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**THE**

American University  
Washington College of Law

**ADVOCATE**

# Guiding Legal Leaders of Tomorrow

Dean Roger A. Fairfax Jr. Brings a New Vision to AUWCL

Fall 2021

# Top-Ranked Programs

2022 U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT SPECIALTY RANKINGS

**#3** CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION

**#4** PART-TIME JD PROGRAM

**#6** INTERNATIONAL LAW

**#8** INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

**#11** HEALTH CARE LAW

**#12** TRIAL ADVOCACY



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*The Advocate* is published twice a year by American University Washington College of Law. Change of address can be sent via e-mail to [alumni@wcl.american.edu](mailto:alumni@wcl.american.edu) or mailed to the address above.



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**ROGER A. FAIRFAX JR.**  
*Dean and Professor of Law*



Since I began my tenure as dean in July 2021, I have watched with awe and admiration as faculty, staff, and students have dedicated themselves not just to the rigorous legal education for which AUWCL is known, but also to demonstrating our resolve to “Champion What Matters.”

For example, AUWCL students over the summer advanced research on legal issues surrounding femicide in Mexico, the criminalization of homelessness in the United States, and gender-based violence in conflict zones around the world. Others worked on litigation and corporate transactions in large and small law firms, and interned with prosecutor and public defender offices, on Capitol Hill and with federal, state, and local government and regulatory agencies, federal and state judges, and with civil rights and human rights entities.

“

**As rich and impressive as AUWCL's 125-year history is, I firmly believe that our best days are ahead of us, and I am unequivocal in my optimism about what we will achieve together.”**

The remarkable work of our faculty and staff has helped AUWCL navigate a global pandemic and prepare for the return to in-person instruction, while never wavering in our commitment to the scholarly and teaching excellence that has defined AUWCL for 125 years. The AUWCL faculty recently was ranked among the top 50 in the nation for scholarly impact and six of our specialty programs—including our clinical, international, intellectual property, health care law, and part-time and trial advocacy programs—ranked among the top 15 in the country. Our faculty are frequently called upon to provide their expertise on the most pressing legal and policy questions of the day.

In the months and years ahead, we will work aggressively to build upon these strengths. We will showcase our scholarship, teaching, and academic excellence, and will seek to elevate our reputation within the legal and academic communities. We will remain vigilant in promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, civility, and respect within the AUWCL community, and will deepen our engagement throughout the Washington, D.C., region, nation, and world. We will pursue a world-class experience for our students focused on student services, academic exploration and excellence, career and professional development, and preparation for an ever-evolving profession, job market, and world. We will expand our efforts to connect with, and serve as a lifelong resource for our unparalleled network of accomplished and committed alumni. We will forge meaningful new partnerships with our alumni and donors,

who serve as role models for our current and future students, and generously help to provide the resources necessary to fuel AUWCL's mission of preparing ethical, well-trained lawyers and professionals to lead with conviction and to “Champion What Matters”—within the law and beyond.

There will be much more to say in the months and years to come as we all embark together on this important and exciting next chapter of AUWCL's story. As rich and impressive as AUWCL's history is, I firmly believe that our best days are ahead of us, and I am unequivocal in my optimism about what we will achieve together. I cannot wait to work with all of you to usher in that bright future!

For now, however, I will conclude with the sentiment that will animate my tenure as dean of this great law school—gratitude. Thank you for everything you have done—and for what you will do—to advance this great institution and its contributions to our community, our nation, and our world.

With gratitude,



**ROGER A. FAIRFAX JR.**  
**DEAN AND PROFESSOR OF LAW**  
**AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW**

## AUWCL Celebrates 2021 and 2020 Graduates during Spring Commencement Virtual Celebration and In-Person Procession

The law school celebrated more than 500 graduates May 23 with a virtual ceremony and the law school's first in-person commencement events since the COVID-19 pandemic began, honoring graduates from May 2021 and December and August 2020.

Commencement speaker Congressman Jamie Raskin, professor emeritus at AUWCL where he taught Constitutional Law for more than a quarter century, told the graduates to “go and use the magnificent education” they had received at AUWCL. AU President Sylvia M. Burwell and Acting Provost Peter Starr applauded graduates during the commencement celebration before presenting Raskin with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

The ceremony also featured a commencement address by graduate Joy Applewhite '21. Anna Isernia '21 sang the national anthem, and Veronica Faison '21 sang “Lift Every Voice.”

“Although the period from March 2020 until now will be one that you and we will never forget, recognize that your legal education has encompassed a full three or four years in which you have had the opportunity to learn and hone your critical thinking, doctrinal knowledge, lawyering skills, capacity to learn, and professional values that will stand you in good stead throughout your legal careers,” former Acting Dean Robert Dinerstein emphasized in his virtual address.



About 325 graduates from both 2020 and 2021 took part in processions, crossing the stage in AU's Bender Arena where they were welcomed by Dinerstein, Burwell, Starr, and Vice President of Campus Life Fanta Aw. Mother-daughter team Haley Magwood '20, a JD graduate, and Robin Magwood '21, a graduate of AUWCL's Master's in Legal Studies program, crossed the stage in tandem.

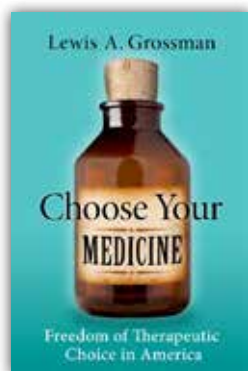
**“...You have had the opportunity to learn and hone your critical thinking, doctrinal knowledge, lawyering skills, capacity to learn, and professional values that will stand you in good stead throughout your legal careers.”**

– FORMER ACTING DEAN ROBERT DINERSTEIN





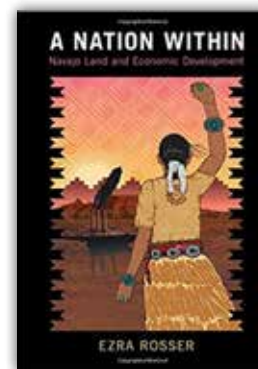
## Lewis Grossman Publishes *Choose Your Medicine*



Oxford University Press published Professor Lewis Grossman's book *Choose Your Medicine: Freedom of Therapeutic Choice in America* in October. This book presents a compelling and comprehensive history of the concept of freedom of therapeutic choice in the United States. It explores how persistent but evolving notions of the right to therapeutic choice have affected American health policy and law from the Revolution through the Trump Era.

Grossman grounds his analysis in historical examples ranging from unschooled supporters of botanical medicine in the early 19th century to sophisticated cancer patient advocacy groups in the 21st. He vividly describes how activists and lawyers have resisted a wide variety of legal constraints on therapeutic choice, including medical licensing statutes, Food and Drug Administration limitations on unapproved drugs and alternative remedies, abortion restrictions, and prohibitions against medical marijuana and physician-assisted suicide. He also considers the relationship between these campaigns for desired treatments and opposition to state-compelled health measures, such as vaccines and face masks.

## Ezra Rosser Publishes *A Nation Within*



Cambridge University Press has published Professor Ezra Rosser's book *A Nation Within: Navajo Land and Economic Development*, in which Rosser explores the connection between land-use patterns and economic development in the Navajo Nation.

Roughly the size of Ireland or West Virginia, the Navajo reservation has seen successive waves of natural resource-based development over the last century: grazing and overgrazing, oil and gas, uranium, and coal; yet Navajos continue to suffer from high levels of unemployment and poverty. Rosser shows the connection between the exploitation of these resources and the growth of the tribal government before turning to contemporary land use and development challenges. He argues that, in addition to the political challenges associated with any significant change, external pressures and internal corruption have made it difficult for the tribe to implement land reforms that could help provide space for economic development that would benefit the Navajo Nation and Navajo tribal members.

## PRIYA BASKARAN RECEIVES ABA ACADEMIC AWARD

Assistant Professor Priya Baskaran received the 2021 Outstanding Academic Award from the ABA Business Law Section's Nonprofits Organizations Committee. Each year, the committee recognizes accomplished and civic-minded nonprofit lawyers in the categories of academic, attorney, in-house counsel, young attorney, and lifetime commitment to the nonprofit field.

Baskaran, who has dedicated her teaching career to furthering economic justice in both urban and rural communities through transactional law, is founder and director of AUWCL's Entrepreneurship Law Clinic, which provides free transactional legal services to organizations dedicated to economic justice and revitalization in the greater Washington, D.C., area. As a teacher, Baskaran encourages her students to embrace opportunities to facilitate change and support the public interest through transactional lawyering.





## AUWCL AMONG TOP 50 LAW SCHOOLS FOR SCHOLARLY IMPACT

AUWCL ranked 46th in the recently released 2021 Sisk Citation Rankings, a jump of 18 places over the prior study, and a testament to hard work and acumen of the leading legal scholars who make up our faculty. Among the most cited in the faculty are professors **Jonas Anderson**, associate dean of scholarship and an expert in patent law; **Jennifer Daskal**, faculty director of the Tech, Law and Security Program; **Angela Davis**, an expert in criminal law and procedure; **Andrew Ferguson**, who writes and teaches in the areas of criminal procedure and criminal justice technologies; **Susan Franck**, an expert in the field of international economic law; **Amanda Frost**, who teaches and writes in the areas of constitutional law and immigration and citizenship law; **Ira Robbins**, an expert on criminal law and procedure; **Jenny Roberts**, co-director of the Criminal Justice Clinic; **Lindsay Wiley**, director of the Health Law and Policy Program; and **Dean Roger A. Fairfax Jr.**, a nationally recognized expert on criminal justice.

## Jayesh Rathod Receives AU Engagement Award

Professor Jayesh Rathod, director of AUWCL's Immigrant Justice Clinic, is a recipient of an AU University Faculty Award, receiving the 2021 Outstanding Community Engagement Award. The honor recognizes a faculty member who is a leader in teaching, outreach, or scholarship initiatives defined by innovative and mutually beneficial university-community partnerships. Rathod teaches in the areas of immigration law, labor and employment law, and clinical legal education.



## ANITA SINHA HONORED WITH AALS CLINICAL AWARD

Associate Professor Anita Sinha, director of the law school's International Human Rights Law Clinic (IHRLC), received the 2021 M. Shanara Gilbert Award from the AALS Clinical Section Executive Committee. Sinha was honored April 28 at the organization's annual Clinical Conference.

Designed to honor an "emerging clinician," the M. Shanara award recognizes a clinical professor with fewer than 10 years of experience who has a commitment to teaching and achieving social justice—particularly in the areas of race and the criminal justice system—and a passion for providing legal services and access to justice to individuals and groups most in need. The section also chooses an awardee who has shown service to the cause of clinical legal education or to the AALS Section on Clinical Legal Education, and an interest in international clinical legal education.

