

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW MAGAZINE | northeastern.edu/law

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Summer 2017

Dovie King '99 escaped an abusive relationship. Now she's helping others do the same. ►

Photograph by Frank Rogozienski

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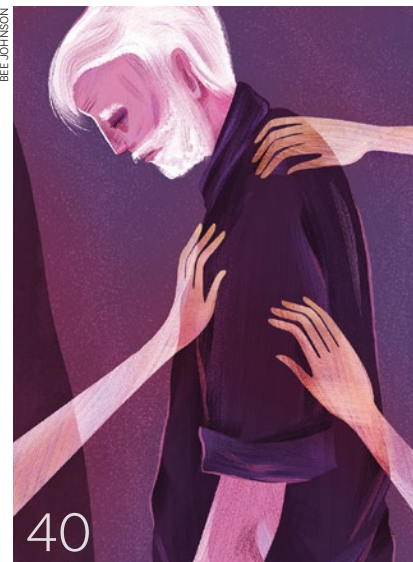
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A Bright Future

OUR LAW SCHOOL has enjoyed a banner academic year both for external recognition and programmatic improvements. *The National Jurist* once again ranked us first in the nation for practical legal training, and we remain a beacon for our ability to attract a highly qualified, wonderfully diverse student body.

On the academic front, we are building three powerful research centers:

- Health Policy and Law
- Law, Innovation and Creativity
- Public Interest Advocacy and Collaboration

These centers tie us to growing sectors of the new economy and to research strengths around campus. They enabled us recently to recruit leading faculty and staff experts on cyber privacy, energy law and health policy as well as to host world-class conferences on topics such as infectious diseases and the internet of things.

Our robust clinical offerings now include community business, public health litigation and intellectual property. An immigration law clinic will launch this winter. Our NuLawLab is blazing trails, using technology to help litigants navigate court systems. And perhaps most significantly, we have revamped our first-year skills program to include faculty supervision of hands-on, team-based work for client organizations. Six stellar new faculty members, led by Professor Margaret Hahn-Dupont, will anchor this new program. We also continue to bring legal education to new audiences, including a coming master's degree in media advocacy in partnership with the College of Arts, Media and Design, and a certificate program in health care compliance with the D'Amore-McKim School of Business.

All this progress draws meaning from our proud tradition of seeing law as a way to make a difference. It was particularly inspiring to

have Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards celebrate our mission at this year's commencement.

We close the academic year with thanks to two extraordinary educators, Mary O'Connell '75 and Melinda Drew '87, who retired in June (see page 28). Thanks also to Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Dan Danielsen, who has been an inspired leader these past three years, and to Associate Dean for Interdisciplinary Education



"... robust clinical offerings now include community business, public health litigation and intellectual property."

and Research Wendy Parmet, who astutely guided so many new programs to fruition. Dan and Wendy have now returned to full-time teaching and research. Thanks also to Associate Dean for Development and Alumni/ae Affairs Stacy Velarde, who led our fundraising efforts to approximately \$5 million this year, which will, of course, be used to ensure our students receive the best legal education with the least amount of debt possible.

Above all, thanks to each of you. With your support, I am proud to say that Northeastern University School of Law has never had a brighter future.

Jeremy Paul
Dean and Professor of Law

➔ **Letters** Comments? Kudos? A point you want to make (or three)?

Send letters to *Northeastern Law* magazine, 416 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02115, or email to lawcommunications@northeastern.edu.

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News Briefs

→ For commencement photos, see page 39

Commencement 2017

Each School of Law commencement is special in its own way. The class of 2017's May ceremony included this first: all of the selected speakers — students, faculty and keynote — were women and, with the exception of keynote speaker Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood, all of the women who spoke were people of color.

“Talk about right place, right time. This country has never needed smart, creative lawyers more than we do right now. So welcome to the resistance, my friends.”

— Cecile Richards, President,
Planned Parenthood Federation of America

Photograph by Adam Glanzman

Law School Launches Three Centers of Excellence

Building on its strengths in health law, public interest law and intellectual property, the School of Law recently launched three centers that will take the lead in developing new programs and research. “As the world embraces the knowledge economy, our law school must reimagine its offerings to prepare students for fields that will dominate the profession in the 21st century,” said Dean Jeremy Paul. “We have chosen to build these centers for their undeniable impact on people’s lives and because they align with strengths across our thriving research university. We also have gifted faculty leaders ready to build world-class programs.”

Center for Health Policy and Law

This spring, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the law school #14 nationally for health law. In large measure, this may be attributed to the productivity of a stellar group of faculty who specialize in various aspects of health law and policy. The law school has also launched two dual JD/MPH programs as well as health law concentrations in the JD, LLM and MLS programs. This new center — which builds on the previous Program on Health Policy and Law — is creating synergies among the school’s curricular offerings as well as its Public Health Advocacy Institute, Domestic Violence Clinic and Public Health Legal Clinic. The center is busy hosting a wide range of lectures and discussions, including a recent national conference, “Between Complacency

and Panic: Legal, Ethical and Policy Responses to Emerging Infectious Diseases,” which was co-sponsored by the American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics. In the coming years, under the guidance of Professor Wendy Parmet, the center’s founding director, Northeastern will host the largest annual conference of health law professors, attract new faculty and deliver white papers aimed at using law to promote public health. The center recently welcomed a managing director, a research director who is a renowned physician and long-time editor at *The New England Journal of Medicine*, and a fellow who will work on issues arising from potential repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

Center for Law, Innovation and Creativity (CLIC)

The Center for Law, Innovation and Creativity (CLIC) begins with the idea that a mission-driven law school must design and embrace laws that promote sustainable economic growth. Raising the standard of living for those at the bottom of the economic ladder in ways that are environmentally sound is a crucial task for law in the 21st century. That mission depends on sparking innovation. So, in recent years the law school has been gathering teachers and scholars with expertise in intellectual property, law and technology, and other fields necessary for an innovation economy. Two faculty members who arrived in 2015, Andrea Matwyshyn and Jessica Silbey,

are co-directing CLIC, which includes an IP concentration for JD and LLM students, the IP CO-LAB, the Community Business Clinic and a robust array of related courses. CLIC is already attracting top practitioners and scholars to campus through conferences, such as this spring’s “Connected Futures: Next Generation Questions for a Just World.” As Matwyshyn often quips, “The future is only a CLIC away.”

Center for Public Interest Advocacy and Collaboration

With Professor Lucy Williams at the helm, this center will infuse an understanding of the public interest into all aspects of the law school experience. Already, the center has launched a Pro Bono Collaboration, which provides law students with volunteer opportunities to help defeat many of the recent federal executive orders and proposed changes in federal law intent on cutting back individual rights and freedoms. Students are providing pro bono legal research and assistance to organizations such as the ACLU’s Political Asylum Immigration Representation Project, Greater Boston Legal Services, GLAD, the National Lawyers Guild and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice. Planning is also underway for the law school’s 50th anniversary celebration, which will include conversations and events aimed at reimagining the nature of public interest law in the 21st century.

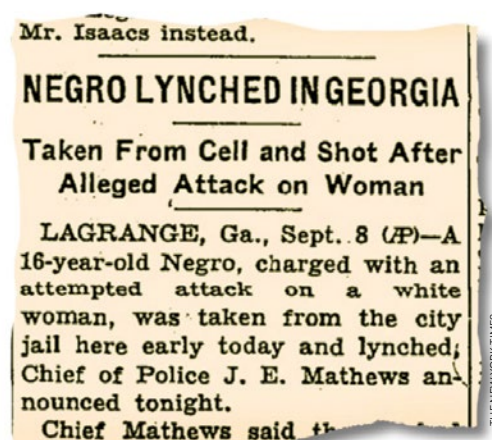
Student Research Results in Police Apology, *New York Times* Article

As a student working with the law school’s Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Clinic (CRRJ), Jason McGraw ’15 wrote a paper unearthing the facts of a 1940 mob killing in rural Georgia. McGraw’s paper ultimately led to a rare apology for a Southern lynching issued in January by the police chief of LaGrange, Georgia, to the family of the victim, Austin Callaway. A *New York Times* article about McGraw’s investigation of the case and the deliberate obscuring of the facts by a local newspaper, noted that the apology was “part of a renewed push across the American South to acknowledge the brutal mob violence that was used to enforce the system of racial segregation after Reconstruction.”

“Jason’s work opened the door to restorative justice in Troup County. Now, other Georgia counties are examining these cold cases based on CRRJ’s investigations,” said Professor Margaret Burnham, founder and director of CRRJ, which enlists law students in researching, investigating and writing about racial violence in the South between 1930 and 1970.

The *Times* article noted that Deborah Tatum, a descendant of Callaway, embraced the restorative justice approach: “I... ask God for forgiveness for the people that did this inhumane thing to you.”

A Sept. 9, 1940, article about the lynching



USPTO Certifies Students to Register Trademarks

Students in the law school's IP CO-LAB — its intellectual property clinic — will soon have the extraordinary opportunity to file federal trademark registration applications with the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Northeastern is one of a select group of law schools nationwide — and the only one in the Greater Boston area — granted this privilege through the USPTO Law School Clinic Certification Program.

"This is a tremendous honor and opportunity," said Professor Mary Landergan, who supervises the IP CO-LAB. "We do a lot of work with student entrepreneurs at Northeastern, but previously they had to look outside for counsel for trademark registration, which can be expensive. This certification will also allow us to expand our work beyond the campus to provide pro bono registration assistance to innovators and entrepreneurs across Massachusetts."

As a result of the certification, law students will gain experience drafting trademark applications for their clients. With this special authorization to practice before the USPTO — prior to becoming members of the bar — they gain experience answering

office actions and communicating with trademark attorneys for the applications they have filed.

The IP CO-LAB, led by students at the School of Law and faculty from the law school and the D'Amore-McKim School of Business, provides a range of crucial IP-related legal information and services to inventors and ventures in Northeastern's entrepreneurial ecosystem. It collaborates with the university's Center for Research Innovation, student-run venture accelerator (IDEA) and the Center for Entrepreneurial Education. Its goal is to enhance the campus innovation environment and provide opportunities for all members of the Northeastern community — with a special focus on law students supporting design, engineering and business students — to better understand and use intellectual property. Students provide research, analysis and reports to inventors free of cost.

To reach beyond the campus, the IP CO-LAB will partner with Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts and the Conservation Law Foundation's Legal Food Hub to obtain pro bono referrals.

Strength in Numbers

the National Jurist

#1 for Practical Training

U.S. News & World Report

#65

— up 17 spots over last year and 28 spots over the last three years

Davis and Eshghi Appointed to Leadership Roles

Professor Martha Davis has been appointed associate dean for experiential education. Founder and faculty director of the law school's NuLawLab, Davis is a recognized leader in developing innovative programs with real-world impact. In her new role, she is working closely with the Center for Co-op and Professional Advancement and the faculty to ensure that the co-op program continues to evolve to meet the needs of students and developments in the legal profession. She will also serve as an external champion for the law school's national and international leadership in experiential legal education.

"Our signature co-op program remains the best way for students to learn from experience, develop capacity for self-reflection and grasp the ethical demands of being a lawyer. Other law schools have been following our example, and Associate Dean Davis will assume responsibility for expanding our



Martha Davis



Nima Eshghi '96

leadership by ensuring that we continue to innovate and adapt to new and changing circumstances," said Dean Jeremy Paul.

