event will offer alumni the opportunity to say farewell to former classmates and the new friends made during the weekend!

### Keynote Speaker:

- **Richard Verma** '93, Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources, former U.S. Ambassador to India

# FEATURED SPEAKERS



**Roger A. Fairfax, Jr.**  
Dean and Professor of Law, AUWCL

Roger A. Fairfax, Jr. is Dean of American University Washington College of Law (AUWCL) and a prominent legal scholar, educator, and nationally known expert on criminal justice. Before joining AUWCL as Dean, Fairfax served as the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Patricia Roberts Harris Research Professor of Law, and founding director of the Criminal Law & Policy Initiative at George Washington University Law School.

Dean Fairfax's scholarship has been published in books and leading journals, and he has taught courses and conducted research on criminal law and procedure, professional responsibility and ethics, criminal justice policy and reform, racial justice, and grand jury and internal investigations. He has championed diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts throughout higher education and the legal profession.



**Jamie Raskin**  
Congressman, Maryland's 8th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives

Congressman Jamie Raskin proudly represents Maryland's 8th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. The district includes most of Montgomery County and a small part of Prince George's County. Congressman Raskin was sworn into his fourth Term at the start of the 118th Congress on January 6, 2023.

Rep. Raskin was chosen by the Democratic Caucus to be the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability in the 118th Congress. This is his fourth term serving on the Oversight Committee.

Prior to his time in Congress, Raskin was a three-term State Senator in Maryland, where he also served as the Senate Majority Whip. He earned a reputation for building coalitions in Annapolis to deliver a series of landmark legislative accomplishments, including marriage equality, abolition of the death penalty, passage of the first Benefit Corporation law in America and the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. He was also a professor of constitutional law at American University's Washington College of Law for more than 25 years. He has authored

several books, including the Washington Post best-seller *Overruling Democracy: The Supreme Court versus the American People*, the highly-acclaimed *We the Students: Supreme Court Cases For and About America's Students*, and the New York Times #1 best-seller *Unthinkable: Trauma, Truth and the Trials of American Democracy*.



**Richard Verma**  
WCL 1993 – Deputy Secretary of State for  
Management and Resources

Richard R. Verma serves as the Deputy Secretary of State for Management & Resources. In this role, he acts as the Chief Operating Officer of the Department, and leads the Department's efforts on modernization, foreign assistance, and a wide range of workforce and strategic issues.

Deputy Secretary Verma previously served as the U.S. Ambassador to India, where he led one of the largest U.S. diplomatic missions and championed historic progress in bilateral ties. He is also a former Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs and the former National Security Advisor to the Senate Majority Leader.

Deputy Secretary Verma is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, and the recipient of numerous military awards and civilian decorations, including the Meritorious Service Medal and the State Department's Distinguished Service Award. He is also the recipient of the Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellowship, and the Chief Justice Marshall Lifetime Achievement Award.



**Elizabeth Earle Beske**  
Associate Professor of Law, AUWCL

Elizabeth Earle Beske received an A.B. from Princeton University in 1989 and a J.D. from Columbia University Law School in 1993. At Columbia, she served as Editor-in-Chief of the Columbia Law Review and was designated a Kent Scholar and Stone Scholar. Upon graduation, she received the John Ordranax prize for highest academic achievement in her graduating class.

After graduation, Ms. Beske clerked for Judge Patricia M. Wald of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of the United States Supreme Court. Ms. Beske spent 4 years as an appellate litigator at Munger, Tolles, & Olson LLP in San Francisco, California before moving to Bethesda, Maryland with her family. In recent years, she has worked as a consultant specializing in appellate writing.



## **Elan Blutinger**

**WCL 1984 – Chairman and CEO, AudioNow**

Elan Blutinger is the current Chairman and CEO of AudioNow, where he has successfully led the launch, growth, and capitalization of the industry-leading mobile distribution platform for 5,000+ in-language media partners. He is also the Managing Director of Alpine Consolidated, LLC, a merchant bank specializing in initial public offerings of consolidated and fragmented technology companies.