As director of the IHRLC, Sinha supervises student attorneys' representation of non-citizens in the U.S. immigration system, representation of foreign nationals and U.S. citizens before international human rights justice bodies, and engagement in transnational and international human rights policy advocacy projects.

A portrait of Dean Roger A. Fairfax Jr., a Black man with a beard and mustache, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a teal patterned tie. His hands are clasped in front of him. The background is a blurred indoor setting with a window and a glowing circular light fixture.

# Guiding Legal Leaders of Tomorrow

A Q&A with AUWCL Dean Roger A. Fairfax Jr.

By Abbott Brant



prominent legal scholar, educator and nationally known expert on criminal justice, Dean Roger A. Fairfax Jr. takes the helm of American University Washington College of Law at a critical moment in the law school's history.

Prior to joining AUWCL in July, Fairfax held positions at George Washington University Law School as the senior associate dean for Academic Affairs, associate dean for Public Engagement, and the Patricia Roberts Harris Research Professor of Law. His 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. Fairfax has championed diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts throughout higher education and the legal profession.

"We need leaders in this profession now more than ever," Fairfax said. "We need them to help protect and expand the rule of law and to help society tackle its most pressing problems. I look forward to working with the students, faculty, staff, and alumni of the Washington College of Law to write this exciting

next chapter in our storied history. As I've often said, as rich as its history is, I firmly believe that AUWCL's best days are ahead."

Before his career in academia, Fairfax—a graduate of Harvard Law School—practiced with O'Melveny & Myers LLP in Washington, D.C., and served as a federal prosecutor through the Attorney General's Honors Program in the Public Integrity Section of the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. He began his legal career as a law clerk to Judge Patti B. Saris of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts and to Judge Judith W. Rogers of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. He is a member of the American Law Institute, a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Institute for Trial Advocacy, and a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States Advisory Committee on the Federal Criminal Rules.

*The Advocate* sat down with Dean Fairfax to learn more about his legal journey, from his family roots in D.C. and his mentors and influences, to molding legal minds and leading a law school that strives to *Champion What Matters* throughout the District and beyond.

### Q: What sparked your interest in law, specifically your interest in criminal law?

As a teenager in D.C. in the 1980s, I saw my community devastated by the epidemic of crack cocaine addiction and the concomitant violence followed by enforcement and sentencing policies that gave rise to mass incarceration *and* racial disparities. This inspired me to question whether crime policy could serve public safety, fairness, and racial justice. I'm fortunate today to be able to participate as a scholar, as a lawyer, and as an advocate to find bipartisan solutions and support for alternatives to incarceration, data-driven approaches to avoiding recidivism, the treatment of narcotics addiction as a public health issue, and innovative ways to disrupt violence in the most vulnerable communities.

### Q: You practiced law before you transitioned into academia. What skills and knowledge from that experience equipped you for the classroom?

Having worked as both a prosecutor and as a defense attorney, and having remained engaged in law reform, practice, and policy communities, I have had the opportunity to work with people from many different backgrounds and points of view. I have been in the position of needing to persuade others, and I have learned how to listen as well. Finally, regardless of the role I have undertaken at any given time, I have always remained focused on my public

service duty as a lawyer. I have been able to bring that perspective into the classroom as an instructor and in my work as an administrator. The role of law school is to prepare lawyers who are practice-ready, who are competent, who are ethical, and who have a true public service orientation. This public service orientation is important regardless of what practice setting one is in, whether it is in the private sector or public sector, or even if one decides not to practice at all after receiving their legal training. I have always tried to instill that recognition in my students, who have gone on to productive careers in private practice, government service, public interest law, and beyond.

### Q: Your family has been along for your legal journey—you and your wife, Lisa, who is also a law professor, have raised three children and have been very involved in your community while juggling busy careers. What have those experiences taught you about maintaining a work/life balance?

I got some great advice very early in my career from one of my mentors, the late William T. Coleman Jr., a towering figure in the law. He was an amazing person and one of the most accomplished lawyers I have ever met. He graduated at the top of his class at Harvard Law School, was the first African American to clerk on the U.S. Supreme Court, was a principal drafter of the petitioner's brief in *Brown v. Board of Education*, and served as U.S. Secretary of



Transportation in the Ford administration. He always reminded me that while I was building my career, I needed to center what is most important. He would tell me that rigor, dedication to one's client, and a dogged work ethic are indispensable to a successful legal career, but loved ones and friends and purpose are indispensable to a happy life. So, Lisa and I have always made it a point to be present at the volleyball, basketball, softball, and soccer games and track meets, and recitals, and parent-teacher conferences, and pediatrician appointments. We also are fully engaged in our community. This has often meant working some very late nights and early mornings, but I would not change a thing.

Also, from a wellness standpoint, the legal profession suffers from high rates of dissatisfaction and mental health and substance abuse challenges. As a leading law school in this country, I would like AUWCL to support our students and alumni in this vein and model the behavior that we would seek to have emulated within the bar.

**Q:** You have deep family roots in D.C. Does that provide you with a unique perspective in serving as a dean here?

The District of Columbia has been special to me and critical to my personal and professional development. The D.C. educational landscape has such an important local, national, and international profile, and colleges and universities in the District have historically contributed to the welfare of the region. I certainly was a beneficiary of that. When I was a teenager and had exhausted my northeast D.C. high school's math curriculum, I was able to take classes in advanced math and economics free of charge at Catholic University. In high school, I participated in mock trial competitions sponsored by Georgetown University and attended programs and events at Howard University, GWU, and the University of the District of Columbia. Part of my own strategic vision for AUWCL is to ensure that we continue to expand our footprint and our relevance to the communities in D.C. "beyond the monuments" which are populated by generations of hardworking people who want the same things everybody else wants. They want just treatment from their government and they want educational and economic opportunities for their families. I want to illuminate and expand the ways in which AU and WCL can use our platform and influence to have an impact on these communities.

**Q:** You've designed and taught some unique classes, a very popular course called "Criminal Justice Policy and 'The Wire.'" What do you see as the benefit of connecting legal subjects to real life issues and pop culture, and how do students respond to it?

I love teaching, and I view my ability to shape the next generation of lawyers as a true privilege. I believe that no matter how long one has been in the classroom, teaching is an art that can never be mastered. It is forever a work-in-progress, and you have to continue

to work hard to effectively connect with students. Although I enjoyed teaching Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure I and II, and Professional Responsibility and Ethics, and have even authored textbooks for two of those courses, I have also developed more specialized, capstone courses that permit a deeper dive into the material. One example is my course on criminal justice reform and the critically acclaimed HBO series, "The Wire." The idea, which I borrowed from my mentor and former law professor Charles Ogletree, was to use the show as a vehicle for introducing law students to topics that sometimes aren't included in the traditional doctrinal criminal law courses. Many have described this celebrated show as literature on television, and we used it as a text to introduce a deeper dive into issues like the war on drugs, mass incarceration, juvenile justice, lawyering ethics, racial and gender justice, and policing and democracy.

And what I have found is that students may be drawn initially to the course because of their interest in the show and the topics. But what they got out of it was really a unique experience where they were able to do much more than just scratch the surface on these issues that underscore the doctrinal policies they study in the more traditional, foundational criminal law and procedure courses. The students in the course not only hone their critical thinking and writing skills, but they are better prepared for the various roles—prosecutor, defense attorney, judge, lawmaker, and criminal justice administrator—they are likely to take on in their careers. The student feedback on the course, over the more than a decade that I've been teaching it, has always been overwhelmingly positive.

**Q:** Did you have particular experiences in previous positions that will serve you well as you step into the role of dean?

The most obvious is having served as senior associate dean for Academic Affairs at my prior law school, which gave me insight into every aspect of the law school operation—from academic administration and student support to budgets and fundraising—and, most importantly, a window into the level of dedication and commitment of the staff, faculty, and colleagues who collaborate to provide a first-class experience for students and alumni. I also served as an associate dean for Public Engagement, which gave me the opportunity to amplify the accomplishments of my colleagues and to help to craft the narrative about all of the great things happening within the institution. I have also had leadership experience with diversity, equity, and inclusion at the law school and university levels, including the recruitment of students, staff, and faculty.

I also held previous university roles that were quite helpful, including service on the executive committee of Faculty Senate, through which I obtained a greater appreciation for how the law school fits into the broader context of the university and the unique challenges facing law schools. And I also had the opportunity to work directly with students in a number of capacities. I was a formal



faculty advisor to groups such as Black Law Students Association and the Criminal Law Society, and I worked closely with the leadership of the Student Bar Association. This gave me a greater appreciation for the concerns of students and the challenges that students face in law school.

**Q: What are your top priorities for your first year as dean of AUWCL?**

I organize these priorities into five key areas. The first has to do with scholarship and teaching, focused on pedagogy and bar passage, academic excellence and the preparation of ethical, well-trained lawyer leaders. We will also attract and retain talented and productive faculty, and enrich the intellectual life and scholarly engagement of the entire AUWCL community.

The second area relates to reputation and impact, ensuring that we continue to elevate our reputation within the bench and bar, among prospective students, and in the broader community by effectively sharing and communicating the narrative of the extraordinary work being done by our students, alumni, staff, and faculty.

A third area has to do with diversity, community, civility, and respect—ensuring that we remain vigilant in the pursuit of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and that we model the type of community norms at AUWCL we want to see emulated in the legal profession our students will be entering. This also includes engaging our broader community in D.C. and surrounding region and building on AUWCL's rich tradition of pursuing justice and championing what matters.

A fourth area has to do with the pursuit of a world-class student and alumni experience. We are going to be laser focused on the student experience, everything from student services to career and professional development, and narrowing in on the unique challenges facing law students in 2021, including around the public health crisis and financial issues. I also want to focus on

the alumni experience, right from the moment our students cross the stage and get their diplomas. Throughout all phases of their career, and even into retirement, I want AUWCL to remain a meaningful and impactful force in their careers and in their lives.

And finally, I'll be focused on financial stewardship and sustainability. We want to make sure that AUWCL has the resources necessary to make an impact in all of the aforementioned areas. This will include a focus on our development and engagement around our annual giving, major gifts, and the broader university fundraising campaign. We'll also be looking at expanding resources through grants and non-tuition revenue generation. We also will ensure we are effective stewards of the resources we do have and that we allocate those resources in a manner that aligns with our strategic vision.