Nima Eshghi '96 joined the law school administration in July as assistant dean for co-op and professional advancement. She previously served as an attorney advisor in the Bernard Koteen Office of Public Interest Advising at Harvard Law School and as a staff attorney and clinical instructor in the WilmerHale Legal Services Center at Harvard,

where she handled a large caseload of families living with HIV/AIDS.

"We are proud to have attracted such a stellar professional to lead our Center for Co-op and Professional Advancement. Her varied experiences as a graduate of the law school, lawyer and advisor will give her a leg up in guiding our students through the broad array of opportunities that are available to today's law graduates," said Paul.

Eshghi is a graduate of Smith College and holds a master's in political science from the University of Washington. Outside the law, she serves as chair of the board of trustees of the Shady Hill School in Cambridge and co-chair of the annual fund for Concord Academy. She is also a member of the nominating committee for Smith College's Alumnae Association board. Eshghi previously served on the boards of GLAD and of the Boston Women's Fund.

Hear a Lecture, There a Lecture

Spring 2017 Lectures and Conferences

Office of Alumni/ae Relations

Women in the Law: Anything is Possible

(5.19.17) The ninth annual Women in the Law conference brought more than 240 women graduates and friends to the law school for panels and discussions on topics such as “Women, Leadership and Law: Different Game, Different Rules” and “Unlocking the Mysteries of the ‘New Girl’ Network.”



Women in the Law included a special pre-conference event, “Going Global: Exploring Careers in International Law,” on May 18. Speakers included (from left) Professor Sonia Rolland; Enoch Ebong, acting director of the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA); Lisa Roberts ’86, senior trial attorney in the US Department of Justice’s Office of International Affairs; and Sarah Peck ’96, first secretary for political affairs in the US Embassy in Paris. Lee Zak ’82 (far right), former director of the USTDA, moderated.



Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey ’98 delivered the keynote address, urging women to run for office. Healey, who has emerged as one of the nation’s leading attorneys general in resisting the Trump administration’s policies, was recently featured in *Vanity Fair* in an article titled “The Threat Trump Never Saw Coming.”

Daynard Distinguished Visiting Fellows Program

How to Serve the Public Interest and Make a Real Difference While Making a Living in Private Practice: From Guantanamo to the Supreme Court



(1.30-2.1.17) Nancy Hollander (left), who currently represents two prisoners at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base and was lead appellate counsel for Chelsea Manning in the military appellate courts, came to the law school for three days this winter as a Daynard Distinguished Visiting Fellow. Hollander is an internationally recognized criminal defense lawyer with Freedman Boyd Hollander Goldberg Urias & Ward, based in New Mexico. Her practice is largely devoted to representing individuals and organizations accused of crimes, including those involving national security issues. “Never feel bound by precedent. It’s just a place to start. You’ve got to keep arguing,” Hollander extolled during a lecture open to the community.



Hollander’s visit included a roundtable discussion, “Why We Need a Free Society and a Free Press to Protect Whistleblowers.” Panelists included (from left) the Honorable Nancy Gertner, senior lecturer on law at Harvard Law School (retired from the US District Court for the District of Massachusetts), and Evan Greer, founder and co-director of Fight for the Future. Professor Daniel Medwed (standing) moderated the discussion.

Northeastern University Law Review

Social Innovation and the Law: Crafting Creative Solutions to Complex Problems

(3.24.17) The *Northeastern University Law Review* (formerly the *Northeastern University Law Journal*) dived into the role lawyers can play in promoting social change with a dynamic, daylong symposium. Congressman Joseph Kennedy III was slated to deliver the keynote address in person, but instead his speech was streamed to the Boston event as he needed to stay in Washington, DC, to vote against the repeal of the Affordable Care Act.



A conversation about “Financing Social Innovation” included (from left) Kevin Saunders, general counsel of Accion International; Mark Bernfeld, angel investor, entrepreneur and, most recently, co-founder of MentorWorks; and Navjeet Bal ’89, vice president and general counsel of Social Finance, a nonprofit dedicated to mobilizing capital to drive social progress.



Dan Jackson ’97 (right), executive director of the law school’s NuLawLab, moderated a panel about “Social Innovation in the Public Sector,” with two City of Boston staff members: Max Stearns, program director for the Mayor’s Housing Innovation Lab, and Susan Nguyen, chief of staff in the Mayor’s Office of New Urban Mechanics.

Center for Law, Creativity and Innovation (CLIC) and the New England Chapter of the Copyright Society of the United States

Mind The Gap: IP Protection for Software After *Alice Corp. v. CLS Bank International*

(4.13.17) This panel discussion focused on the challenges facing software developers, both small and large, after *Alice Corp. v. CLS Bank International*, a 2014 Supreme Court decision about patentable subject matter. Panelists addressed the current state of patent protection for software and where it is headed as well as ways to leverage copyright, trade secrets and licensing restrictions to protect software.

Office of the Dean

The Syntax of Justice: Law, Language, Access and Exclusion



{ 3.30-31.17 } This conference focused on how linguistic misunderstandings can lead to exclusion and injustice, and how linguistic research can offer insight into productive legal reforms. The Honorable Richard Posner of the US Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit delivered the keynote address via live video link. The conference was co-sponsored by Northeastern University's Humanities Center, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion and Department of English, as well as the Flaschner Judicial Institute.

The Honorable Gabrielle Wolohojian (top, right), associate justice of the Massachusetts Appeals Court, and Professor Barbara Pearson, a linguistics expert at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, were among the panelists who discussed, "Whose Justice? The Injustice of Legal Writing."



MICHAEL MANNING (2)

Center for Health Policy and Law

Between Complacency and Panic: Legal, Ethical and Policy Responses to Emerging Infectious Diseases

{ 4.14.17 } Emerging infectious diseases such as Ebola and the Zika virus pose potentially grave threats to human health. They can also incite overreactions that lead to the scape-goating of vulnerable populations and counter-productive public health responses, such as those that occurred during the 2014 Ebola outbreak. This one-day conference brought together leading policy-makers, practitioners and academics to explore the dangers of such diseases and to examine the development of effective, evidence-based, legally sound and ethically appropriate policy responses.



Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the US National Institutes of Health, delivered the keynote address, "From AIDS to Zika: The Perpetual Challenge of Emerging Infectious Diseases."

MICHAEL MANNING

Center for Law, Innovation and Creativity (CLIC)

Connected Futures: Next Generation Questions for a Just World

{ 5.1.17 } The everyday needs of future human existence will be shaped by the invention, distribution and commercialization of new forms of machines, buildings, labor opportunities and energy. This conference convened experts at the intersection of law, business, technology and creative design to discuss such topics as "The Internet of Future Bodies," "Ubiquity of the Copy: Impact of IP on Architecture and Urban Life" and "Renewable Energy, Resilience and Innovation."



Sarah Jeong, a lawyer and contributing editor at *Vice Motherboard*, delivered the keynote address. She is the author of *The Internet of Garbage* and has written for *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *The Verge*, *Forbes*, *The Guardian*, *Slate* and *WIRED*, among other publications. In 2017, she was named one of *Forbes'* "30 Under 30: Media."



A panel on "The Gig Economy: Algorithms and the Communities We Create" included (from left) Sushil Jacob, associate at the Tuttle Law Group; Veena Dubal, associate professor of law at UC Hastings College of the Law; Jason Jackson, a Future Faculty Fellow at Northeastern University; and Christo Wilson, an assistant professor of computer science at Northeastern University.

MICHAEL MANNING (2)

How To Get It Done

Where Legal Power Meets People Power

{ 4.22.17 } How To Get It Done, a new student group, organized a one-day conference, "How To Get It Done: Where Legal Power Meets People Power," designed to connect law students, activists and members of the Boston community to share knowledge, strategize together and develop the skills needed to take action in defense of democracy and the rule of law.

Office of Alumni/ae Relations

Solo and Small Firm Symposium

{ 4.28.17 } Going solo has its attractions: being your own boss, making your own hours, choosing your own clients. It also has its challenges. These were the subject of this one-day symposium for those who are already solo practitioners or aspire to hang their own shingles.

Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ)

Resurrecting Their Stories: A Community-based Oral History Project

{ 6.9-10.17 } This co-sponsored conference at Tuskegee University brought CRRJ together with leading voices in the quest to explore, record and remedy racial violence in the South between 1930 and 1970. As part of the conference (and an ongoing project), organizers interviewed local residents who shared stories, letters, photographs and newspaper clippings documenting racial violence.

Co-op Matters

Eye of the Storm

People talk about “before” and “after” the inauguration of President Donald Trump. But few had Kyleen Burke’s front-row seat. On co-op this winter with the Council on American Islamic Relations in California’s capital, Burke witnessed

firsthand the impact of the January 27 travel ban, which restricted travel from seven Muslim-majority countries.

“We heard from people whose spouses were trapped abroad,” Burke says. “We heard from others here in the United States who had bought tickets

to go visit their families or perform religious pilgrimages. ‘Should we cancel our plans?’ they asked. We told them, ‘If at all possible, yes.’”

Prior to the executive order, Burke had been working on employment discrimination cases and doing legal research on Fourth Amendment relief for people subjected to intensive secondary screenings at airports. After January 27, she was pulled into crisis-management mode, along with the rest of the staff.

As a white, US citizen, raised in a Christian context, Burke says she found the co-op “humbling.” “We would do information sessions at mosques and people would come up to us afterward, telling us how their children had been bullied at school or that the FBI had shown up at their house to question them just because they’re Muslim.”

What surprised her most? “CARRP, the Controlled Application Review and Resolution Program,” she says. This secretive program, enacted in 2008, gives extra scrutiny to citizenship or green card applications from people who are Arab, Muslim or South Asian. “Your application can be stalled or denied, and you’ll never know why because there is no public access to CARRP records. It’s just one more example of how this country treats Muslims poorly.”

— Maura King Scully

VITALS

Kyleen Burke '18

Co-op at the Council on American Islamic Relations

Sacramento, California



VITALS

Anthony Alexander '17
Co-op at Southern
Environmental Law
Center
Chapel Hill,
North Carolina

“At the Southern Environmental Law Center, I shadowed two staff lobbyists at the North Carolina State Legislative Building and attended town hall meetings with an attorney who specializes in sustainability and transportation. These experiences gave me a deeper understanding of the role environmental attorneys play at the local government level.”

“The most rewarding aspect of my co-op was gaining exposure to many legal fields, several of which I had not considered before working at Reebok. As an intern for a large corporation, I was tasked with working on an employment issue one day, and the next I was reviewing distribution agreements.”



VITALS

Kara Grogan '18
Co-op at Reebok
Canton,
Massachusetts

Redrawing the Rules

When design thinking
meets the rule of law, the
results could be a better
way forward for everyone.



By Jeri Zeder

What is the rule of law?

☞ Is it a system upheld by a judiciary whose reasoned decisions are based in justice, in precedent and on shared democratic values?

☞ Is it a system in which decisionmakers, rather than make things up on the spot, refer to pre-existing rules that are applicable to everyone?