Mr. Blutinger has previously served as the Lead Director, Chairman Corporate Governance and Compensation Committee for Great Wolf Resorts (NYSE: WOLF); Chair of the Compensation Committee for Hotels.Com (NYSE: HOTELS); Vice Chair of Our Time.Org; Co-founder and board member of VacationRoost; Lead Director, Member of the Board, and Chairman of the Remuneration Committee for Online Travel Co (LSE: OTC); Co-Founder Lead Director of Resortquest International (NYSE: RQI); Co-Founder and Lead Director of Travel Services International (NASDAQ: TRVL) where he founded and led the IPO of the largest vacation rental company in the US and Canada; and the Federal Relations Manager and Wang Laboratories.



## **Tanisha James**

**WCL 2008 – Founder/CEO of Flow Forward Capital, Emerging VC Fund Manager, and Lawyer**

Tanisha James is an award-winning M&A and antitrust attorney, venture capitalist, author, speaker, diversity champion and mentor. Most recently, she was an equity partner at Cooley LLP where her practice focused on the representation and counseling of corporate clients in connection with their domestic and international mergers and acquisitions, strategic combinations, minority investments, joint ventures and government and private investigations. Her clients regularly entrust her with guiding investors, boards, executives and funds through the merger assessment & advisement process, merger review analysis and procedure, negotiation with governmental and private parties, responding to second requests and agency investigations, advocating before domestic and multi-national agencies and political bodies, coordinating high profile domestic and cross-jurisdictional antitrust defense strategies and teams, and advising on interlocking directorates. The breadth of Tanisha's experience comes from years of working collaboratively with clients primarily in high-tech and life sciences section, including biotech, pharma, digital/print media and publishing, software/cloud solutions, and more. Tanisha also has experience with consumer products, beauty, apparel, edtech, fintech, industrial equipment, automotive parts, food, logistics and sports.



### **Jason Kanner**

**WCL 1997 – Finance Lawyer and Senior Partner,  
Kirkland & Ellis LLP**

Jason Kanner is one of the most senior partners in the Firm's Debt Finance Group and one of the most experienced finance lawyers in the United States. He represents private equity funds, their portfolio companies and other borrowers in financing transactions throughout the bulge-bracket and middle market, in connection with complex secured and unsecured financing transactions for U.S. and cross-border transactions, including major leveraged buy-outs, bank/bridge commitments, first and second lien financings, ABL facilities, leveraged recapitalizations, liability management transactions and other less traditional financings. He also has extensive experience representing debtors in restructurings.

Jason has over twenty-five years' experience advising financial sponsors including, among others, Avista Capital, Bain Capital, Centerbridge Partners, Crestview Partners, CVC Capital Partners, Durational Capital, GI Partners, H.I.G Capital, L Catterton, MidOcean Partners, Nordic Capital, Olympus Partners, Trilantic Capital Partners, TPG, Patient Square Capital, The Carlyle Group, The Jordan Company and Warburg Pincus.



### **Andrew Kim**

**WCL 2012 – Partner, Appellate and Supreme  
Court Litigation, Godwin Procter**

Andrew Kim is a partner in the firm's Appellate and Supreme Court Litigation practice. His work focuses on appellate matters and complex civil litigation in federal and state courts. Andrew has experience in a wide range of areas including administrative law, blockchain and digital currency, consumer financial services, disability law, gaming and gambling law, and white collar defense.