**Q: What advice would you give recent AUWCL graduates as they enter the legal profession?**

I've long been fascinated by the stories of lawyers who, as has been said, help to "bend the arc of the moral universe toward justice." While I was a student, I learned about some extraordinary lawyers who had that kind of impact, including Charles Hamilton Houston, Pauli Murray, Thurgood Marshall, Constance Baker Motley, Louis Pollak, J. Skelly Wright, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and William T. Coleman Jr. They represented diverse professional paths; they were big law and small firm lawyers, government attorneys, civil rights attorneys, judges, and law professors and deans. I studied their lives and took lessons about how I might use the privilege of my legal training and law license to do my part to bend that arc. So, I would encourage our recent and not-so-recent graduates to seek out examples of lawyers you admire and whose professional paths you want to emulate. But make sure you are charting your own course, driven by your own values. You will figure out in time where and how you will make your contributions. The profession needs you now more than ever. ■





· SAY OUR NAMES ·

TERRENCE CRUTCHER · JEREMY M...  
· TAMIR RICE · PHILANDO CASTILE  
AKAI GURLEY · KENDRA JAMES · FREDDIE GR...  
MICHAEL BROWN · TERRANCE FRAN...  
TYISHA MILLE · BREONNATA...  
ERIC GARNER · SHANTEL D...  
SANDRA BLA... WALTER S...  
TAMA... REKIA BO...  
YVETT SM...  
SHELLY...  
JAMAR O...  
TANISHA...  
TARIKA...  
ALTON S...  
KORR...  
KA...

RARE

**CHAMPIONING  
WHAT MATTERS  
IN MINNESOTA**





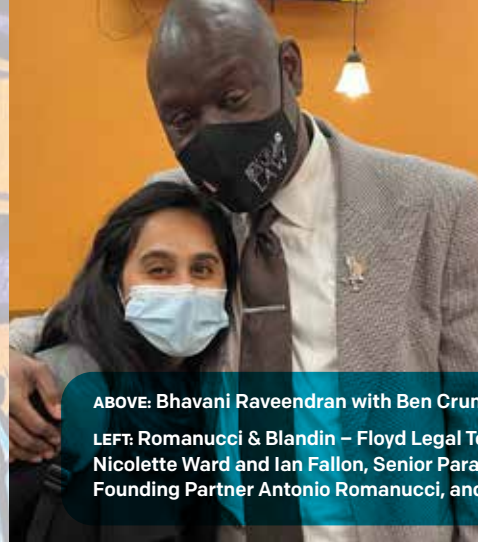
# ALUMNA HELPS SECURE SETTLEMENT FOR GEORGE FLOYD'S FAMILY

By Abbott Brant

George Floyd. Almost 24 hours after his name sprawled across her TV screen, it appeared in Bhavani Raveendran's email inbox.

The AUWCL alumna, then the senior associate leading Romanucci & Blandin LLC's civil rights team, was familiar with handling major national cases regarding police misconduct, prison abuse, sexual abuse, and wrongful deaths. And the team had worked with renowned trial lawyer Ben Crump on a number of cases before. So when Raveendran '12 learned her firm would work on *Family of George Floyd v. City of Minneapolis*, she knew immediately the collaboration would be good.

"There's a great balance between the firms and how we work, and that's that we work hard, we work day and night, and we sincerely care about the issues that are at stake," said Raveendran, now a partner at the Chicago-based personal injury law firm. "When this awful incident happened, from Ben Crump's perspective and from our perspective, the more, the stronger. Let's make the best team of civil rights attorneys we can, and fight this the whole way."



**ABOVE:** Bhavani Raveendran with Ben Crump

**LEFT:** Romanucci & Blandin – Floyd Legal Team: (l to r) Associates Nicolette Ward and Ian Fallon, Senior Paralegal Mirena Fontana, Founding Partner Antonio Romanucci, and Partner Bhavani Raveendran

And they did. Raveendran's team—the two associates, paralegal, and two clerks who worked on the case under the direction of Raveendran and Romanucci & Blandin founding partner Antonio Romanucci—helped garner a \$27 million settlement for the Floyd family.

In the world of personal injury firms, that kind of “the more, the stronger” approach can be seen as detrimental to the bottom line, Raveendran admits. But for her and the others, the civil suit was much bigger than a number. It needed to make an impact.

“We were more interested in ensuring this was a landmark case. That people understood this should not have happened. And that if a police officer believes they can go this far—on film and in front of the world, using this level of aggression and disregard for humanity and the person that George Floyd was—we are not going to go silently into the night. We are not going to forget about it. There's going to be accountability here,” Raveendran said.

“And personally I thought, ‘this cannot be another Emmett Till.’”

## A LANDMARK

They called George ‘Perry,’ Raveendran said of Floyd's family. “They loved him so much, and they shared so much of who he was with us.”

More than half of Raveendran's work that year revolved around the case, and during those hundreds of hours, she watched the video of Floyd's death hundreds of times. Watching the horrific crime unfold on camera left an unending mark, Raveendran said. But that's likely what made this time different.

“Because of the protracted torture that everyone saw in the video, it was very hard to ignore,” she said. “You think about

a shooting case, it happens very quickly. Not everyone will have the same guttural response, because they don't have to experience what the person in the video might be experiencing where they're living each second. But you don't have that choice with the video of George Floyd. You have to live it the way he's living it. And so I think that has really opened people's eyes to the level of cruelty possible.”

Police departments are reeling from the settlement, Raveendran noted, afraid they will be the next to face a major public lawsuit. In this way the settlement has begun to force change, with many departments focusing on better officer training and vetting processes that weed out those looking to take advantage of the power afforded to them in policing. And for a family who has been through what the Floyd's has, and for a person whose name has become synonymous with social justice, this momentous shift toward accountability needed to happen, she said.

Still, the win is bittersweet.

“When people say congratulations, it feels empty,” Raveendran said. “Because as much as we appreciate that people think this was a landmark settlement, it's horrific the way it had to come about and how preventable it seems. Especially when you look at cases like Eric Garner and the countless other men and women that have died saying, ‘I can't breathe.’”

## ‘RIGHTEOUS ANGER’

The first time Raveendran represented a client was as a student attorney in AUWCL's International Human Rights Law Clinic alongside clinic partner Zachary Zarnow '12. Their experiences ranged from representing a woman from the Democratic Republic of the Congo seeking asylum, to working with law schools in the Bahamas during a fact gathering trip to



assist communities of Haitian migrants leaving the nation due to natural disasters or political turmoil.

“Working with Bhavani [at the Clinic] was my favorite part of law school,” said Zarnow, principal court management consultant for the Office of the National Center for State Courts. There, he focuses on access to justice issues and working with courts around the country. He is also co-creator and co-host of Tiny Chats, short form annotated videos for court staff and advocates that focus on access to justice topics. “She was brilliant, but what stands out to me from that time is how much joy she brought to our work. I could always count on her for a cheesy joke and a dose of optimism.”

Now, almost a decade later, Zarnow has only grown more proud of his former classmate and friend.

“If I ever needed a lawyer, I would want Bhavani on my side. She works hard and she is smart as hell. More important than all of that, though, is that she has an unfailing sense of right and wrong, and when she sees that someone has been a victim of injustice she burns with a righteous anger that fuels her unceasing and brilliant advocacy on their behalf. I often think about what she would do in a given situation and I try every day to live up to her standards.”

For Raveendran the feeling is mutual, with every project Zarnow touches helping people “on such a basic level.”

“He understands that even the first step to access justice is difficult, so he works incredibly hard to make sure that anyone who needs it can have access to the court. And I just don't know anyone who works as passionately as Zach.”

She also cites members of the AUWCL faculty as affecting her law school journey, including Legal Rhetoric Professor Paul Figley and Professor Jayesh Rathod, who served as faculty advisor to the South Asian Law Students Association, of which Raveendran was co-president.

“Bhavani's involvement in the George Floyd matter and in other civil rights cases epitomizes the strong commitment to public

interest lawyering and racial justice that many AUWCL alums share,” Rathod said. “Her commitment to this work was on display when she was a Clinic student, and she has continued to fight against systemic injustices throughout her career.”

## CONTINUING A LEGACY OF LEGAL ADVOCACY

Raveendran's grandfather attended rallies and protests in India, pushing for independence. Once gained, he worked as a labor attorney before working to advocate for better education in the country, particularly in his home state of Kerala. Her other grandfather worked as a family law attorney in rural India, and would carry his law books on the back of a cart driven by a bull ox.

“That's the legacy I came from,” Raveendran explained.

“And my parents moved [to the United States], and proved to me that degree or not, you can make such an impact. My dad, mom, and stepmom have dedicated their lives to the community and making it better in whatever way they can. So it was something my sister and I both felt we had to do.”

With idols like Thurgood Marshall, Nelson Mandela, and Gandhi, Raveendran knew she wanted to dedicate her capabilities and talents to the law.

“I saw that having a law degree helps you do the most good as possible, and that's what I strive to do with my work. But, you know, that's a very lofty goal,” she said. “So I just try to take it one day at a time, and help each person that comes in front of me.” ■

**“I JUST TRY TO TAKE IT ONE DAY AT A TIME, AND HELP EACH PERSON THAT COMES IN FRONT OF ME.”**





A close-up, diagonal view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The flag is positioned on the left side of the page, with the stars in the upper left and the stripes extending towards the bottom right. The background of the page is a blurred, soft-focus version of the flag's colors.

By Lori Woehrle

# LAW AND THE MILITARY

A Rewarding Combination that Matters

*Champion What Matters*, a phrase that expresses the ethos of American University Washington College of Law, can project a kaleidoscope of interpretations depending on who says it. For students and alumni who are active duty, retired military, or veterans, 'what matters' might mean protecting the nation.

AUWCL is known for providing a supportive educational environment for students who are members of the military and veterans, according to several current students and alumni. It also is known for serving as a feeder school to JAG programs for all five branches of the U.S. military.

JAG (Judge Advocate Generals' Corps) officers are attorneys who work on all legal matters involving the military. Officers who serve in the JAG Corps, informally known as JAGs, are legal advisors to the command to which they are assigned.



Photo: Alexandra Abdoulayev. © 2021, all rights reserved. Image reproduced with permission.

## TIME MANAGEMENT IS KEY

Katelyn Davis '21 accepted a commission from the U.S. Army JAG Corps and is awaiting her scrolling to become an officer (a presidential act), pending a fitness test and the results of her bar exam, which she sat for in July.

"AUWCL is very welcoming towards veterans and students who are active duty," Davis said. "If a student is in the National Guard, the professors are very understanding and supportive."