☞ Is it people too poor to afford a lawyer being empowered to effectively contest an eviction notice? Is it a business that seeks to maximize not just profit, but also social and environmental value? Is it a system that makes economic mobility possible for everyone, so that people are less likely to cheat and more willing to play by the rules?



ACLU regional director
William Newman '75

Tipping Point

It's telling that, whether you ask a law school dean or a veteran civil rights and civil liberties attorney to define the rule of law, their first response is to draw a deep breath. It's a big topic. But what Dean Jeremy Paul and William Newman '75, long-time director of the Western Regional Law Office of the ACLU of Massachusetts, have in common is that they believe when it comes to the rule of law, this is a precarious moment.

"The authoritarianism of the executive branch today, combined with the legislature's acquiescence and perhaps most importantly the impending imprimatur of the judiciary, poses an existential threat to the rule of law as I've conceived of it and relied on during the decades I've been practicing," says Newman, who hosts a weekday radio talk show on WHMP and its affiliated stations in Massachusetts' Pioneer Valley, writes a regular column for the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* and creates — and is the voice of — the Civil Liberties Minute, podcasts in which he highlights threats to civil liberties.

"It is very difficult for the rule of law to survive when it feels like the two political parties are not cooperating to govern the country," Paul says. "It is as if people are rooting for the Democrats and Republicans like they are the Yankees and the Red Sox: 'I don't owe you any fidelity to the rule of law because you are not on my side.'"

If the rule of law is in peril, what, if anything, can legal education in general, and the School of Law in particular, do about it?

Northeastern's long-standing mission is to develop lawyers with the capacity not only to represent their clients, but also to serve the public interest and promote social justice. Certainly, that mission is timeless. But how does it manifest now? Today, we see the law failing to keep up with the negative side effects of technological innovation (for example: online child sex trafficking or revenge porn). We see economic inequality depriving more and more people of legal protection and relief. Systemic problems like these can contribute to a breakdown in trust. They provide openings for ideologues to polarize the American people. And distrust and polarization corrode the rule of law.

Legal Problem Solving

Paul believes that the traditional law school curriculum isn't up to the task. "In general, the overwhelming emphasis in law schools is on how to represent one side in a dispute," he says. "But the greatest contribution of the United States in the history of civilization was not people who figured out how to fight lawsuits. It was people who crafted a whole new legal system when they wrote the Constitution. And what was that? It was design work."

In other words, the Founders identified a problem — How are we going to govern ourselves? — and they designed a system to solve it. What if, like the Constitution, ideas that are supportive of the rule of law are designed into social entities, like teams, businesses, institutions and organizations — and law students learn how to do that?

“It is very difficult for the rule of law to survive when it feels like the two political parties are not cooperating to govern the country.”

— Dean Jeremy Paul

“I am suggesting,” Paul says, “that, inside of organizations, lawyers are not only to be thought of as people who are going to fend off the heavy-handed intervention of the state by defending against lawsuits and bringing lawsuits when necessary, but as people who know how to design the internal structure of the organization in a way that will support the kind of values that we all cherish as people who believe in fairness and justice.”

One approach Northeastern is taking to bring law students closer to this ideal is to make legal education more interdisciplinary. “If your goal is to design things better and to reach better outcomes in the first place, and not just to litigate, you become more effective if you are able to work competently and collaboratively with people from other backgrounds, and if others recognize that law interacts with different fields,” says Professor Wendy Parmet, who spearheaded a number of innovative programs across disciplines as associate dean for interdisciplinary education and research support. If we want to strengthen the rule of law, Parmet explains, then we need students to think beyond their own careers; they need to think of themselves as professionals who have a role to play in protecting society. That’s one of the reasons the school has launched a number of degree programs that seek to extend the school’s interdisciplinary philosophy. For example, the LLM program focuses both on unlocking the mysteries of the US legal system for international attorneys and allowing US lawyers to gain expertise in interdisciplinary fields such as health policy and law, intellectual property and innovation, law and economic development, business administration and sustainable international development.

For non-lawyers, the school recently rolled out two options: The master of legal studies program trains professionals who are in businesses and nonprofit organizations that face an increasingly complex regulatory and legal environment, with concentrations in health law, business law, human resources and intellectual property. For those not ready to commit to a full master’s program, the school offers graduate certificates in health law and human resources law that allow individuals to diversify their skill sets while also enhancing their knowledge in specialized areas. “I think it is important for the profession to seek common ground and ally with other professions,” says Parmet.

Expanding the Conversation

Paul is also preparing a rule of law project that will include an ongoing series of conversations, research initiatives and concrete actions designed to help reaffirm the nation’s commitments to



Dean Jeremy Paul

diversity, democracy and the rule of law. “Well beyond the partisan winds swirling now throughout the law, bold action is needed to renew our legal and political institutions in ways applicable to the 21st century,” he says. In January, he and Parmet spearheaded a session, “Why the Decline of Law and Legal Education Matter (and What Can We Do About It?),” at the annual meeting of the Association of American Law Schools. Law faculty from across the nation attended this candid discussion that exposed the growing cultural clash between legal values and the contemporary emphasis on speed and flexibility. Moving forward, he plans to invite leaders of the judiciary, government, business, nonprofits, journalism, the legal profession and, of course, legal education to join in a wide range of related conversations.

Paul also points to the critical need to elevate students’ ability to bring design thinking to questions of justice and law. A new Northeastern course, Laboratory Seminar in Applied Design and Legal Empowerment, lets students explore how to apply design methods — like empathic observation, prototyping and testing, piloting and refining — to situations where there are unmet legal needs. The rule of law is weak, of course, where there is no access to lawyers — a situation that arises in consumer protection, immigration and refugee matters, family and child custody, veterans issues and housing. In an initiative that’s just getting off the ground, Northeastern’s NuLawLab is working with the Massachusetts Housing Court to design systems that address the inevitable

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Designing Law's Future

**APPS, GAMES AND MORE:
NuLawLab boldly goes
where the legal profession
has never been before**

By Andrew Faught

Growing up gay in Springfield, Massachusetts, Alexander Nally '20 struggled to find acceptance in his community and family. When he came out at 15, the news triggered a schism between Nally and his father.

"My mental health was affected, and I lived with friends' families for the rest of high school," says Nally, who came out as genderqueer (identifying with neither sex) in college. "I went from being a high school honors student to failing my first class because I was combating self-harm and substance abuse habits that had resulted from my dad's rejection of me."

But that same frisson led him to the School of Law, where Nally takes part in the NuLawLab, a novel five-year-old effort that harnesses innovation and creativity to deliver legal services to poor and marginalized communities.



Alexander Nally '20 will graduate from Northeastern University with both a JD and MS in law and public policy.

“We’re trying to create a space for exploration and incubation here within the law school. There’s so much potential right now in the field of law and technology.”

— Dan Jackson ’97

Among the lab’s most successful projects is RePresent, a free online video game in which players learn how to represent themselves in court. The game, released in 2015, is funded by the Legal Services Corporation and was designed in collaboration with Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut, New Haven Legal Assistance and the Northeastern University Game Design Studio. Law students are now at work creating separate games based on Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire legal protocols. Currently available only via web browser, the lab is creating a native mobile app for all four states.

“I was so excited to find a fusion between my design world and my interest in law and public policy,” says Nally, who earned an undergraduate degree in fine arts from MassArt. Nally is currently vice-chair of the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth, helping to develop sexual violence prevention regulations that protect trans and gender non-conforming students on public college and university campuses.

“Now, after this first year of law school, I’m inspired to try to build a link between the lab and the commission,” Nally adds. “We’ve applied for a grant to build a mobile hate-crime reporting app, which is something LGBTQ youth have been asking policymakers about for years. It would link them to resources that I could have certainly benefited from when I was a teenager.”

Putting power in the hands of the people, including law students who are helping to lead the way, is at the heart of the lab’s vision, according to Dan Jackson ’97, the lab’s executive director. Jackson notes that at least 80 percent of Americans lack financial resources to hire a lawyer and that defendants do not have a Sixth Amendment right to counsel in civil proceedings, which include personal injury, medical malpractice and evictions.

“We’re saying, ‘Why not use law school as an engine not just to train people to provide legal services to other people, but also give

students the tools, the mindset, the training, to invent new ways of providing those services?’” Jackson says. “Those new ways might not be one-for-one individual legal representation, but instead a game or an app or a digital tool, or as our work with some low-income women with military service has proven, embedding legal information into existing peer-to-peer mentoring networks that don’t have lawyers in them.”

In addition to RePresent, the NuLawLab has contributed to a domestic worker hotline providing information about legal rights under the Massachusetts Domestic Workers’ Bill of Rights, and created the Women Veterans Outreach Tool for veterans who are homeless or who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and military sexual trauma. Both efforts were spearheaded by NuLawLab creative director Jules Rochielle Sievert.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

NuLawLab, with a mission “to advance the democratization of the law,” is the brainchild of Professor Martha Davis, who also serves as associate dean for experiential education. It was born in the aftermath of the 2007 economic downturn, when law schools nationwide experienced year-over-year plunges in applications. NuLawLab was designed “not just to react to the market, but also to proactively come up with solutions that would position us for the future,” Jackson says. Among American law schools, Stanford is thought to be the only other program with a staffed legal design lab.

“The idea was not just to lure students in, but to be more long term in our focus,” he adds. “How could we innovate so that we could be able to develop the law school of the future? We think that Northeastern is actually the place to do that.”

NuLawLab offers a quarterly seminar, Laboratory Seminar in Applied Design and Legal Empowerment, which enrolls between three to 12 students per offering. The law

school is actively seeking out game designers, artists and computer engineers, and is the only US law school with a full-time artist (Sievert) on staff.

Making law more accessible to the people is an idea that’s catching on around the globe, especially in impoverished nations. A number of global foundations are funding legal empowerment efforts in Africa and in India. “We’re trying to bring that to the United States and create a world where people don’t need to hire a lawyer to access those rights,” Jackson says. “We’re looking to create the next generation of legal inventors who will form a society and legal profession focused on giving everyone access to their legal rights.”

But the changing nature of the legal field is also guiding some of the developments. The professional services firm Deloitte is predicting “profound reforms” in the legal profession, saying that automation will replace more than 100,000 jobs in the next decade. “We’re trying to create a space for exploration and incubation here within the law school,” Jackson says. “There’s so much potential right now in the field of law and technology.”

In addition to two years of seed funding from a law alumna, the lab receives funding from project-based grants, including money from the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), the publicly funded nonprofit corporation that provides civil legal aid to those who otherwise can’t afford representation. LSC, which also has recognized the power of technology to dispense legal aid, has made or committed to making multiple grants to the NuLawLab — to the tune of \$227,000 over four years.

“The NuLawLab has been a key player on several initiatives that have been really important to our work that we’re trying to do,” says David Bonebrake, LSC’s program counsel. “We think it’s incredibly important to create digital tools that help people with the legal system. We see this as a major priority for us going forward.”