For more info on Reunion and speakers, please visit:  
[wcl.american.edu/reunionfall2023](https://wcl.american.edu/reunionfall2023)



## **David Snyder**

**Professor of Law, Director of Business Law Program, AUWCL**

David V. Snyder was appointed professor of law at the American University Washington College of Law in the fall of 2007 and was appointed director of the Business Law Program in 2008. During 2021-2022, he also holds a Fernand Braudel Senior Fellowship at the European University Institute (Florence). He graduated summa cum laude from Tulane University Law School in 1991, and he has been a professor of law at Tulane, Indiana (Bloomington), and Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. He has been a regular visiting professor at the law school of the University of Paris II (Panthéon-Assas) since 2012, and has also been a visiting professor at the University of Paris 10 (Nanterre La Défense), Boston University, and the College of William and Mary. In addition, he has taught summer courses at the University of Mainz (Germany). After graduating from law school, Professor Snyder served as a law clerk to the Honorable John M. Duhé Jr. of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, and subsequently joined the D.C. firm of Hogan & Hartson (now Hogan Lovells). In 2014 Professor Snyder was awarded a McCormick Fellowship during which he delivered the annual Wilson Memorial Lecture at the University of Edinburgh.



## **Omar Vargas**

**WCL 1998 – Vice President & Head of Global Public Policy, General Motors**

Omar Vargas is the Vice President, Head of Global Public Policy at General Motors (GM). In this role, he leads GM's global engagement of government officials and public policy.

Prior to joining GM in August of 2021, Omar held senior government relations roles with 3M, Praxair and PepsiCo. In the early 2000s, Omar was as an appointee of President George W. Bush to the U.S. Department of Justice, where he served in a variety of capacities. His portfolio included a broad range of law enforcement, civil rights, national security, and immigration policy matters, including violence against women and human trafficking victim services programs. His government service was preceded by work at Cooper & Kirk, PLLC, the U.S. Court of International Trade, and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

He earned a J.D. from American University Washington College of Law and School of International Service and a B.A. in Political Science and Spanish Literature from Seton Hall University in 1995.





### **Jessica Waters**

**WCL 2003 - Assistant Professor, Department of Justice, Law and Criminology, and Director of SPA Leadership Program, American University School of Public Affairs**

Jessica Waters is a higher-ed administrator focused on student inclusion and thriving. Professor. Lawyer. Reproductive rights legal scholar.

As Dean and Vice Provost, Jessica served as leader and principal decision-maker for American University undergraduate curriculum, undergraduate experience, academic support, disability accommodations, learning communities, and Honors and Scholars programs. Principally charged with oversight, implementation, and risk assessment regarding university-wide undergraduate policies and procedures. Directly manage and lead team of 70 staff and faculty; provide oversight and direction for all university academic affairs staff. Responsible for university-wide academic decision-making, strategic planning, and risk assessment across and in collaboration with 7 colleges.



### **Stephen Wermiel**

**WCL 1982 - Professor of Practice in Constitutional Law, AUWCL**

Stephen Wermiel is a Professor of Practice in Constitutional Law and part of the Program on Law and Government at American University Washington College of Law. He is currently a member of the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association (ABA) and also sits in the ABA House of Delegates. He is past chair of the ABA Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice (CRSJ) (formerly Individual Rights and Responsibilities) and author of a monthly column on SCOTUSblog aimed at explaining the Supreme Court to law students. He is co-author of *JUSTICE BRENNAN: LIBERAL CHAMPION*, the definitive biography of the late Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan Jr., published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in hardcover 2010 and by University Press of Kansas in paperback in 2013. He is also co-author of *THE PROGENY: JUSTICE WILLIAM J. BRENNAN'S FIGHT TO PRESERVE THE LEGACY OF NEW YORK TIMES V. SULLIVAN*, published by ABA Publishing in 2014.

At the Washington College of Law, he serves as an adviser to and was past associate director of the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project, in which Washington College of Law students teach constitutional law in the public high schools of Washington, D.C. He also is faculty adviser to the Moot Court Honor Society and serves on the advisory boards of the American University Law Review, Administrative Law Review and the Journal of Gender, Social Policy and Law.

# THANK YOU ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS!

This Reunion celebration would not be possible without the tireless efforts, phone calls, social media posts, etc. of our dedicated alumni Class Leaders and the DC Metro Area Alumni Chapter officers.