Davis, currently an Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist in the U.S. Department of Justice, attended AUWCL part time. Although working full time while attending law school was a tough road, Davis managed to participate in Clinic, and with others, research and write a legal analysis of military medical malpractice that found its way into the National Defense Authorization Act of 2020. Further, she assisted in leading the Civil-Military Society, a student group designed to help bridge military and civilian communities. Davis also had to stay healthy and physically fit to meet the future demands of the JAG Corps, she said.

"I was always working while riding the Metro, taking my lunch break with books open," she said. "I had to rely on great time management."

Davis had a lifelong interest in the law. Her plan to combine a legal and military career was sparked by the terrorist attacks on 9/11, when she was seven years old. She recalled that her school day was delayed and she was eating breakfast when her father called her to watch the horrifying events unfold on television.

A neighbor's husband worked in the Pentagon, and frantically tried to reach her spouse that morning. Davis watched as her mother spent the morning, afternoon, and evening comforting the neighbor until her husband was located.

"It changed my goals," Davis said. "I saw what this did to people I love and care about. I just wanted to help people."





## FIND MENTORS

Like Davis, Eugene Mok '19, a lieutenant commander who joined the U.S. Navy in 2010, also found the atmosphere at AUWCL toward those in the service to be affirming. "A lot of people thank service members for their service," he noted, "but few organizations actually demonstrate that they care." AUWCL shows its support by having veterans on the staff and faculty, through comments by school leadership, and by encouraging the student-run veteran and military group that in 2018 became the Civil-Military Society.

LTC Mok, now an attorney advisor in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, was raised in northern New Jersey and remembered as a middle school student seeing the smoke from where the twin towers once stood days after 9/11. "A lot of our parents worked in New York City," he said of he and his classmates. "I knew I wanted to be a lawyer; I've always liked standing up for what is right." This experience and his desire to serve led him to join the Navy through the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Villanova University.

After graduating from Villanova he was commissioned as a naval officer, where he was given a lot of responsibility right away, he said. "But I knew I wanted to come to Washington, D.C., and go to law school to either become a military or government attorney."

While attending AUWCL LTC Mok transitioned from full-time service in the Navy to the Navy Reserves. After law school and passing the bar exam, he was accepted to the Navy JAG Corps' Reserve Law Program.

He encouraged students with an interest in military law to seek out mentors and serve as a mentor to others. He recalled finding an AUWCL alumnus who had gone through the Navy JAG application process, and who helped LTC Mok through the process too. "Now I pass on the knowledge and try to help other students to get into the JAG Corps," he said.

## A SHORT WORK DAY

Captain Zachary Simons '20, on a one-year assignment with the 13-country Multinational Force and Observers peacekeeping mission in Sinai, Egypt, was selected by the Army JAG Corps to attend law school through the Funded Legal Education Program while on active duty. He described those three years in school as the nicest of his Army service. "For me attending law school meant a short work day," he said, adding, "the ability to step away from the operational tempo of the Army to focus purely on academics for three years is one of the most unique opportunities in the military."

"I took everything that would be tested on the bar exam," CPT Simons said of his academic selections. He took a sampling of other courses beyond the bar-focused classes, but was determined to pass the exam on his first attempt, which he did.

CPT Simons, a brigade judge advocate for the Army, found that the strong writing program at AUWCL serves him well.

"The writing program really stands out," said CPT Simons, who credited legal rhetoric Professor David Spratt for strengthening his writing. "That is the skill I use every single day" as a judge advocate, whose position involves a lot of research and writing. "I took the Law of War and Human Rights and Terrorism classes, but you don't apply that law in day-to-day business at the tactical level."

He found AUWCL to be a congenial environment for a student on active duty. At the same time, CPT Simons said he didn't "broadcast" his military status. He shared it with a few professors, one of whom advised CPT Simons in jest that he shouldn't let fellow students know how enjoyable he found law school (compared with Army service).

CPT Simons feels "really lucky" to be on his current assignment, where as a junior attorney he feels he is learning a lot and having a unique experience. He appreciates the opportunity to go from working with soldiers to supporting them and their commanders. "It's rewarding to be on the other side," he said, noting that his prior service gave him a deep understanding of what those soldiers and commanders have to do and what they need.



## LAW WITH A ‘SIDE OF ADVENTURE’

Lieutenant Colonel Cinnamon (CJ) Chielens '04, currently assigned as deputy legal counsel to the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon, saw combining legal and military careers as a way to give back. When she was a young girl, her parents worked in Pakistan, among other remote locations outside the United States. But it was in Pakistan in 1988 that U.S. Marines came to the family's rescue when a sudden evacuation became necessary. The rescue and ensuing feeling of safety and protection left a deep impression on her.

A self-described former “girly girl,” LTC Chielens worked as a legal secretary for a D.C. firm as she made her way through AUWCL's part-time program. While a student at AUWCL, she interned at the Office of the General Counsel for the U.S. Department of Defense at the Pentagon where she met JAGs who “looked like they had so much fun,” she said. She joined the U.S. Army in 2005 and the following year deployed to Iraq, one of several deployments to the Middle East. She spent time in Afghanistan in 2009 and 2012-13, deploying out of New York and Germany.

It was in Kabul in the summer of 2009 that she met her husband-to-be, a Belgian Army soldier who later enlisted as a private in the U.S. Army to be with LTC Chielens. (Foreign nationals cannot join the U.S. military as an officer.) Cinnamon and Joachim have been married 11 years and have two small children. Joachim is now a contractor with the federal government.

She described her combined career as a chance to “practice law with a side of adventure,” adding, “I get to fly in helicopters, shoot guns, and see exotic places, all while helping people and impacting the security of our nation.”

In the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, LTC Chielens practices national security law, an assignment for which “the world sits heavy on your shoulders,” she said. Often working 12 hours a day, she said it's a “heavy lift” and “stressful” for the 14 JAG attorneys on staff. LTC Chielens described the team as “amazing,” followed by “brilliant, kind, caring, and hilarious.”

Her intention was to serve in the military for three years, but she has spent 16 years in the Army thus far. “This was not my plan,” she said. But she continues to be offered new assignments that pique her interest and offer her amazing opportunities, and that has kept her in the ranks.

For LTC Chielens and others, using their legal education to serve the nation is what matters. ■





## AUWCL Welcomes Students to Campus

The newest class of AUWCL students were welcomed to the nation's capital and our campus on Aug. 28-29 during JD Orientation. The event brought together 1L students to meet new law school Dean Roger A. Fairfax Jr., volunteer throughout the local community, and hear from D.C. At-Large Councilmember and alumnus Robert White.

The week kicked off with “In My Back Yard” (IMBY) Public Service Day, organized by AUWCL's Office of Public Interest and Public Interest/Public Service (PIPS) Scholars. IMBY brings 1L students together with faculty and staff to volunteer in Washington, D.C., neighborhoods. The annual event allows new students to get out, see the city, and meet classmates, while returning students, faculty, and staff reconnect with their community and meet new faces.

The following day, 1L students were formally welcomed to AUWCL by Dean Roger A. Fairfax Jr.—a prominent legal scholar, educator, and nationally known expert on criminal justice—who joined the law school July 1. During a conversation with Dean Fairfax, Councilmember White '07 discussed his own orientation experience, the city's housing crisis, his journey into politics, and the District's love for Go-Go music and Mumbo sauce.

Students were then welcomed by SBA President Rafiat “Lola” Abdulai and participated in the professional oath, administered by Adjunct Professor Dale Durrer, Circuit Court Judge for the 16th Judicial Circuit in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

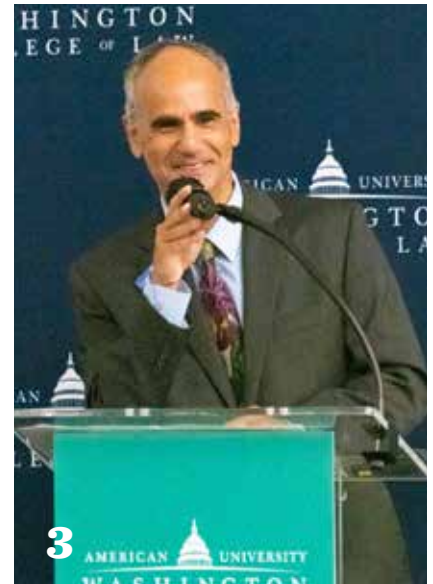




IMBY volunteer activities included bagging groceries with We Are Family DC, making sandwiches at Martha's Table, organizing clothing for A Wider Circle, and working at Franciscan Monastery Farm. Other organizations IMBY participants volunteered at included: Anacostia Riverkeeper, Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC), Bread for the City, Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB), Community Family Life Services, DC Department of Parks and Recreation, Dreaming Out Loud, Food & Friends, Free Minds Book Club, Friendship Place, Girls on the Run, Housing Up, Nourish Now, Rock Creek Conservancy, School Without Walls, Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition, Truesdell Education Campus, and the WCL Community Garden.



ON  
CAMPUS





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**1.** Dean Roger A. Fairfax Jr. welcomes students to campus. **2.** Professor Andy Popper chats with members of the incoming JD class. **3.** Associate Dean for Student Affairs David Jaffe. **4.** At-Large Councilmember and alum Robert White '07 in conversation with Dean Fairfax. **5.** Students partake in the professional oath, administered by Adjunct Professor Dale Durrer, Circuit Court Judge for the 16th Judicial Circuit in the Commonwealth of Virginia. **6.** SBA President Rafiat "Lola" Abdulai.





IN CASE YOU  
MISSED IT

## Health Law and Policy Summer Institute Connects Students with Emerging Health Topics

The law school's #11 nationally ranked Health Law and Policy Program is committed to creating a health law hub for students and practitioners across the nation and engaging our alumni in programming throughout the year. In addition to robust course offerings and programs each semester, AUWCL students have the opportunity to earn a Health Care Compliance Certificate, accredited by the Compliance Certification Board (CCB)<sup>®</sup>, and build their expertise and networks through experiential opportunities in the Washington, D.C., area and across the United States.

The program also hosts an annual Summer Institute comprised of specialized, intensive courses taught by experts—including AUWCL alumni.

In summer 2021, the Summer Institute focused on practice-oriented topics including digital health care technologies, health care business transactions, and vaccines and the law. The Summer Speaker

Series provided additional educational and networking opportunities, featuring expert speakers discussing current trends, challenges, and opportunities in the health care and compliance fields.

"The Health Law and Policy Program was thrilled to welcome hundreds of health care industry participants from across the United States to engage and connect with us through this timely programming," said Associate Director Asha Scielzo, who organized the summer events. "We were especially delighted to feature AUWCL alumni on each panel."