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Professor Martha Davis,
NuLawLab faculty director



Dan Jackson '97,
NuLawLab executive director



Jules Rochielle Sievert,
NuLawLab creative director



Stephen Evans,
NuLawLab program coordinator



ON THE FEAR

Northeastern law graduates push back, fighting to stem the anti-immigrant tide

BY LINDA HIMELSTEIN

To many Americans, it may seem that immigration policy today is more confusing, complicated, contentious and downright partisan than ever. To lawyers in the trenches, however, chaos has been the norm since at least 1996, when the Clinton administration and Congress overhauled immigration laws. “Immigration lawyers have been in crisis mode ever since,” observes Professor Rachel Rosenbloom, who is a leading voice in the area of immigration law and policy.

Still, the crisis of the moment does feel different. Rosenbloom and other experts attribute the shift to several factors, including the Trump administration’s erratic approach and rhetoric, the unprecedented responses and activism at the state and local level, the relentless media coverage, and the debilitating fear and uncertainty many immigrants say they feel. Notes



More than 100 Northeastern law graduates practice in this field, including national leaders such as Nancy Kelly '84 and John Willshire Carrera '85 of Greater Boston Legal Services; Lory Rosenberg '76, a former Board of Immigration Appeals judge; and Jeanne Butterfield '86, former executive director of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, among many others. Starting this winter, the law school will launch an Immigration Clinic for students interested in working with clients seeking asylum, fighting deportation and in need of other legal relief. Here are profiles of just some of the graduates around the country who are on the front lines today.

Emily Abraham '12 and Gautam Jagannath '12

Social Justice Collaborative

Emily Abraham and Gautam Jagannath knew even before law school what they wanted to do. Having grown up in Oakland, California, Abraham had worked at an immigration law firm as well as a nonprofit focused on getting visas for victims of domestic violence. Jagannath had been a high school teacher in inner-city Oakland, where he had students facing criminal issues and whose parents were being deported. Their early firsthand encounters with the unique challenges facing immigrant communities sparked the professional passions that led the couple to come to Northeastern together, drawn by the school's public interest mission.

After passing the California bar, the two launched the Social Justice Collaborative (SJC) in 2013. Their Oakland-based nonprofit offers both deportation and criminal defense services to low-income, non-citizen communities. At the time, the Obama administration was deporting record numbers of immigrants, ensuring no shortage of work. "There is way too much need for what we do," explains Abraham. "There's just no way to place all the cases out there with attorneys."

With demand soaring ever since, the nonprofit has grown quickly to keep up. In little more than three years, SJC has ballooned from just the duo to nearly 30 staffers, including six lawyers. Satellite offices are up and running in Stockton, Modesto and San Rafael, and plans are underway to expand into Los Angeles and then more rural communities in the state where services are scarce. Jagannath says they are managing approximately 1,200 cases and are piloting a program to offer universal representation to unaccompanied minors in California.

Both Abraham and Jagannath say one of the hardest parts of their jobs, beyond trying to serve as many people as possible, is managing the panic within the immigrant population. "We do whatever we can to dispel myths," explains Jagannath. For example, clients are increasingly fearful they will be immediately detained and then deported if they show up for their court dates or seek public assistance from programs like welfare and food stamps. "There's a lot of hesitation and fear because of rumors about how Trump is going after people," says Abraham.

Though the emotionally charged environment can be both draining and daunting, it is also emboldening the founders to think big. Ultimately, they say, they hope to expand nationwide, focusing in particular on areas where representation is either insufficient or not available at all.





Marielena Hincapié '96

National Immigration Law Center

In some ways, Marielena Hincapié is the public face of the fight against the Trump administration's immigration crackdown.

As executive director of the National Immigration Law Center, she routinely appears in the national media and is a featured speaker at conferences all over the world. Well before the 2016 election, Hincapié was pushing back against anti-immigration policies at both the federal and state level. Her message is not just powerful. It is deeply personal.

Hincapié was just a young girl when her family fled poverty and violence in Medellín,

Colombia. They moved to Rhode Island in search of a better way of life. Her parents were factory workers, and Hincapié grew up translating for them and others in the community, witnessing firsthand their struggles and the overt discrimination they and her older siblings encountered. These experiences inspired her to fight against what she saw as "structural barriers" that hold back too many immigrants in their quest for equality and dignity. Law school gave her the tools she needed to pursue her vision.

Hincapié says her sense of purpose has only intensified in the last 20 years, especially now that the White House is deliberately painting immigrants as criminals and terrorists. "We believe we have an administration that is explicitly anti-immigration," argues Hincapié. "The way the administration talks about immigrants is to create a chilling effect by demonizing an entire community."

It has also created some scary moments for Hincapié and her staff. Like never before, they regularly receive hateful, often threatening,

messages that have caused them to be concerned about their safety. The organization has increased security, and Hincapié herself has developed a personal safety plan. The vitriol is particularly bad when she appears on television to advocate her positions.

More heartening have been the messages from earnest admirers, some merely expressing their support and others seeking to help in the fight for immigrants' rights. Beyond that, Hincapié has taken great comfort in the judiciary. Judges, regardless of party affiliation, have ruled favorably in almost every case NILC has filed since the presidential election. "My hope is that we will be able to block the worst of the harms this administration is trying to inflict on immigrants and the country as a whole," she says, adding that more and more people are stepping up to support her center's work. Donations have been up since the presidential inauguration and the number of lawyers volunteering to represent immigrants pro bono has grown exponentially.



Heather Yountz '07

Demissie & Church

Heather Yountz was among the first lawyers to arrive at Logan International Airport shortly after President Donald Trump signed an executive order in January limiting immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries. A fluent Spanish

speaker originally from Vermont, she had been working with the immigrant community for years, a passion furthered by her time at Northeastern. She had represented people seeking asylum in the US, people seeking immigration status through family or work, and immigrants facing deportation. But none of that compared to the increasingly tumultuous situation unfolding at the airport.

Along with her colleague Susan Church, a partner at Demissie & Church in Cambridge,

Yountz waited for hours, uncertain whether they would be able to find a plaintiff, or whether they could convince a judge to hear their complaint. “This one order resulted in the detention and deportation of individuals arriving from these seven countries, regardless of their visa status,” recalls Yountz. As it turned out, that included two Iranian immigrants who were engineering professors at UMass Dartmouth. Flying in from Paris, they were green-card holders who had lived in the US for more than a decade. Still, it was not enough to keep the professors from being detained upon arrival. As Yountz helped mobilize volunteer lawyers and protests ensued, she and Church prepared to challenge the order, with the professors as the plaintiffs.

Their efforts paid off, of course, but for Yountz, it has been an ongoing battle ever since. She continues to field calls regularly from people caught up in Trump’s crackdown on immigration. In addition, Yountz has been engaged in trying to calm those most affected by providing information-rich forums. “From the time Trump was elected, we realized we needed to coordinate a region-wide effort to educate immigrants about their rights,” explains the 39-year-old mother of three. “It makes a huge difference understanding what to do if an ICE [Immigration and Customs Enforcement] officer knocks on your door.” So far, she says the outreach has trained more than 10,000 people.

That doesn’t mean she is sleeping easy. Yountz says she is working harder than ever, much of it in court and much of it resembling detective work. She explains that a growing number of inbound calls are from panicked people reporting that a family member has been picked up by immigration authorities. “It’s more tracking down individuals, figuring out where they are and preventing their immediate deportation,” says Yountz, noting that she sees no end in sight. The one silver lining: Being in Massachusetts, where resistance against Trump’s immigration agenda is strong and support for the work she and her colleagues are undertaking is even stronger.

Linda Himelstein has written for major publications, including The New York Times and Parade. She is author of The King of Vodka.

Rule of Law

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inequities that arise when 71 percent of its litigants are unrepresented.

According to Professor Martha Davis, NuLawLab’s faculty director, it’s not only the outcomes of design, but also the process of designing itself that can bolster the rule of law. Roughly, her thinking is this: People who feel left out of the process of governing get radicalized. Radicalized people are drawn to extreme ideologies, to distrusting others, to taking sides — none of which is conducive to the community spirit that makes the rule of law possible. The design process, with its emphasis on empathy and human experience, can refocus all that. “I think that using a design perspective on the law or on legal institutions is something that can help break down that sort of oppositional stance by engaging a wider range of

people at the outset,” Davis says. The trick is to frame the questions right. “Design thinking works best with human-centered issues,” Davis says. Design can’t answer a question like, is there too much free speech? “Instead,” she says, “the design question could be: How might we ensure that people feel they can express their opinions openly? Or how might we constructively address conflicts between LGBTQ advocates and individuals espousing competing religious values? These questions raise design issues — how can we design for better communication and better outcomes, taking into account human capacities and needs.”

It’s a hopeful prescription for what’s ailing the rule of law. But it comes down to this: “Of course,” Davis says, “nothing is likely to work if people don’t have good will at the outset.”

Jeri Zeder is a contributing writer.

NuLawLab

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REIMAGINING REPRESENTATION

NuLawLab is now seeking grant funding to launch its most ambitious project to date: In partnership with the Massachusetts Trial Court, as well as IDEO (a global design and innovation firm that uses design thinking to identify new ways to serve and support citizens by uncovering latent needs, behaviors and desires), the lab is working on a project to redesign court-based conflict resolution. The project, which could stretch to five years, is being launched in the Massachusetts Housing Court, which hears eviction cases.

The lab proposal dovetails with reforms already underway in the Massachusetts Trial Court, which more than a year ago appointed John Laing as chief experience and diversity officer, one of the only positions of its kind in the United States. Laing is working with the court’s staff to better understand the population that they work with, both internally and externally, and welcomes the NuLawLab partnership. “Any time you engage law students in thinking about law differently, not just to the letter of the law but the intent of the law, that has impact,” Laing says.

“Housing Court is one of those places where people who can’t afford lawyers are

up against landlords who can,” Jackson says. “For years now, our court systems have been trying to fit a square peg into a round hole, meaning the system is designed by lawyers for lawyers. We’ve got judges who cannot ethically intervene on behalf of unrepresented litigants based on judicial and procedural rules. It’s a system that is no longer working.”

“This is the most ambitious effort at civil justice reform in the United States,” he adds.

Nally, meanwhile, is considering a post-law school career in the health and human services arena, or doing research to drive policy. That the NuLawLab is pioneering the legal future with few guideposts is a challenge Nally is keen on embracing.

“As long as we’re building positive relationships with community members and moving forward, our efforts will remain important, and we’ll keep figuring out how to make it work,” Nally says. “There’s the potential for a substantial impact.”

Andrew Faught is a freelance writer in Fresno, Calif. He has written widely on issues and ideas involving higher education.



Alexander Nally '20

KATHLEEN DOHER

CLIMACTIC

A full-page photograph of a man and a woman standing in a forest of birch trees. The man, on the left, is wearing a dark blue polo shirt and jeans. The woman, on the right, is wearing a blue short-sleeved shirt and dark pants. They are both looking towards the camera. The trees are tall and thin, with light-colored bark and green foliage in the background.

Josh Kratka '84 and Heather Govern '13 continue to battle Exxon, as the company attempts to amend or appeal its record-setting environmental penalty.

COUP

Josh Kratka '84 led a small team that took on ExxonMobil — and won

By Tracey Palmer

April 26, 2017. It was nearly five o'clock. Heather Govern '13 was on a routine conference call when the email alert popped up on her screen. In a flash, she put the call on mute and yelled: "We got the Exxon result!"