David B. Jaffe, Esq. '93, Associate Dean for Student Affairs  
(a special thanks for all of your Committee work)

## **Class Leaders:**

Abigail Duggan '13  
Susheela Varky '93  
Diana Preston '93  
Deborah Meland '83  
Ogochukwu Ekwuabu '08  
Dan Zelenko '97  
Stacy Linden '98  
Justin Antonipillai '97  
Amanda LaForge '97  
Robin Mahler Weisman '97  
Kelly McCormick '98  
Cathleen Huang '98  
Mina Malik '98  
Karhlton Moore '98

Thank you to our alumni panelists and faculty moderators!

## **Friday, October 27th Panel: From Wall Street To K Street**

Professor David Snyder  
Elan Blutinger '84  
Tanisha James '08  
Jason Kanner '97  
Omar Vargas '98

## **Saturday, October 28th Panel:**

### **Supreme Court – On The Docket For The Upcoming Term**

Professor Steve Wermiel '82  
Professor Lise Beske  
Jessica Waters '03  
Andrew Kim '12



## DC METRO ALUMNI CHAPTER

Join the DC Metro Alumni Chapter to stay connected with fellow alumni living in DC metropolitan area. Engage in networking opportunities, social events, and professional development seminars while fostering a sense of community and supporting Washington College of Law's initiatives.

Reconnect, share experiences, and make valuable connections by becoming a part of this vibrant and accomplished group of alumni in the DC Metro region.

Join now!

[dcalumni@wcl.american.edu](mailto:dcalumni@wcl.american.edu)



Thank you to our DC Metro Alumni Chapter officers  
for your support of Alumni Reunion 2023!

### **DC Metro Alumni Chapter Officers**

Karen Roos, '07 - President

Matt Lapin, '99 - First Vice President

Tom Morante, '77 - Second Vice President

Jessica Byler, '22 - Secretary

Luis Clavijo, '02 - Treasurer

Jimmy Valenzuela, '20 - Communications & Marketing

La-Vaughnda Taylor, '09 - Virginia Representative

Parker Thoeni, '08 - Maryland Representative

Joanne Chong, '17 - DC Representative

Ogochukwu Ekwuabu, '08 - Student Representative

Gene Rossi, '82 - Parliamentarian

Kimber Colton, '95 - Officer

Andrea Rivers, '21 - Officer

The chapter represents WCL alumni in DC, Maryland, and Virginia

[dcalumni@wcl.american.edu](mailto:dcalumni@wcl.american.edu)

Your journey with the Washington College of Law Alumni Association is just getting started!

## Here's how you can stay connected.

- Update your contact information
- Request your Alumni Email
- Tell us about your personal and career accomplishments via Class Notes
- Connect with an Alumni Community (region/community)
- Connect with us on social: AUWCL LinkedIn, Facebook, X (Twitter), and Instagram
- Volunteer as a mentor and Alumni Community Leader
- Attend an Event
- Join your Program Advisory Council
- Read *The Advocate* magazine



AUWCL also offers a rich array of alumni benefits including:

- WCL Connect
- Alumni Directory
- Career and Professional Development
- Class Notes
- Counseling and Resources
- Class Auditing
- Networking Opportunities
- Access to Pence Law Library, and much more

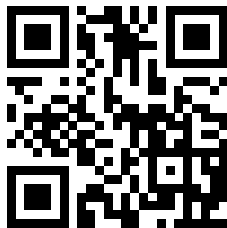
Please visit [wcl.american.edu/alumni](https://wcl.american.edu/alumni) for more info.  
Email: [alumni@wcl.american.edu](mailto:alumni@wcl.american.edu)



## **NETWORK. LEARN. GROW.**

WCL Connect is an online platform designed to support our graduates in career networking.

- Alumni Directory
- Job Postings
- Alumni Communities
- Events
- Career Support



**SCAN HERE  
TO SIGN-UP!**

Please email [wclconnect@wcl.american.edu](mailto:wclconnect@wcl.american.edu) if you have any questions or need support.

# Thank you!



Scan here to  
MAKE A GIFT!



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