The program also recently wrapped up its annual National Health Law Writing Competition, which encourages students to write and submit scholarly papers on current topics of interest relevant to health law and/or food and drug law. This year, the competition committee received nearly 50 entries from students representing 26 law schools across the country. Alumni judges carefully reviewed each paper to determine the winners. Scielzo added, "We are grateful to our AUWCL alumni Shawn Fultz '15, Katherine Hayes '02, John Jacob '93, Joel Michaels '75, Corrine Parver '82, and Houeida Saad '92 for generously sponsoring the competition prizes and providing mentorship opportunities."



**ABOVE:** Professor Angela Davis hands Congressman Jamie Raskin a tribute book, while (l to r) Sarah Bloom Raskin and Professors Elliott Milstein and Robert Dinerstein look on.

**RIGHT:** Cover of a tribute book featuring photo of Congressman Raskin and the impeachment managers delivering the articles of impeachment to the United States Senate.



## AUWCL Community Publishes Tributes to Congressman and Professor Emeritus Jamie Raskin

**T**his past spring, AUWCL presented Congressman Jamie Raskin with a tribute book honoring his leadership and patriotism throughout his illustrious career as both a politician and a professor.

Congressman Raskin’s friends and colleagues Professors Angela Davis, Robert Dinerstein, Elliott Milstein, and Ann Shalleck presented him with the book May 14. Inside are personal letters from 40 AUWCL community members recognizing his commitment to democracy and his role as lead house impeachment manager during the second impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump. Congressman Raskin is currently serving his third term as the U.S. Representative for Maryland’s 8th Congressional District, and sits on the Judiciary, House Oversight, House Administration, and Rules Committees and the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis.

The cover of the tribute book features an iconic photo of Congressman Raskin and the impeachment managers delivering

the articles of impeachment to the United States Senate, and includes messages from deans, faculty members, staff members, and former staff members—many of whom collaborated with Congressman Raskin for much of his 25 years at AUWCL while he was a constitutional law professor, director of the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project, director of the Program on Law and Government, and an associate dean. He now holds the title of professor emeritus at the law school.

“Your willingness to put your country first—to serve others—during the most painful time in your life, demonstrates that extraordinary grace and love,” Davis wrote in her tribute letter included in the book. “I am so grateful to you—not only for your selfless devotion to your country but also for your indomitable spirit, your compassion for all human beings, and your willingness to use your considerable gifts to help others.”

To read all the tributes, visit <https://trayinc.cld.bz/WCL-Raskin-Book>



## A TALE OF TWO LAWYERS: A LASTING LEGACY

**On April 9, 2021, Kyle Ehlers '21 accepted the prestigious Myers Law Scholarship at American University Washington College of Law's Legends & Leaders event in front of a virtual crowd of 250. "Receiving the Myers Scholarship makes every sacrifice my family has endured throughout this journey worth it. I'm grateful that AUWCL has acknowledged my commitment to service and has lessened the burdens I will face as a young husband, and law advocate."**

The Myers Scholarship is made possible through the generosity of two incredible founders, John Sherman Myers and Alvina Reckman Myers, who carry a namesake that is well known at AUWCL. The legacy they hoped to preserve was one of inspiring possibilities and promise in young lawyers by ensuring excellence in education and easing financial burden.

John Sherman Myers graduated from Harvard Law School in 1925. He joined the faculty at the Washington College of Law in 1947, two years before it merged with American University, and served as dean from 1956 until 1967. "When my husband became dean," said Alvina in 1979, "the law school became our family. We both cared deeply about the law and education."

John was a man of high ideals and strategic purpose. His colleague Professor Edwin A. Mooers wrote, "The incisiveness and power of his teaching, the breadth of his learning, and the magnetism of his personality have impressed themselves on a long line of students of the law."

Alvina, also a lawyer, met John in New York when they were both working for future Chief Justice Charles Evan Hughes. They married in 1928, and in 1942, moved to Washington, D.C. In 1963 Alvina was appointed a fellow of the AUWCL faculty.



**ABOVE:** AUWCL Dean John Myers and Alvina Myers, with shovels, participate in the March 9, 1963, groundbreaking of AUWCL's John Sherman Myers Building. AU President Hurst Anderson, front row, left, is also pictured, among other unnamed individuals. (Eagle photo courtesy of the University Archives).

For decades, Alvina remained an active participant in the school. Kirk Betts '79, chairman of the moot court competition named in her honor, brought her to events. "It was special for us, the students," said Betts, "but also for her, because she could experience her legacy in person."

Over the years, the Myers' generosity never waned. In 1973, Alvina established the John Sherman and Alvina Reckman Myers Foundation for Legal Education with a gift of \$5,000. In 1978, she made a major gift to renovate the law library. Then, in 1987, she pledged \$6.75 million to The John Sherman Myers and Alvina Reckman Myers Law Center, which more than doubled the school's space. It was dedicated in 1996, one year after her death.

"I have heard so many alums talk lovingly of John and Alvina Myers—how they gave opportunities to so many young people and treated them like family," recalled Betts. "They took ownership of the law school and invested in it. They invested in all of us. In turn, we went on to be successful and to be contributors, too."

Today, their legacy lives on through the Myers Law Scholarship, which annually funds up to 125% of one year of tuition for a full-time JD student, and The John Sherman Myers Society, which recognizes AUWCL annual donors who give \$2,500 or more.

“

**It was instilled in us that education is very, very important. Midwin always took that to heart. She would be thrilled that there is a scholarship in her name.”** – MITZIE CHARLES

## **MAKING AN IMPACT: MIDWIN CHARLES (1973–2021)**

**Midwin Charles '99 used her American University Washington College of Law education to make a mark on the world. In response to her sudden death in April 2021, a group of classmates immediately began working to deepen that imprint through an endowed scholarship in her name.**

Charles was perhaps best known as an on-air legal analyst for CNN and MSNBC and a contributor to the U.K. news program, *Good Morning Britain*. That high-profile work came on the heels of a clerkship on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, a coveted social justice fellowship at Harvard Law School, and an associate attorney position with Fried Frank in New York City before Charles launched her own law practice.

A group of Charles' law school friends created the Midwin Charles Endowed Scholarship to honor her legacy and to open the way for talented law students with the same drive and interest in social justice that pushed Charles.

“When we got together to discuss the scholarship, we talked about the things Midwin was committed to—supporting women, especially women of color and women with Caribbean backgrounds, and advancing youth from underprivileged backgrounds,” said Eden Brown Gaines '98, a close friend of Charles who is in private practice.

The scholarship will give preference to law students passionate about civic engagement and strongly connected to Black, African-heritage, and Caribbean communities. Charles was the daughter of Haitian immigrants.

“Midwin was a born achiever. She is a Brooklyn girl who turned herself into an all-star,” said Magda Theodate '97,

a global trade adviser and Charles' law school roommate. “It pained her that young women, African Americans, immigrants, and people from the Caribbean faced so many barriers.

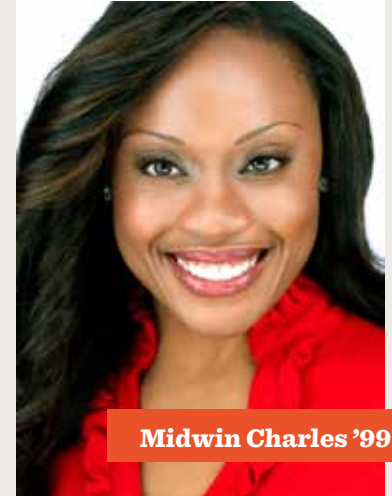
“This scholarship is about creating another generation of lawyers who understand that the law empowers people,” Theodate added.

Charles' engagement with AUWCL ran deep, and she frequently returned to campus to mentor students and to take part in panel discussions and other events. She sat on the Dean's Diversity Council. She was also a regular attendee at the annual Sylvania Woods Conference on African Americans and the Law and was honored with the 2010 Hairston Alumni Award.

Charles' friends—including Elizabeth Carmen '99 and Michael Barbosa '99—said the scholarship will continue the momentum started by their classmate while underscoring the need for greater diversity in the legal profession.

“It was instilled in us that education is very, very important,” said Mitzie Charles, Midwin's sister. “Midwin always took that to heart. She would be thrilled that there is a scholarship in her name.”

Help keep Midwin Charles's memory alive by supporting her legacy through the Midwin Charles Endowed Scholarship Fund at [giving.american.edu/page/29375/donate/1](https://giving.american.edu/page/29375/donate/1).



**Midwin Charles '99**



**FACULTY  
IN THE FIELD**



**American University Washington College of Law faculty are active in their respective fields through scholarly writing and presentations. As renowned experts, members of our faculty are frequently called on for their knowledge and understanding of today's pressing legal and policy issues.**

**Here are some of their recent contributions to their respective fields.**



**Hilary J. Allen** published *Payments Failure*, 62 *Boston College Law Review* 453 (2021).

She presented at the Fourth Conference on Law and Macroeconomics (October 2021), and the Financial Times Webinar (September 2021), and testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services on “Addressing Climate as a Systemic Risk: The Need to Build Resilience within Our Banking and Financial System” in June 2021.



**Jonas Anderson** published *Federal Judge Seeks Patent Cases*, 71 *Duke Law Journal* 101 (2021) (with Paul Gugliuzza).



**Jonathan Baker** joined the *Our Curious Amalgam* podcast (from the ABA Section of Antitrust Law) to

discuss “Have We Been Down This Road Before? What History Can Teach Us About the Current Rethinking of Antitrust,” released in October 2021.



**Priya Baskaran** published *Taking Our Space: Service, Scholarship, and Radical Citation*

*Practice*, 73 *Rutgers Law Review* 101 (2021); and *Thirsty Places*, 2021 *Utah Law Review* (2021).



**Elizabeth Beske** authored an article, *Litigating the Separation of Powers*,

forthcoming in the Alabama Law Review and *Charting a Course Past Spokeo and TransUnion*, forthcoming in George Mason Law Review.



**Susan Carle** published *The Insights, Uses and Ethics of Social Neuroscience in Antidiscrimination*

*Law*, in DNB: Regulating Neuroscience: Translational Legal Challenges, Vol. 4 (Martin Hevia, ed., Elsevier Academic Press, 2021) and *Rethinking Assumptions about the Global Influence of U.S. Legal Education*, in *The Americanization of Legal Education: Critical Histories*, (Susan Bartie & David Sandomierski, eds., NYU Press, 2021).