While colleagues Josh Kratka '84 and David Nicholas refreshed their inboxes to see the opinion, Govern madly scrolled to the bottom of the page to read the disposition. "All of us had chills," she recalls. "Even talking about it now, I get teary eyed."

Finally, Govern looked up and shouted: "We won!"

The long journey was over. The decision against ExxonMobil's Baytown, Texas, refinery and chemical plant was the culmination of a tumultuous, seven-year fight for the small, Boston-based National Environmental Law Center (NELC). "It's a true David-versus-Goliath story," says Govern, a staff attorney with the nonprofit.

The Long Slog to Success

Kratka, a member of NELC's litigation staff since 1994, first filed the "citizen suit" against Exxon in 2010, on behalf of the Sierra Club and Environment Texas Citizen Lobby. He relied on a provision of the Clean Air Act that allows citizens to sue companies they believe are in violation of federal environmental laws, especially if the government is not enforcing them. To Kratka, the scientific and legal evidence was clear: Exxon's 3,400-acre Baytown complex had been polluting the air for years. However, it would take four years for US District Judge David Hittner to deliver his ruling.

Meanwhile, Govern, who earned a dual-degree in environmental law through

Northeastern's partnership with Vermont Law School, joined the team in 2013. "I loved the idea of going up against a big corporation," she recalls. "We had mountains of data and information to cull and analyze, with just one paralegal. It was sink or swim for us."

In February 2014, Kratka and Govern along with fellow attorney Nicholas and paralegal Mary Rock packed their bags and headed to Houston where they argued their case at trial — while sharing two apartments, eating every meal together and living through a humid month full of stressful 16-hour days.

In the courtroom, it became obvious that NELC was outnumbered in both manpower and resources. Exxon had fired its initial outside law firm and hired two big Texas firms for the trial. The corporation had seven outside lawyers working on its side, plus Exxon in-house lawyers, regulatory experts and several paralegals.

"The odds were stacked against us in so many ways," says Govern, "but we were very confident in the facts of the case and the legal argument we laid out. We were convinced we were right."

During the trial, NELC submitted thousands of pages of Exxon's own legally mandated reports of violations and subjected Exxon witnesses to many hours of cross-examination, using Exxon's own words to prove that the company had violated its state-issued, federally mandated operating permits. In return, Kratka says, Exxon's lawyers bullied and tried to intimidate NELC's witnesses, concerned local citizens suffering from health problems. "Exxon's reputation is that they

never settle," says Kratka. "We were prepared to fight it out."

At the end of the day, it all came down to preparation. "Exxon made some crucial mistakes that came back to haunt them," explains Kratka. "We understood the case inside and out, and it showed."

When Hittner finally issued his decision 10 months later, "It was a kick in the gut," says Kratka. "The judge ruled against us in almost every way."

Pollution Doesn't Pay

Kratka was stunned, and disheartened at first, but, two years later, he was vindicated. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals vacated Hittner's original decision and ordered him to reconsider key aspects of the case. "The judge was overturned on seven different grounds on appeal," recalls Kratka. "The appellate court prevented a real miscarriage of justice."

Hittner issued his revised decision in April. Not only did NELC win, but the federal district court commanded Exxon to pay \$19.95 million in fines, which is believed to be the largest civil penalty ever imposed in an environmental citizen suit. In the 101-page decision, Hittner found that Exxon violated the Clean Air Act 16,386 times, and profited — to the tune of more than \$14 million — by

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Brownell Brings Liberian Lens to Environmental Challenges

Alfred Brownell has always done work that raised eyebrows. He came of age in Liberia, a country wracked by not one, but two, bloody civil wars. He took a law degree in order to fight the injustices he saw in his country. His experience as a law student at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University of Liberia kindled what became a lifelong interest in Liberia's environment. In 1997, while still a student, he formed Green Advocates, a response to then-Liberian president Charles Taylor's exploitation of the West African country's land and resources.

"We started Green Advocates in my house," says Brownell, who is a visiting scholar this year with the law school's Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE). "We had no money, no donors and no programs — just our skills and a desire to help people. We called it Green Advocates because we saw what was happening to the environment in Liberia and how those changes were affecting the poorest people in the country, the people without a voice."

In 2001, Brownell headed to New Orleans to earn an LLM from Tulane University. His plan was to return home and work for the Liberian Government Environmental Protection Agency, for which he had previously co-authored the

country's framework on environmental laws. But widespread injustice altered his path. "Looking at the human rights violations across Liberia, I decided to directly help the people who were suffering, to develop Green Advocates into the organization that Liberia needed."

Green Advocates quickly became involved in a number of major campaigns to fight a wide variety of activities, including trying to stop a land grab by the subsidiary of a European multinational, petitioning the country's supreme court to stop the sale of iron ore stockpiles to a Chinese company and opposing the use of child labor on rubber plantations operated by Bridgestone/Firestone. As his work protecting community land rights became more controversial, it also became more dangerous. Eventually, threats, including an attempt on his life, forced Brownell, his wife and two children to flee the country.

During his year with PHRGE, Brownell is focusing on environmental and human rights research and working with several academic and activist partners on research that he hopes will lead to a Land Tenure Security Index, which would allow for comparison, scoring and ranking of how countries and governments are protecting (or not) the land rights of their citizens including indigenous

"Looking at the human rights violations across Liberia, I decided to directly help the people who were suffering, to develop Green Advocates into the organization that Liberia needed."

— Alfred Brownell

and other rural and urban communities. Such a tool would hopefully encourage governments to make better efforts in this area.

Brownell has no doubt about what comes next. "I feel privileged to be able to dedicate myself to academic research and teaching here at Northeastern, but I know it is not my place. As soon as Liberia is safe for my family, I'll be back there. My hope is that my academic work and teaching at Northeastern will contribute to a rethinking of development and investment business models associated with foreign direct investments and development finance in the Global South in a manner that is pro-poor, sustainable and rights-based."

— Kevin Murray

Welcome New Faculty

This fall, the law school welcomes two new tenured faculty members: **Woodrow Hartzog** and **Shalanda Baker '05**. "Northeastern is proud to continue our track record of recruiting outstanding scholars with strong national reputations for research that matters and demonstrated records of teaching excellence. We are particularly excited that professors Hartzog and Baker's interdisciplinary interests have made it possible for us to create joint appointments that will strengthen the law school's Center for Law, Innovation and Creativity (CLIC) and bolster the university's commitment to leadership in the areas of cybersecurity and global resilience," said Dean Jeremy Paul.

Hartzog, who previously served as Starnes Professor of Law at Samford University's Cumberland School of Law, is an internationally recognized expert in the areas of privacy, media law and robotics law. He will join the Northeastern faculty as professor of law and computer science, holding a joint appointment with the College of Computer and Information Science.

Hartzog's work has been published in numerous scholarly publications, such as the *Columbia Law Review*, *California Law Review* and *Michigan Law Review*, and popular national publications such as *WIRED*, *Bloomberg*, *New Scientist*, *The Atlantic* and *The Nation*. He is also a contributor to *Forbes* and a frequent guest contributor to LinkedIn, Concurring Opinions and other popular blogs. His forthcoming book, *Privacy's Blueprint: The Battle to Control the Design of New Technologies* (Harvard University Press), demonstrates how building privacy norms into computer design is more likely to protect privacy than reliance upon after-the-fact legal solutions.

Prior to joining academia, Hartzog was a trademark attorney at the US Patent and Trademark Office in Alexandria, Virginia, and practiced with Burr & Forman in Birmingham, Alabama. He also served as a

clerk for the Electronic Privacy Information Center in Washington, DC, and was a Roy H. Park Fellow at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, from which he earned a PhD in mass communication. Hartzog is an affiliate scholar at the Center for Internet and Society at Stanford Law School. He also serves on the advisory board of the Future of Privacy Forum.

Baker most recently served as an associate professor of law at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, where she founded the school's Energy Law Project and was director of the Energy Justice Program. She spent 2016-2017 in Mexico, having won a Fulbright award to explore energy reform, climate change and indigenous rights.

Based on her experience as a project finance lawyer with Bingham McCutchen in Boston and Japan (prior to joining academia), Baker has zeroed in on the connections between the way development projects are financed and their environmental impact. Her early work uses the lens of development finance and the international law doctrine of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) to explore ways in which renewable energy projects impact indigenous communities in the Global South. Her more recent work engages with the emerging literature on energy justice and climate justice, bringing a rights framework to current debates in energy law and policy.

As the law school is increasingly focused on interdisciplinary partnerships, Baker will be professor of law and public policy and urban affairs, and will work closely with colleagues in the university's Global Resilience Institute, linking it to the law school's new Center for Law, Innovation and Creativity. She will teach courses at the law school and in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities related to her research interests in environmental law and energy law.



Woodrow Hartzog



Shalanda Baker '05

Ahmed Garners Princeton Fellowship

Professor **Aziza Ahmed** has been selected as a fellow with the Program in Law and Public Affairs (LAPA) at Princeton University. She will be combining her sabbatical and her fellowship to spend the 2017-2018 academic year developing her work on law, feminism and science into a book with particular emphasis on legal and policy responses to HIV. Each class of LAPA

fellows brings to Princeton expertise and experience in law and related subjects. The fellows spend the academic year working on their own research projects, participating in law-related programs and engaging with faculty and students. LAPA fellows are selected in a competitive process from a large interdisciplinary and international applicant pool.



DAVID LEIFER



DAVID LEIFER



A Bittersweet Adieu: O'Connell and Drew Retire

In June, professors **Mary O'Connell '75** (left) and **Melinda Drew '87** retired from the law school faculty. Their colleagues, Wendy Parmet and Brook Baker, share some thoughts on these departures.

Students First

I pause before knocking on the door, trying to think how to disguise my rap. I go with a gentle, rhythmic tap-tap. "Come in, Wendy," Mary says. Somehow, she always knows it's me.

I find Mary in her usual pose: Hunched over her desk, black pen in hand, tearing a student paper apart and putting it back together again. She looks up and starts to share her excitement about a class she is planning. Then, there's another knock. She calls out a student's name (because she knows every student's name and many of their knocks, too). The student walks in, and I leave. Students always come first with Mary.

Mary is a path-breaking scholar — the author of influential articles on alimony and the contingent work force. But first and foremost, Mary is a teacher. Thoughtful,

rigorous, creative and dedicated to her students.

Mary has also always been there for her colleagues. She taught so many of us to love what is unique about this place: our collaborative approach, co-op, commitment to the public interest, student-centeredness. To Mary, these are not words in a mission statement, they are the only reasons we're here.

Now, Mary is retiring to spend more time with her beloved grandchildren. I will miss knocking on her door and the conversations that follow, and her students will miss her inspiring classes and heartfelt concern for their careers and causes. Mary came here as a student in 1972 and exits as a beloved faculty member — opportunity knocked for Mary, too, and we are thankful this was the door she answered.

— Professor Wendy Parmet

The Compassionate Advocate

It's hard to do justice to all that Millie has contributed to our law school community. For years, Millie has had a full teaching load, first working with me and our teaching assistants delivering Legal Practice and an upper-level academic success course, and more recently two sections of both Interviewing and Counseling and Professional Responsibility.

But that's not all. Millie has individually counseled dozens of first-year students on how to improve their performance on law school exams. She has conducted an academic success workshop in the first semester, overseen our entire academic success program and for many years been the law school's disability coordinator and ombudsperson.

Why has she made herself so available to students? Why has she counseled students to succeed, to

stay and, on some occasions, to leave? Why is she so patient? Why is she so kind? Why is she so concerned with each student who struggles or needs accommodations? Why has she embedded herself in so much law school service? Why does she collect toiletries from all of us for a domestic violence shelter?

Those of you who know her, her colleagues and her students, know why — she is deeply committed to the mission of this school, to social and economic justice more broadly, and to the students we attract. She is a gifted teacher, a compassionate counselor and a remarkable colleague who never hesitates to step in or listen closely. To say that we will miss her misses the point. She has offered the very best of what this law school can provide.

— Professor Brook Baker '76

Burnham Named University Distinguished Professor

Based upon sterling letters of support from some of the nation's most prominent university leaders, scholars and judges, Professor **Margaret Burnham** was named University Distinguished Professor, Northeastern's highest honor for a faculty member, in April. Burnham is founder of the School of Law's Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ), which investigates cold cases involving anti-civil rights violence in the South between 1930 and 1970. In 2016, Burnham was selected for the competitive and prestigious Carnegie Fellows Program. Provided to just 33 recipients nationwide, the fellowship provides the "country's most creative thinkers with grants of up to \$200,000 each to support research on challenges to democracy and international order." Burnham is using the funding to deepen and extend CRRJ's work and research.

Burnham began her career at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. In 1977, she became the first African American woman to serve in the

Massachusetts judiciary. In 1982, she became partner in a Boston civil rights firm with an international human rights practice. In 1993, South African President Nelson Mandela appointed Burnham to serve on an international human rights commission to investigate alleged human rights violations within the African National Congress. The commission was a precursor to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

"Margaret Burnham's recognition is a fitting affirmation of her remarkable career," said Dean Jeremy Paul. "She represents all to which Northeastern aspires. Her innovative approach to clinical education, path-breaking research and her scholarly vision have taught us all why law and history matter. She is richly deserving of this great honor."



DAVID LEIFER

GOING PLACES

Alpine Bound

Professor **Richard Daynard** spoke in Geneva in June to a meeting of lawyers from around the world, convened by the advocacy group Action on Smoking and Health. His topic: "Can Tobacco Companies be Prosecuted for Killing People?"

Across the River

In April, Professor **Kara Swanson** presented research from her book-in-progress, *Inventing Citizens: Race, Gender and Patents*, to the Science, Technology and Society Circle at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Swanson's talk, "Counting Black Inventors: The Historical Role of the US Patent System as a Political Resource," examined turn-of-the-century projects by African American activists to track and publicize black inventors to counter the virulent racism of post-Reconstruction America. These under-appreciated efforts resemble better-known efforts and projects undertaken by white suffragists.

Lonestar Keynote

In March, Professor **Margaret Burnham** delivered the keynote address for "An Act of Justice: Undoing the Legacy of Mass Incarceration," a symposium at the Rothko Chapel in Houston, Texas.

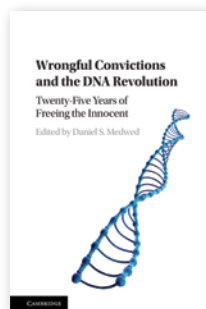
Clinical Observations

In June, Professor **Mary Landeran** presented on the impact of the law school's IP CO-LAB, which she directs, at the annual Transactional Clinical Conference, held at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Busy Bodies

In June, Professor **Andrea Matwyshyn** delivered the keynote address at the Society for Computers and Law's annual conference, "Real Business Issues for Tech Lawyers." Her topic at the London gathering was "The Internet of Bodies," which she said raises fundamental questions about what it means to be "human" in an age of technology-mediated bodies and artificial intelligence.

Beyond the Cell: Lessons Learned through DNA Evidence



In *Wrongful Convictions and the DNA Revolution: Twenty-Five Years of Freeing the Innocent* (Cambridge University Press, 2017), Professor **Daniel Medwed** brings together a collection of essays from more than a dozen leading scholars on wrongful convictions in the United States. The book had

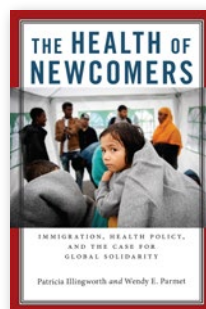
its genesis in a 2015 conference at the School of Law.

"Perhaps it's naïve to think we can make the criminal justice system completely accurate," says

Medwed. "As with all systems designed by humans, mistakes in processing criminal cases are inevitable. But that shouldn't stop us from trying: from implementing changes to reduce the risk of error if not to zero, then to something as close as possible to that magic number."

Medwed is also co-author of the recently released 10th edition of *Evidence: Cases and Materials* (Foundation Press, 2017). The classic casebook, with a lineage that dates back to the 19th century, now blends its traditional approach to evidence law with new developments in scientific evidence and applies new insights from fields such as logic and probability.

Immigration and Health Care at the Heart of Parmet's New Book



Professor **Wendy Parmet**, director of the law school's Center for Health Policy and Law, and Professor Patricia Illingworth, a faculty member in the university's Department of Philosophy and Religion and in the D'Amore-McKim School of Business, as well as a lecturer in law, are the co-authors of a

new book, *The Health of Newcomers: Immigration,*

Health Policy, and the Case for Global Solidarity (NYU Press, 2017).

In riveting detail, the authors demonstrate how shortsighted and dangerous it is to craft health policy on the basis of ethnocentrism and xenophobia. Drawing on rigorous legal and ethical arguments and empirical studies, as well as deeply personal stories of immigrant struggles, they make the compelling case that global phenomena such as poverty, the medical brain drain, organ tourism and climate change ought to inform the health policy we craft for newcomers and natives alike.

Right Place, Write Time for LSSC

This fall, the law school welcomes three new faculty members and one visiting faculty member, all research and writing specialists, to the first-year Legal Skills in Social Context (LSSC) program. “The law school and the LSSC program are both fortunate to have these stellar professionals join the faculty. Their presence will help ensure that the LSSC program remains a vibrant cornerstone of Northeastern’s first-year curriculum,” said Professor Margaret Hahn-Dupont, who administers the LSSC program.

Elizabeth Bloom, previously professor of law and director of the Academic Excellence Program at New England Law, Boston, comes to Northeastern as a teaching professor of law. Bloom is a graduate of Wesleyan University and Georgetown University Law Center, where she served on the *Georgetown Journal of Legal Ethics*. She previously taught at Northeastern from 2006 through 2008, and is the author of several

articles and book chapters, including “A Law School Game Changer: (Trans)formative Feedback,” in the *Ohio Northern University Law Review*.

Christine Durkin is no stranger to the Northeastern law school community, having taught legal writing in 2009-2010 and again this past year. She has 20 years of experience as a lecturer in law at Boston University and has taught legal writing at both Suffolk University Law School, from which she earned her JD, and New England Law, Boston. She spent seven years as a staff attorney at Greater Boston Legal Services, and five years as a children and family law appellate panel attorney at the Committee for Public Counsel Services. At Northeastern, she is serving as associate teaching professor of law.

Jason Potter is coming to Northeastern from UMass School of Law, where he was a lecturer and writing instructor. At Northeastern, he is serving as

associate teaching professor of law. He has also taught legal writing at the University of San Diego School of Law and internationally. A graduate of NYU School of Law, he previously practiced with Sullivan & Cromwell in Los Angeles and held a clerkship with Nadine Strossen, president of the ACLU.

Liliana Mangiafico ’01 is joining the legal writing program for one year as a visiting associate teaching professor. Prior to earning a US law degree at Northeastern, she earned a JD from the Universidad Catolica Andres Bello in Venezuela, an LLM from Harvard Law School and a master’s degree in public law from the Université de Paris (V). She previously taught at Penn State University Dickinson School of Law and Albany Law School. She also directed an internship program for the Advocates, Inc., and served as a senior attorney with Keefe Disability Law, both of which are located in Framingham.



MICHAEL CLARKE

Georgia on Her Mind

Professor **Jessica Silbey**, an intellectual property expert and co-director of the law school’s Center for Law, Innovation and Creativity (CLIC), has been selected as the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts Distinguished Lecturer for 2017-2018 at the University of Georgia. The program brings leading thinkers and practitioners to campus in support of ongoing and innovative research projects. In February, Silbey will spend a week in residence, teaching and lecturing with students from across the university.

Remembering Professor John Flym

Professor Emeritus **John Flym** passed away on February 24, 2017, in Paris, France, where he had lived for a number of years. He is survived by his wife, Isabelle; daughter, Susannah; grandchildren; and other family members.

Born in Europe, Flym fled the Nazis with his family when he was a child, moving from Germany to France to Algeria just before World War II. His family ultimately settled in New York City. Flym served in the Air Force in the 1950s and entered the Columbia University general studies program in 1958. He went on to earn his LLB from Harvard Law School.

Prior to joining the Northeastern University School of Law faculty in 1972, Flym served as a clerk to Judge William Doyle, then of the US District Court for the District of Colorado. He spent several years in association with a large Boston law firm; thereafter, he organized his own firm that specialized in the areas of criminal, civil rights and constitutional law and was involved in the trial and appeal of various



Flym was legendary for teaching Con Law with advance sheets rather than a traditional textbook.

landmark cases. He was also the lead in one of the early law collectives in Cambridge. His teaching focused on constitutional law, criminal law and advocacy, criminal procedure and doctrine, and litigation and the legal profession.

Flym is remembered by Northeastern law colleagues for his love of the courtroom and for his larger-than-life personality. “His was a great journey. He lived a remarkable and very good life,” said Professor Emeritus Dan Givelber.

Associate Teaching Professor **Gabriel Arkles** has departed the law school to join the ACLU LGBT & AIDS Project in New York City, where he is now working with Chase Strangio ’10, a staff attorney. “It’s a marvelous opportunity, and Gabriel deserves hearty congratulations,” said Dean Jeremy Paul. “At the same time, we all will miss him dearly.”

Talking the Talk

Dose of Uncertainty

“Will they choose to use their enforcement discretion to go after a public health facility of this sort? The answer to that is unknown.”

Professor Leo Beletsky

“Massachusetts Medical Society Trustees Ask Members to Support Safe Injection Facilities for Drug Users”
WBUR, April 5, 2017

Death by Text

“Her behavior was horrible, but it doesn’t fit perfectly with involuntary manslaughter.”

Professor Daniel Medwed

“Michelle Carter Found Guilty of Involuntary Manslaughter in Text Suicide Case”
Rolling Stone, June 7, 2017

Same Old, Same Old

“[R]emarkably there are more similarities than differences between classrooms of today and those of the late 1970s. Indeed, my mother took Contracts in 1949; I took it in 1978; and my youngest son just last year. I suspect that any of us would have felt right at home in all three courses.”

Dean Jeremy Paul

“The Law Deans: Jeremy R. Paul, Northeastern University School of Law”
The Oklahoma Legal Group Blog, June 14, 2017

Backfiring Blame

“Their basic defense is, ‘only a very weak-willed person would use this product, and it’s his fault and not ours.’ My understanding is that ain’t going to work with Tony Gwynn, with what people know about him. It’s working less and less with people who are not celebrities.”