**Janie Chuang** published two book chapters, *Preventing Human Trafficking, The*

*Role of the IOM and the UN Global Compact on Migration*, and *The UN Global Compact on Migration: Hindrance or Tool for Preventing Trafficking?* in *Modern Slavery: What Works?* (Jessica Pliley & Genevieve LeBaron, eds.) (Yale University Press, 2021). She published Article 6, in *Commentary on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women*, 2d Ed. (Marsha Freeman, Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, Beate Rudolf & Patricia Schulz, eds.), forthcoming from Oxford University Press in 2021.



**Jerry Comizio** is quoted in an October 13, 2021, issue of the *American Banker* in an article titled "Is modernizing the National Bank Act the answer to fintech charter woes?"



**Angela Davis** received the 33rd Annual Charlotte E. Ray Award from the Greater Washington

Area Chapter (GWAC) of the Women Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association. She spoke on a panel entitled "Resistance to Progress: The Role of Race and Gender" at the Vera Institute Conference on "Reimagining Prosecution: Progress and Resistance," and gave the keynote address at the Rutgers University Law Review Symposium on "Prosecutors, Power, and Racial Justice: Building an Anti-Racist Prosecutorial System."



**Robert Dinerstein** published *Cognitive Disabilities, Legal Practice,*

*and Digital Accessibility*, in Chris Law, ed., *The Digital Accessibility Legal Digest* Vols. I & II, 165-183 (Full Court Press) and *#Free Britney: A Lawyer's Responsibility, Voice of Experience*, ABA Senior Lawyers' Division (e-newsletter) in October 2021. He was a panelist on Disability Inclusion in the Legal Profession at the Third Annual Digital Accessibility Legal Summit, American University Washington College of Law (virtual) in October 2021.



**Jeremi Duru** authored an article *It's Not Child's Play: A Regulatory Approach to*

*Reforming American Youth Sports*, forthcoming in the *Virginia Sports & Entertainment Law Journal*. He was recently appointed as Racial and Social Justice Expert Advisor to the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee.



**Walter Effross** published *Tax Consequences of Nonfungible Tokens (NFTs)* (with Goodman,

Pochesci, and Soled), in the *Journal of Accountancy* in June 2021.



**Lia Epperson** published *Are We Still Not Saved? Race, Democracy, and Educational Inequality*, 100

*Oregon Law Review* (2021).



**Roger A. Fairfax Jr.** published a book chapter, *Testing Charges*, in Oxford Handbook on

*Prosecutors and Prosecution* (Ronald W. Wright, Kay L. Levine, Russell M. Gold, eds., Oxford Univ. Press 2021). He published the 2021 Supplement to his *Adjudicatory Criminal Procedure: Cases, Statutes, and Materials* (Foundation Press), and addressed the Maryland Judicial College on the topic of criminal justice reform.



**Christine Farley** was a speaker on the Closing Plenary Session: "The Year-in-Review"

at the Annual Meeting of the American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA) in Washington DC in October 2021.



**Andrew Ferguson** published *Facial Recognition and the Fourth Amendment*, 105

*Minn. L. Rev.* 1105 (2021), and has an article, *Surveillance and the Tyrant Test*, forthcoming in the *Georgetown Law Journal*.



**Susan Franck** published *The Past, Present, and Future of Investment Treaty Conflict*

*Management and Dispute Systems Design*, 17 *University of St. Thomas Law Journal* 345 (2021). She was a panelist on "Legitimacy of Arbitration" at the VIII CAM-CCBC Arbitration Congress 2021: Center for Commercial Arbitration and Mediation in Brazil. She has joined on the Equal Representation in Arbitration Pledge USA Sub-Committee.



**Amanda Frost** published "By Accident of Birth": *The Battle over Birthright Citizenship After*

*United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, 32 *Yale Journal of Law & Humanities* (2021).



**Llezlie Green** has joined the ERC's Program Advisory Committee by The Equal Rights

Center's Board of Directors.



**Claudio Grossman** published *Pandemics and International Law: The Need*

*for Action*, forthcoming in the *American University International Law Review* (2021); *Pandemics and International Law: The Need for International Action*, 24 *Human Rights Brief*, 130 (2021); and "Morning Keynote: A Conversation with the 2020 Goler T. Butcher Medal Honoree, Professor Claudio Grossman," published by Cambridge University Press on behalf of the American Society of International Law (2021).





**Lewis Grossman** published *Choose Your Medicine: Freedom of Therapeutic Choice in America* (Oxford University Press, 2021).



**Rebecca Hamilton** published *Governing the Global Public Square*, 62 Harvard International Law Journal 117 (2021) and has a forthcoming chapter in *New Media Evidence Across International Courts and Tribunals*, in *Beyond Fragmentation: Competition and Collaboration Among International Courts and Tribunals* (Giorgetti & Pollack, eds.). She was interviewed for ASIL's International Law "Behind the Headlines" podcast on the AUKUS deal.



**Heather Hughes** published *The Complex Implications of Fintech for Financial Inclusion*, 84 Law & Contemporary Problems 115 (2021); and *Designing Effective Regulation for Blockchain-Based Markets*, 46 Journal of

Corporation Law 899 (2021). She presented at DC FinTech Week Flash Presentation on Regulation and Blockchains in October 2021.



**David Hunter** presented virtually on a panel hosted by the Mexican Supreme Court on international trends in climate change litigation, one of a series of panels organized around an anthology on environmental law published by the Court in October 2021.



**Cynthia E. Jones** recently published *Constitutional Criminal Procedure*, 6th Edition (Foundation Press (2021) (with Taslitz and Herbert). She also has a forthcoming book, *Criminal Law Concepts and Practice, 5th edition*, (Carolina Academic Press) (with Podgor, Henning, and Garcia).



**Ben Leff** published *Marijuana Taxation: Theory and Practice*, 101 Boston University Law Review 915 (2021).



**Jeffrey Lubbers** published a chapter *Administrative Adjudication: The United States is the Outlier* in the Oxford Handbook of Administrative Justice (2021), and an article *Administrative Enforcement in the United States*, 72 Kwansai Gakuin Journal of Law & Politics 445 (2021). In July 2021, he was reappointed for another term as special counsel for the Administrative Conference of the United States.



**Claudia Martin** (left) and **Susana SaCouto** organized the first series of panels with the Latin American Strategic Litigation Network (known by its Spanish acronym ReLeG) (October 2021).



**Binny Miller** published *George Floyd and Empathy Stories*, in the Clinical Law Review November 2021. She co-facilitated (with Vida Johnson)

an anti-racism scholarship working group at the Clinical Law Review Writers' Workshop (NYU) in October 2021. She was also a plenary speaker at 2021 Applied Legal Storytelling Conference sponsored by Mercer Law School in July 2021.



**Fernanda Nicola** published *It's All About the Pasta: Protectionism, Liberalization, and the Challenge for Quality and Sustainability of Made in Italy*, 14 FIU Law Review 479 (2021) (with Gino Scaccia); *The Italian Model to Fight Covid-19: Regional Cooperation, Regulatory Inflation, and the Cost of One-Size-Fits-All Lockdown Measures*, 73 Administrative Law Review 53 (2021) (with Gino Scaccia); and *Legal Diplomacy in an Age of Authoritarianism*, 27 Columbia Journal of European Law (2021).



**Diane Orentlicher** delivered a keynote address at an inter-regional symposium on The Roles and Responsibilities of Private Sector Actors in Transitional Justice in Africa and Latin America hosted by



the Global Initiative for Justice, Truth and Reconciliation, published in the report of the GIJTR in June 2021.



**Adeen Postar** was appointed as chair of the Resource Development Subcommittee,

ABA Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress; and as chair of the American Association of Law Libraries and State of the Profession Report Committee.



**Ira Robbins** published *Prisoners and the Law* (Thomson/Reuters, six vols., 2021 edition);

*Habeas Corpus Checklists* (Thomson/Reuters, 2021 edition); and lead article *Sham Subpoenas and Prosecutorial Ethics*, 58 *American Criminal Law Review* 1 (2021).



**Jenny Roberts** published *Expanding Compassion Beyond the COVID-19*

*Pandemic* 18 *Ohio State Journal of Criminal Law* 575 (2021) (with Eda Katherine Tinto); *The Shadow*

*Bargainers* 42 *Cardozo Law Review* 1295 (2021) (with Ronald F. Wright and Betina Wilkinson); and *Prosecuting Misdemeanors*, in *Oxford Handbook of Prosecutors and Prosecution* (Ronald W. Wright, Kay L. Levine, Russell M. Gold, eds., 2021).



**Ezra Rosser** published *A Nation Within: Navajo Land and Economic Development*

(Cambridge University Press, 2021). He also published *Shelter, Mobility, and the Voucher Program*, in *Brigham-Kanner Property Rights Journal* (2021).



**Ann Shalleck** published a chapter *How Clients and Lawyers Construct Facts: The Stories*

*They Tell Each Other and the Stories that Guide Investigations into the World*, in *Dignifying and Undignified Narratives in and of (the) Law* (Di Donato, Faralli, Silvestre, Gaakeer & Howe, eds. 2021). She presented "Presentation Principles: Connecting Core Lawyering Skills to a Contemporary Framework in the Digital Age" in April 2021.



**Anita Sinha** has an article, *A Lineage of Family Separation*, forthcoming in the *Brooklyn*

*Law Review*. She was also the recipient of the 2021 AALS M. Shanara Gilbert Award.



**Brenda Smith** was appointed vice chair of the United Church of Christ Building and Loan Fund in

October 2021.



**David Snyder** has an article, *Contractual Substance and Process in a Time of Disruption:*

*A Comparative Consideration of International Transactions During COVID-19*, forthcoming in 84 *Law & Contemporary Problems*; and *Balancing Buyer and Supplier Responsibilities: Model Contract Clauses to Protect Workers in International Supply Chains, Version 2.0*, forthcoming in 77 *Business Lawyer* (with Susan A. Maslow, Sarah Dadush et al.).



**David Spratt** was elected vice chair of the Board of Governors for the Virginia State Bar Section

on Education of Lawyers and presented "Fundamentals of Good Legal Writing," a legal writing training session, to law clerks and staff attorneys at the Virginia Law Clerk Conference in October 2021.



**Brandon Weiss** has an article, *Opportunity Zones, 1031 Exchanges, and Universal Housing*

*Vouchers*, forthcoming in volume 110 of the *California Law Review*.



**Lindsay Wiley** published *The Personal Responsibility Pandemic: Centering*

*Solidarity in Public Health and Employment Law*, 51 *Arizona State Law Journal* 505 (2021). She has an article, *Health Reform Reconstruction*, forthcoming in the *UC Davis Law Review*; and an article *Privatized Public Health Insurance and the Goals of Progressive Health Reform*, also forthcoming in the *UC Davis Law Review*.



## CLASS NOTES

### 1950s

**Milton Cerny BS '56/JD '59** was awarded the Vanguard Award for distinguished lifetime achievement in the nonprofit sector by the American Bar Association Business Law Section. Cerny played a key role in the placement of the Vaclav Havel Bust in the U.S. Capitol Building Statutory Hall.

### 1960s

**Ralph Ruebner '69** retired as law professor and academic dean from University of Illinois Chicago Law School in 2015. He was ordained as a Rabbi in 2016.

### 1970s

**Steve Alderman '72** retired from his law practice and moved to Boynton Beach, Florida.

**George Franklin '72** published his third book entitled *INCENTIVES: The Holy Water of Free Enterprise*, a satirical fiction in the genre of Carl Hiaasen and Christopher Buckley.

**Stuart Hoffman '74** retired and lives in Manhattan.

**Alan Bloom '75** retired after almost 50 years in health law. In those years, Bloom was involved in the formation of the American Health Law Association and in both legal and executive positions in HMOs. He lives in Manhattan Beach, California, with his wife of 37 years, Shelli. Their daughter, Rachel Bloom, star of the TV program “Crazy Ex Girlfriend,” published the book *I Want To Be Where the Normal People Go* in which she discusses her childhood. “Shelli and I do not come out too badly in this memoir. I have lost touch with most of my AUWCL classmates. Feel free to email me at Maxigone@aol.com if you want to catch up.”

**David Smith '77** moved to the Outer Banks in February 2017. His third and final retirement was in September 2016. “Thought I would miss the activity in court. I did...for about 30 seconds. Sitting on the front porch looking at the Albemarle Sound is great.”

**David Cayer '79** is completing 12 years as U.S. magistrate judge for the Western District of North Carolina. He previously served as North Carolina state judge for 16 years.

**JP Marinelli '79** retired from the City of London/Wall Street merchant banking hedge fund business and is splitting time between home in London and summers in New York and South Carolina.

### 1980s

**Jamie Baldwin '81** is an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland Global Campus where he teaches Business Law, Torts, and Contracts online to undergraduate students in business and legal studies. He is also a visiting lecturer on air transport at the University of Westminster, London, England and a visiting lecturer on airline operations at Emirates Aviation University in Dubai, UAE. Baldwin is also an active volunteer in the community, supporting two Ironman events, Ironman Maryland and Ironman 70.3 Eagleman. In the latter, he is also on a relay team, running the half-marathon anchor leg—at 20 years older than the combined ages of his teammates! Baldwin lives on the Eastern Shore of Maryland in Cambridge with his wife Lesley, a professional artist who did a painting for the cover of Professor Andy Popper’s book, *Sunrise at the American Market*.

**Linda Disselkamp '81** retired in 2018 and moved to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. She is vice president of her temple. In 2019, she and her husband became grandparents for the first time; her son Brian and his wife are expecting their second daughter.

**David Eppsteiner '82** retired after 26 years on March 31 from the AT&T legal department as assistant vice president, senior counsel.

**Bruce Plaxen '82**, of the law firm Plaxen Adler Muncy, was elected parliamentarian of the American Association of Justice (“AAJ”), the country’s largest trial bar. Over the coming years, he will matriculate to president. AAJ “promotes justice and fairness for injured persons” and “strengthens the civil justice system through education and disclosure of information critical to public health and safety.” Plaxen has been an active member for over 30 years at AAJ and has held numerous leadership positions.

**Scott K. Levine '84** has joined the firm Moritt Hock & Hamroff as counsel. Levine will continue his practice in the firm’s Creditors’ Rights, Restructuring & Bankruptcy and Secured Lending, Equipment & Transportation Finance practice groups.

### 1990s

**Jodi Cleesattle, SOC '90/WCL '94**, was recently elected first vice president of California Women Lawyers. She is a supervising deputy attorney general for the California Department of Justice, working in the DOJ’s Employment & Administrative Mandate section in the San Diego office. Cleesattle is active in the San Diego legal community, serving on the board of the Tom Homann LGBTQ+ Law Association and previously serving on the boards of the San Diego County Bar Association and Lawyers Club of San Diego, a women’s bar association. She lives in San Diego and has two young adult children.

**Elizabeth Brenner '90** wrote a memoir, *The Longest Match: Rallying to Defeat an Eating Disorder in Midlife*, published by Stillwater River Publications in May 2021. Her message is that it is never too late to be a work in progress. For more information visit her website at [betsybrenner.com](http://betsybrenner.com). Her book is available on Amazon.

**Diane Seltzer Torre '91** has been elected to the DC Bar's Board of Governors. The DC Bar is the largest unified Bar in the United States, with about 100,000 members in all 50 states and in over 80 countries. Previously she served one year as secretary of the DC Bar. In addition to her DC/Maryland-based private employment law practice, Seltzer Torre has served since 2003 as an adjunct professor at AUWCL teaching employment law. She is teaching Human Resources Compliance for the Master of Legal Studies program.

**Alison Ashe-Card '92** was elected to the National Association of Law Placement Board of Directors (April) and to the North Carolina Bar Association Board of Governors (June). She was also recognized by The National Black Lawyers as a Top 100 lawyer and became a fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

**Marianne Merritt Talbot '93** is the new chief marketing and business development officer at the national law firm of Bailey & Glasser LLP.

**John Nadolenco '95** was appointed by Mayer Brown as managing partner of the firm's office in Los Angeles. His civil litigation and trial practice focuses on high-stakes cases and class action defense, including defending consumer class actions, employment and

antitrust cases, and challenging inappropriate government regulations.

**Eric Ascalon '96** was appointed to serve his second two-year term as board chair of The Garden State Film Festival, New Jersey's largest independent film event. Now in its 20th year, The Garden State Film Festival, a 503(c) nonprofit, operates with the mission of promoting quality independent filmmaking at all levels, inspiring the next generation of filmmakers through educational initiatives, and celebrating New Jersey as the birthplace of film. Under Ascalon's leadership, in March 2020, during the initial days of the COVID-19 crisis in the United States, The Garden State Film Festival became the first festival worldwide that rapidly pivoted to an all-remote livestream format in lieu of cancelling.



**Cindy Squires '01** was appointed CEO by the American Composites Manufacturers Association (ACMA). Squires is responsible for leading ACMA's team of professionals while driving industry growth and increasing the value of the organization to its membership, sponsors, industry partners and stakeholders.

**John Thompson M.A./JD '01** was named partner in Akerman LLP's Bankruptcy and Reorganization Practice in Washington, D.C. He joins from the firm McGuireWoods LLP. Thompson focuses his practice on complex Chapter

11 cases and debtor and creditor rights. He handles business reorganizations and cross-border insolvency matters.

**Robin L. Gary '03** is chief of party for the Institute for International Law & Human Rights' (IILHR) Iraq program on strengthening protections for vulnerable groups in Iraq. Funded by a State Department grant, the project supports the Iraqi Council of Representatives in Baghdad as well as the Kurdish Parliament in Erbil.

**Michelle Sara King '03** is intellectual property team lead and senior international trade specialist at the International Trade Administration (ITA) in the U.S. Department of Commerce.

**Jose Merino '04** joined ORGANON, a Merck pharmaceutical subsidiary, to lead market access, public policy and communications for Chile and Bolivia. In his director position, Merino will be responsible for conducting the first women-oriented pharmaceutical company in Chile.

**Olivia Luk Bedi '05** was appointed to the newly created Racial Justice Diversity Committee for the U.S. District Court Northern District of Illinois to independently review any procedures or practices that might be helpful in aiding the court to address racial disparities.

**Leila Chacko '05** was named the the India Center's director of public affairs at the University of Central Florida. An Orlando native and licensed attorney, Chacko brings knowledge and experience to the India Center as she supports the center's mission to broaden the awareness and understanding of contemporary India.

**Jolsna Thomas '05** became the full time president of The Rosendin Foundation in April 2021. The foundation is the charitable arm of Rosendin Holdings (parent of Rosendin Electric, Inc. and Modular Power Solutions).

**Karen Woody '05** was awarded tenure at Washington & Lee University School of Law, where she teaches corporate law and securities regulation.

**Amna Arhad '07** was named 40 under 40 in the *Washington Business Journal*. She is special counsel at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer.

**Jessica Mast Flage '07** transferred her practice to the D.C.-based firm Kiernan Trebach LLP. Her practice is primarily in the defense of health care providers throughout Virginia. She joins Kiernan Trebach as a partner in its soon-to-be opened Virginia Beach, Virginia, office.

**Frank Gerratana '08**, a high technology patent attorney, was named a member in the Mintz's Intellectual Property Division in Boston.

**Sam Ritchie '08** and family Anna, Helen (6) and Davy (4) relocated to Tucson, Arizona, where Ritchie accepted a position as in-house counsel for Mister Car Wash and primarily handles real estate acquisitions and purchases.

**Laura Hoffman '09** will teach at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law as a visiting professor of law for the 2021-22 academic year, after serving as a senior research fellow for the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy at Yale Law School. Additionally, Hoffman will serve as acting director of Cleveland-Marshall's Center for Health Law and Policy.



2010s

**Kevin Barnett '10** recently joined PilieroMazza as counsel in the Government Contracts practice group. He continues to represent companies of all sizes and industries with questions about all aspects of government contracts law.

**Winfield Wilson '11** has been holding things down on the home front with two kids, while working for the Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of Labor, and continuing part-time teaching of graduate students in AU's School of Public Affairs. While his main course is litigating federal health and safety law in the mining industry, he dabbles in the exciting hors d'oeuvres of bankruptcy, appellate, international, and regulatory work. If you want to chew the fat with him, or discuss International Shoe, he can be reached at winfieldwilson@gmail.com.

**Rick Piereck '12** is running for state's attorney in Calvert County, Maryland. The election is in 2022.

**Tanya M. Santillan '13**, an associate in Baker Donelson's Houston office, has been selected to participate in the 2021 Leadership Council on Legal Diversity (LCLD) Pathfinders Program, a program designed by the LCLD to train high-performing, early-career attorneys in critical career development strategies including leadership and the building of professional networks.

**Emily Roberts '13** moved home to Chattanooga, Tennessee, and joined the firm Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell and Berkowitz, PC. She is a member of the Healthcare Litigation practice group, using the skills she learned as a public defender with the New Hampshire Public Defender for seven years to advise hospitals, doctors, long-term care facilities, and other health care providers on litigation matters.