Professor Richard Daynard

“Tobacco Company Says Tony Gwynn Was Warned”
USA Today, May 3, 2017



Reality Bytes

“Companies need to understand from the start that their information is only as safe as their most vulnerable piece of workplace technology. And the growth of the internet of things will only exacerbate the security risks.”

Professor Andrea Matwyshyn

“The Big Security Mistakes Companies Make When Buying Tech”
The Wall Street Journal, March 13, 2017

Gunning for Public Health

“To take full advantage of this opportunity, the medical profession can creatively encourage physicians to engage in conversations about household firearms, prioritize research to develop and evaluate clinical approaches to optimizing risk communication and steadfastly promote widespread adoption of evidence-based strategies. The court has done its duty. It’s now the physicians’ turn.”

Professor Wendy Parmet (co-author)

“Physicians, Firearms, and Free Speech — Overturning Florida’s Firearm-Safety Gag Rule”
The New England Journal of Medicine, April 19, 2017

On the House



On a Mission

Working with domestic violence victims isn't just a job for Dovie King '99. | BY MAURA KING SCULLY

DOVIE KING HAD A DARK SECRET. On the surface, she was an undisputed success. The daughter of immigrants, King had an Ivy-league bachelor's degree to go along with her JD from Northeastern. Following law school and a prestigious Equal Justice Works fellowship in New York City, she returned to her native Southern California to further her public interest career. Finding an unmet niche in union-side labor law, King co-founded an award-winning public-interest law firm. But beneath the professional success was a hard personal reality: King was in an abusive marriage. After 10 years, and fearing for her safety and that of her young son, King sought the legal protection that allowed her to leave that marriage to start a new life.

Life-and-Death Work

The move also led to a whole new chapter in King's career: she opted to devote her professional life to working with those looking to escape abusive relationships. Since 2012, King has served as a pro bono attorney at the Legal Aid Society of San Diego, where she provides free legal services to Spanish-speaking victims of domestic violence. There, at a pro se clinic at San Diego's South County Courthouse, near the US-Mexico border, King says she is doing "the most important work of my life."

"I help women get the protection that could be the difference for them between life and death," she says. "Because I went through the legal process to obtain a temporary restraining order against my abuser, I know how daunting it can be to expose the domestic violence and face possible retaliation."

She adds, "A woman's safety is most at risk when attempting to leave the abuser, so it is especially important to get help developing a safety plan."

At the clinic, "we provide the information women need to represent themselves," King explains. That includes assisting in drafting declarations of abuse, offering advice about what to submit as evidence and how to handle the hearing. "There are many different forms of abuse: physical, financial and emotional. Something else I see a lot is using immigration: if the victim lacks legal status, the abuser will threaten to turn her in to immigration officials."

Breaking the Cycle

King is also able to draw on her personal experience as a mother. "Because I went through this process with a child, I'm able to counsel others on how they can keep their children safe. So, when parents file for a temporary restraining order, I let them know they can also file for temporary legal and physical custody of their children as well as supervised visitation."

King's work with the Legal Aid Society has been recognized by the State Bar of California: in 2016, she received the Wiley W. Manuel Certificate for Pro Bono Legal Services, an award named for the state's first African American Supreme Court justice. Pro bono attorney isn't King's only job. To support herself and her son, now 9, King is an adjunct faculty member at San Diego Miramar College. "I teach several undergraduate law courses, like Employment Law and Bankruptcy Law," she explains. "I love teaching undergraduates. I love that I'm able to play a small role in students gaining passion for the law."

And in a twist-of-fate way, King finds that she is now able to pursue precisely the kind of work that drew her to law school in the first place. "I grew up in a household of disadvantaged immigrants living in a border community," she says. "I wanted to use my law degree to help people from immigrant communities. I saw that people lacked information about their legal rights. And as Spanish speakers, they were afraid to come forward because of language and cultural barriers. That led to exploitation."

By coming forward and talking about her own experience, King's goal is to break down stereotypes about who is affected by domestic violence. "I'm the last person you'd think this would happen to. I'm educated, I'm a fierce advocate for other people. Yet I've talked to a number of other professional women who have found themselves in the same situation. I hope in some way that by sharing my personal story — a lot of victims live in silence or in shame — other people will see that they, too, can overcome adversity and have safety again," she concludes. "You can change a horrible situation. You can get back on your feet."

"I help women get the protection that could be the difference for them between life and death."

— Dovie King '99

Class Actions

► **PROFILE** Paul Farber '98

Scaling Up

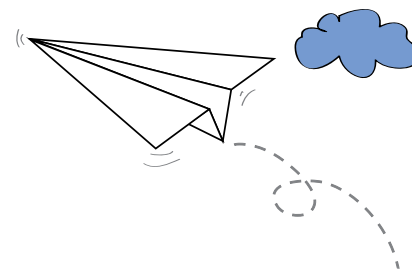
When it comes to awareness and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), “the doctor’s exam room is the last frontier,” says Paul Farber, an ADA attorney and consultant. While medical facilities very likely have accessible entrances, hallways and bathrooms, “most can’t weigh a person who is mobility impaired or give them a full-body exam. It’s like it was 40 years ago.”

Enter Medical Accessibility, a company Farber and his wife formed with another couple, and their product, the UpScale: an affordable all-in-one weight scale and adjustable-height exam table, which they began selling in summer 2016. Manufactured in Indiana, the UpScale retails at approximately \$5,000, priced well below any comparable product. “With tax incentives and credits, it can be as low as \$1,500,” Farber explains.

“The UpScale allows for better preventative and diagnostic care of all patients,” he continues. “And it’s not just good medicine, it’s also smart risk management.” According to the US Census Bureau, 35 million Americans — 12 percent of the total population — have a severe disability. Right now, a staggering 92 percent of health care facilities lack accessible exam tables and weight scales, making them ADA non-compliant. “Many people with disabilities don’t even know they are entitled to accessibility in this way,” he notes, although this is quickly changing. In 2016, there were 6,601 federal lawsuits filed under the ADA’s Title III, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in public accommodations and commercial facilities. That was a 37 percent increase over 2015.

“Our hope is that the UpScale will lead to accessible exam rooms becoming as commonplace as accessible parking spaces,” he concludes. Find out more at www.medicalaccessibility.com.

— Maura King Scully



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CLASS NOTES

1976 In February, **Robert Crabtree**, a partner with Kotin, Crabtree & Strong, received the 2017 Diane Lipton Award for Outstanding Advocacy from the Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates (COPAA), a prominent national organization that protects the legal and civil rights of students with disabilities and their families.

1977 **Brian Bixby**, a partner with Burns & Levinson and chair of the Boston firm's probate and trust litigation group, has been named a "Litigation Trailblazer" by *The National Law Journal*.

1978 **Robert Gittens**, executive director of Cambridge Family and Children's Service, has been appointed to the board of directors of the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network.

1980 **The Honorable Gwendolyn Tyre**, an associate judge of the Middlesex Juvenile Court, retired this spring. She was appointed to the court in 1996.

1981 **Anne Mackin**, a member of Greater Boston Legal Services' immigration unit, received the John G. Brooks Legal Services Award at the Boston Bar Association's annual Law Day Dinner in April. The award is presented to professional legal services attorneys for their outstanding work on behalf of indigent people in the Boston area.

1982 **Richard Sussman** now has offices in Nyack, N.Y., where he lives, and in midtown Manhattan. He is actively involved in the Rockland County Coalition to End the New Jim Crow, and served for many years on the local steering committee of the New York State Working Families Party.

1983 **Conrad Lower** has been hired as the managing attorney for Workers Justice Center of New York, a nonprofit pursuing justice for agricultural and low-wage workers through legal representation, advocacy and community empowerment. Conrad was previously a member of the New York State Workers' Compensation Board for six years and represented members and local unions of New York's American Federation of Teachers affiliate for 20 years.

1984 In January, the Honorable **Reginald Boddie** was sworn in as a justice of the 2nd District of the New York Supreme Court. He was previously a judge on the New York City Civil Court of Kings County.

Susan Oker, a veteran public defender who spent 30 years with the Committee for Public Counsel Services, has been appointed to the Juvenile Court bench by Governor Charlie Baker. She is filling the seat formerly held by the Honorable Gwendolyn Tyre '80.

1985 **Susan Sard Tierney**, who has 30 years of experience working for private firms on family law matters and most recently served as an associate at the Cape Cod law firm of Dunning, Kirrane, McNichols & Garner, has been appointed by Governor Charlie Baker to a judgeship on the Probate and Family Court.

1987 **Doug Carrey-Beaver** has been appointed director of the contract litigation unit at the Office of the Attorney General of Maryland. He previously served the office as principal counsel to the department of information technology.

In February, **Maura Kelley** joined the executive office of the Massachusetts Trial

Court as senior manager for access to justice. Maura previously served as assistant dean and director of the law school's Center for Co-op and Professional Advancement.

1990 **Allen Agnitti's** memoir, *With a Thousand Antennas: A Dilettante's Story*, is now available in paperback or e-book format at the usual internet vendors. After several years representing clients in Hampden County Juvenile Court in Holyoke, Mass., Allen now investigates on behalf of several juvenile courts in Western Massachusetts.

1991 **Matthew Lapointe** has joined the business/corporate and health law practice groups at the law firm Blalock Walters in Florida. Matthew previously practiced law at a multi-specialty firm in New Hampshire.

Gus May has been appointed to serve as a trial judge for the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Gus was previously vice president of legal services at Bet Tzedek Legal Services, which he joined in 2001.

1993 **Jeffrey Karp** has been appointed by Governor Charlie Baker as an associate justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court. A West Newbury resident, he previously had a criminal defense, domestic relations and commercial litigation practice in Newburyport.

1994 **Leslie Ditrani**, who heads her own firm in Boston, received the Ambassador of the Year award from the American Immigration Council, which recognizes those who have "gone above and beyond and have demonstrated extraordinary dedication, involvement and initiative to enhancing the partnership between their AILA chapter and the American Immigration Council." **1**





Laura Wong-Pan has been named a partner at Thomas, Drohan, Waxman, Petigrow & Mayle in New York. Her legal practice focuses primarily on education, municipal, labor and employment law and litigation.



"Make Lists, Not War," a meta-list website run by **John Becker**, recently had its 200,000th view. The site (www.beckchris.wordpress.com) contains "best of" lists on topics including the arts, science, technology and history. In addition to his work on the website, John has a full-time job with Sandulli Grace.



1998 Nine years after the initial publication of *Mergers and Acquisitions*, **Lewis Segall** and co-author Edwin Miller, both partners at Sullivan & Worcester in Boston, have updated their seminal book on the legalities involved in conducting M&As in the new *Mergers & Acquisitions, Second Edition*.



The Honorable **Elizabeth Tafe** has joined the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) as an administrative law judge in the division's Washington, DC, office. She previously served as an administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration. Prior to that, she spent 16 years with the NLRB in various positions, including as a trial attorney in the board's Boston office and also as counsel to several board members in Washington, DC.



1999 **Onik'a Gilliam** has joined the Seattle office of Helsell Fetterman as of counsel. She is practicing in the firm's education and employment practice groups, where she is defending educational organizations, both public and private, and other entities in a wide range of civil litigation matters.