**Talila A. Lewis '14** will be the keynote presenter at the National Lawyers Guild's virtual 2021 #Law4ThePeople Convention in October. Lewis is an abolitionist, community lawyer, educator, and organizer whose work reveals and addresses the inextricable links between ableism, racism, classism, and all forms of systemic oppression and structural inequity.

**Naomi Ahsan '16** has joined Hellsell Fetterman, a Seattle-based firm serving businesses, organizations, and individuals. Ahsan is part of the firm's Health Care and Commercial Litigation groups.

**Kossi Siwotso '16** has been leading a small law firm, Impact

Legal Group, PLLC, in Virginia since March 2020 as managing partner.

**Chanel Chasanov '18** has been an appellate litigation attorney at Bergmann and Moore, LLC in Bethesda, Maryland, since completing her clerkship at the Montgomery County Circuit Court. She represents clients on civil issues in federal court.

**Jacob Spegal '18** began a clerkship with The Honorable Judge Rigsby, associate judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, on July 6. The judge's calendar is Civil 2. "It has been nothing short of wild so far, and I am loving every second of the ride."

**Nicholas White '18** has joined the firm Gayheart & Willis PC in Culpeper, Virginia, where he will be practicing criminal, family, and wills/estate law.

**Lauren M. Allen '19** joined the firm Shutts & Bowen, LLP in Miami, Florida. Allen is an associate attorney in the Class Action and Mass Litigation Department where she focuses her practice on insurance defense.

**Lauren Mattioni '19** and **John Gerardi '18** were married March 6 in a small ceremony in Lauren's hometown of Paradise Valley, Arizona. They met at AUWCL.

2020s

**Margaret "Maggie" Strouse '20** is a media and entertainment associate at Ballard Spahr LLP.

**Eric Sell '21** is a judicial law clerk at the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

## IN MEMORIAM

Edward S. Hume '84 died peacefully at his home on April 9, 2021. Hume held an undergraduate degree in biology (1971) and a medical degree (1975) from Washington University. He completed his residency in psychiatry at Washington University in 1978. Hume then joined the U.S. Army where he held several positions in the department of psychiatry at Ft. Leonard Wood-Missouri before traveling east and spending seven years working in the forensic division of St. Elizabeth's Hospital while completing his JD at AUWCL. Hume later worked as the clinical director for Psychiatric Services at the former Community-General Hospital in Syracuse, New York. In 2001, he relocated his family to the Princeton, New Jersey, area where he worked as a jail psychiatrist—his favorite clinical practice. That work led to his writing *Jailhouse Shrink: A How-To Manual on Practicing Psychiatry in Jails*. (4th edition Kindle Direct Publishing 2019.)

“  
**I was always proud to call myself a colleague of Egon Guttman. I will always be even prouder to have been able to call Egon Guttman my friend.”**

PROFESSOR WALTER A. EFFROS



**P**rofessor Egon Guttman, a Levitt Memorial Trust Scholar Emeritus known for his expertise in corporate and commercial law, died Aug. 13, 2021 at age 94.

Born in Germany in 1927, Dr. Guttman and his brother and sister were raised in Berlin. Dr. Guttman survived the Holocaust and earned a bachelor’s degree in laws (1950) and a master’s degree (1952) at University of London. He immigrated to the United States in 1958 and did post-graduate work at Northwestern University School of Law (1959). Dr. Guttman became a naturalized citizen in 1968.

In 1997 the Shoah Foundation Institute interviewed Dr. Guttman as a Holocaust survivor. The interview is now part of the U.S. Holocaust Museum collection.

Dr. Guttman began publishing in 1952 with “The Comparative Conflict of Laws, with Reference to the Legitimacy and Legitimation of Children” (University of London Press). He is well known as the author of *Modern Securities Transfers* (4th edition, West Group, 2010). His analysis and commentary was published several times by the American Bar Association and Central and East European Law Initiative Institute.

“From the day I met Egon Guttman, I admired his knowledge, his humor, and his kindness,” wrote Professor Walter A. Effros, who specializes in corporate and internet/computer law. “I could always rely on Egon’s insights, advice, and perspective—about teaching, writing, the law and legal practice, religion, history, literature, or something in the day’s news.

“He had plenty of what in Yiddish is called ‘sechel’ (loosely translated, practical wisdom) and even more ‘rachmonos’ (compassion),” said Dr. Effros. “Beyond his mastery of business (and particularly securities) law, Egon was committed to the protection of consumers, investors, and debtors.

“I was always proud to call myself a colleague of Egon Guttman,” he said. “I will always be even prouder to have been able to call Egon Guttman my friend.”





Throughout 2020, we all received messages about resilience in the face of uncertainty. But, the truth is that uncertainty and change are the only reliable things we face in our futures. **The greater challenge is making change with purpose.** As we embark upon 2021, American University Washington College of Law is moving forward with a resolve and commitment to a better future that will make strategic and purposeful change inevitable.

**The pinnacle of a strong community is shared responsibility.** As a part of the AUWCL community we are all responsible for the successes and failures of our institution. Each of us individually—and perhaps unwittingly—has a role in writing the story of AUWCL’s present and future. **Your engagement matters.**

In the coming weeks and months, we will be inviting you to hear more about the dean’s vision for AUWCL. An ambitious plan that addresses areas of improvement while also embracing and capitalizing upon our strengths, the betterment of AUWCL will take the participation of all of us if we are to succeed. In order to rise we must have a commitment to transforming the student experience, driving global impact through faculty research and teaching, and bettering the communities in which we live.

There are ways in which you can join us on this journey:

**Engage**—stay involved and participate in AUWCL’s happenings by following us online, and take advantage of the myriad number of alumni resources we offer. From annual class **reunions**, alumni networking events, mentorship opportunities, and webinars dedicated to the betterment of your careers and professional development—we are committed to supporting you beyond graduation and nurturing your connections.



**Support**—mentor AUWCL students on bar passage or help them as they look for job placement, and connect with your fellow AUWCL alumni through hiring and recruitment. Remember: AUWCL alumni are comprised of 20,000 individuals all over the globe and who serve in a variety of practice areas and sectors. Our network runs deep and continues to foster new opportunities in the careers of both students and alumni alike.

**Pay it Forward—Champion What Matters** to you at AUWCL by finding an area you feel passionate about and supporting it with a contribution. Whether you’re inspired to support students through scholarships, provide resources to our faculty through research funding, or make innovative programming possible through financial support—the impact of your gift is truly meaningful.

Let’s make change with purpose together—because *change can’t wait*.

Yours in community,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Herr". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

**LAURA HERR '03**

**ASSOCIATE DEAN, DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS**



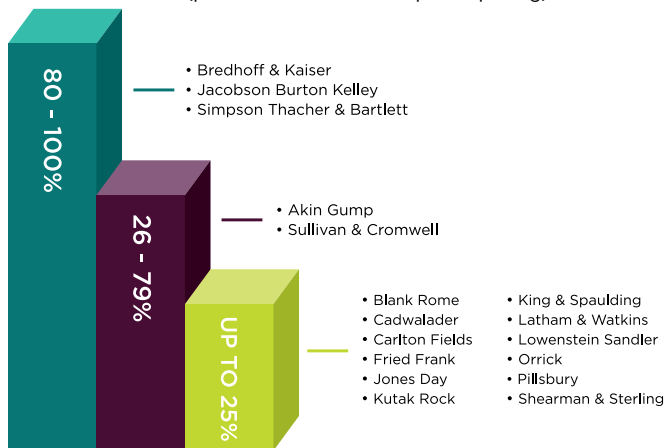
# CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL LAW FIRM CHALLENGE

**YOU TOOK THE CHALLENGE!** AUWCL's annual Law Firm Challenge provides our law-firm alumni the opportunity to showcase their support for AUWCL student and faculty scholarship while also positively affecting AUWCL's national rankings. A friendly competition that takes place between October and November, this year's Challenge built the success of last year's inaugural event, which welcomed participation from more than 17 law firms.

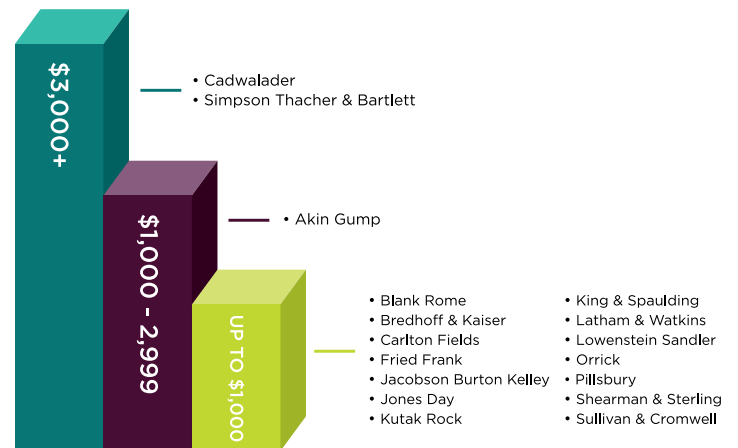
Showcase yourself and your firm! All firms and alumni participants will be prominently featured on our website and celebrated at our annual Legends & Leaders alumni event.

Be on the lookout for more information about this year's leaders in our spring edition of *The Advocate*. Contact Matthew Pascocello, director of alumni professional development and engagement, at (202) 274-4092 with questions.

**2020 FIRM PARTICIPATION**  
(percent of firm alumni participating)



**2020 TOTAL FIRM GIVING**



## Alumni REUNION WEEKEND

SEPT. 24-25, 2021

On September 24-25, 2021 we welcomed all classes ending in (1) and (6) to celebrate a virtual reunion. Over the course of two days, we presented our alumni with 12 events featuring more than two dozen special guests. Events were comprised of leadership presentations, guest appearances, CLEs and substantive panels on a variety of cutting edge topics. Congratulations to our reunion classes—we thank you for coming back to celebrate with us in virtual style. To stay current on WCL happenings, please visit: [wcl.american.edu/community/alumni/events](http://wcl.american.edu/community/alumni/events)





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AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON  
COLLEGE OF LAW

# Alumni REUNION WEEKEND

JUNE 2022  
For Classes Ending in 2, 7

Save the date for June 2022. Get ready for a weekend celebration featuring a keynote speaker, special class events, intellectual programs (and including CLEs) with AUWCL faculty and alumni, and networking opportunities.

Visit [wcl.american.edu/community/alumni/events/](http://wcl.american.edu/community/alumni/events/) for updates. For more information call Laurie Brogdon, director of alumni relations and annual giving, at (202) 274-4340.