In Memoriam

1940s

Irving H. Seronick '41
Woodrow W. Tucker '48

1950s

Joseph P. McGloin '53
Frank Sugrue '56

2001 In March, **Doug Levine**, a first-time candidate for elected town office, won a three-year seat on the board of selectmen for the town of Wayland, Mass. Doug continues to serve as special counsel for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security.

2002 In November, **Leah Simon-Weisberg** was elected to a four-year term as commissioner on the Berkeley Rent Board in California. Leah is the legal director of Tenants Together, and helped pass (including drafting) a ballot measure in Richmond, which was the first new rental control ordinance in California in more than 30 years.

2003 In June, **Laura Redman**, director of the Health Justice Program at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, received the New York City Bar Association's Legal Services Award, which recognizes attorneys and non-attorneys who provide full-time outstanding civil legal assistance to New York's poor.

2007 **Wynter Lavier Deagle** has been promoted to partner with the San Diego office of Mintz Levin. Wynter's practice encompasses a wide range of litigation matters, including business disputes, corporate governance, fiduciary duties, class actions and First Amendment claims.

2008 **Isabelle Ramos** has joined the Law School Admission Council (LSAC) as assistant director for diversity initiatives. She was previously associate director of admissions at Cornell Law School.

Jennifer Rushlow was honored as a "Lawyer of the Year" by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* in recognition of her work on a major climate change case before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (*Kain v. Department of Environmental Protection*).

2009 In October, **Blake Liggio** was named partner in the real estate industry group of Goodwin Procter's

Boston office, making him one of the first outwardly transgender partners at an Am Law 100 firm.

2011 **Adrian Santiago** has been named Homeland Security Division manager within the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. Previously, he was a regulatory specialist at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, supporting San Francisco's compliance with the Clean Water Act.

2013 **Michelle (Miki) Sisco** has joined the family law section of the Nashville office of the Legal Aid Society. She most recently served as a solo practitioner/access attorney of the Justice Bridge Legal Center in Boston, where she advocated for domestic violence survivors seeking abuse and harassment prevention orders and legal help with divorce proceedings.

2014 **Katie Perry-Lorentz**, who studied acting and costume design prior to law school, returned to her theater roots this spring when she played a lead role in the Worcester County Light Opera Company's production of "Out of Order." Kate is a staff attorney for the youth advocacy division of the Committee for Public Counsel Services in Worcester.

2016 **Kimberley Maruncic** has joined the Boston law firm of Davis, Malm & D'Agostine as an associate; she previously completed a co-op with the firm. Kimberly practices in business law and litigation, focusing primarily on commercial and business matters.

Congratulations to Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly's "Up and Coming Lawyers"

- Michael Birch '10, Hirsch Roberts Weinstein
- Gabriel Cheong '07, Infinity Law Group
- Stesha Emmanuel '11, McCarter & English
- Eliana Nader '09, Magaletta & McCarthy
- Glynis Ritchie '12, Day Pitney
- Stephanie Viola Swanson '12, Office of State Senator Eric P. Lesser

Double Honors

Brian Flynn '93, senior staff attorney at Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS), was the recipient of two honors in May: He took home the Massachusetts Bar Association's 2017 Legal Services Award at the annual Access to Justice Awards and was among the honorees at the National Lawyers Guild Massachusetts Chapter's annual dinner. Flynn, who joined GBLS in 1995, specializes in employment and welfare law.

MacDougall Named Prosecutor of the Year

Essex Assistant District Attorney Kate MacDougall '97 was named the William O'Malley Prosecutor of the Year in April at the annual Massachusetts Prosecutor's Conference in Boston. MacDougall, chief of the Family Crimes and Sexual Assault Unit at the Essex District Attorney's Office, has handled hundreds of cases, most notably that of Philip Chism, the 14-year-old Danvers High School student who raped and murdered his teacher; Kristen LaBrie, the mother who withheld chemotherapy treatment from her 9-year-old autistic son; and Valentin Underwood, who kidnapped and brutalized a young woman more than 20 years ago. **6**

Rice to Head California Judges Association

The Honorable Stuart Rice '78, who sits on the Los Angeles Superior Court, has been elected president of the California Judges Association (CJA) for the 2017–2018 term, beginning in October. He is a current CJA vice president and previously served as chair of the Compensation and Benefits Committee. He was appointed to the bench in 2005. **7**

Rosen Honored by CJP

Congratulations to Georgi Vogel Rosen '15, who received a "Chai in the Hub" award from the Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP) of Boston in January. Eighteen adults under the age of 45 were honored for "doing amazing things personally and professionally to better Greater Boston's Jewish community." They were nominated by their peers, friends and colleagues. Rosen, a clerk in the US District Court for the District of Massachusetts, volunteers with ReachOut!, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston's (JCRC) young adult community service

Continued on page 38



► PROFILE Leora Maccabee Itman '09

From Kvetching to Kvelling

Leora Maccabee Itman '09 isn't one to kvetch, but as a law student who headed to her hometowns of St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota, for all four of her co-ops, she was having a tough time connecting with other young Jewish people. "You had to join every Jewish organization's mailing list and then sadly you mostly ended up getting death notices," says Itman, recalling the way things were before she decided these cities had to be different from all other cities.

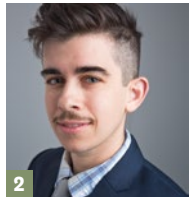
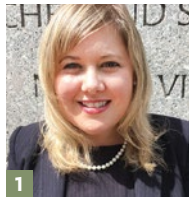
So, in 2009, while still in law school, Itman launched a Facebook page that quickly morphed into a blog that ultimately transformed into TCJewfolk.com, the Twin Cities' only independent Jewish news, events and culture online media hub devoted to engaging, informing and connecting the area's local Jewish community. The website receives 12,000 unique visitors per month.

"I started out publicizing happy hours and speakers, but quickly realized people didn't want to just learn about upcoming events," says Itman, who wrote 40 articles for the site in the weeks after graduating from the law school. "They wanted to talk about politics, news, religion, dating."

By 2012, demand for content was more than Itman, a full-time litigation associate with the Minneapolis-based law firm Maslon LLP and a new mother, could provide. So, she founded Jewfolk Media, Inc. and turned her avocation

into a community engagement nonprofit that has since grown to include TCJewfolk as well as Folk Media Consulting. The latter has a wide range of projects, including training Jewish organizations in the use of social media marketing; creating Minnesota Mammalehs (Yiddish for "moms"), a private Facebook group to connect young moms in the local Jewish community; and, most recently, launching GESHER (Hebrew for "bridge"), a local Jewish professional networking and mentoring resource. Today, Itman serves as president of the board of Jewfolk Media, while two full-time professional staff and a crew of interns and writers run the organization and its various projects. Funding comes through donations, grants and advertising revenue.

Looking forward, Itman, who has received a number of professional and community awards, including being named to the "40 Under 40" list of the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*, anticipates the nonprofit launching similar groups in other cities. "The organization is a million miles away from where it was in 2009," muses Itman. "I benefited so much from Jewish organizations, like the JCC and camps, growing up. I created these web resources because I wanted to make sure those organizations were around when my kids were growing up, that they would be even stronger and better," says Itman. — Deborah Feldman



Botsford Retires from Supreme Judicial Court

Justice Margot Botsford '73 retired from the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (SJC) in March, ending a decade of service on the state's highest court. Botsford, who had reached the state constitution's mandatory retirement age of 70 for judges, was nominated to the SJC by former Governor Deval Patrick in 2007; she previously was a Superior Court judge for 18 years.

Chief Justice Ralph Gants was quick to praise Botsford: "I am slowly moving through the five stages of grief at her departure from this court," he said, "and I know that everyone at the court shares that grief. I take solace in knowing that there will be yet another chapter in her life in the law and that she will continue to be a mentor, an educator and a wise advocate."

"I really knew very little about what a judge did, but I clerked right out of law school for SJC Justice Francis Quirico ['32], who was a wonderful judge. Having had the opportunity to serve as a judge for 28 years, I can say that working in the Massachusetts court system is a dream come true," said Botsford. "The court system is filled with people — judges, clerks, court staff — in all the courts who are dedicated to providing justice to the litigants and others who



JEFFREY THIEBAUTH

appear in our courts and need our courts every day, and it has been nothing but a privilege to work with them and to serve the same goal. I am very proud of our judicial system and feel proud and very lucky to have had the opportunity to serve for so long."

Continued from page 37

program, and is a member of JCRC's board of directors. In addition, she is a member of the Boston chapter of the Sisterhood of Salaam Shalom (SOSS), which she founded two years ago with the help of a CJP Venture Grant. SOSS' mission is to bring together Jewish and Muslim women of all ages and backgrounds for the purpose of building mutual trust and respect, dispelling stereotypes and countering anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. **1**

Strangio Profiled in *Mother Jones*

In "Chelsea Manning's Lawyer Knows How to Fight Transgender Discrimination — He's Lived It," *Mother Jones* features Chase Strangio '10, a staff attorney with the ACLU's LGBT & AIDS Project and "an important force behind gay marriage and transgender bathroom rights." From the article: "Strangio grew up in a Jewish family outside Boston. His dad's a Trump supporter who gets his news from Breitbart — which once slammed Strangio for his 'sick worldview.' As a kid, he struggled with questions about his identity, but it wasn't until law school that he came out as trans and changed his name to Chase. The harassment escalated soon afterward. One judge poked fun at his boyish appearance, calling him 'Doogie Howser' in front of a packed courtroom. 'Part of me always felt like an outsider and a freak,' Strangio says." **2**



AVANLEY FLOYD

Cowan Joins General Electric as VP

William "Mo" Cowan '94, who was a top advisor to former Governor Deval Patrick and an interim US senator, joined General Electric Co. in April as vice president of legal policy and litigation. Cowan is overseeing litigation, investigations and compliance for the multinational conglomerate while also working locally with city and state officials as the company prepares to build a new South Boston headquarters. Patrick appointed Cowan to the Senate in early 2013 after John Kerry was named secretary of state by then-President Barack Obama. He filled the role until Edward Markey won a special election later that year. After leaving the Senate, Cowan joined ML Strategies, the lobbying arm of the Boston law firm Mintz Levin; he was promoted to chief executive last year.

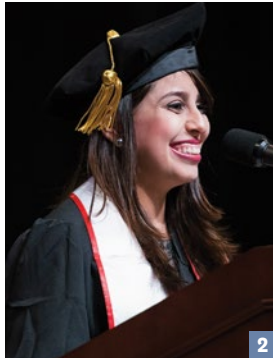
Check out the latest issue of the ***Journal of Legal Education***, co-edited by Dean Jeremy Paul and Professor Margaret Y.K. Woo.



neu.edu/law/journal-legal-ed

Congratulations to the Class of 2017!

Nearly 200 graduates, including JD, LLM and MLS recipients, gathered in Northeastern's Matthews Arena on May 26 to celebrate their classmates' many achievements and hear inspiring remarks from university leaders, faculty and peers.



(1) Student speaker Tara Dunn '17 will launch her legal career with a two-year fellowship in the Office of Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey '98. **(2)** Clarissa Moraes Kalil LLM '17 was selected as the LLM speaker by her 31 classmates from 21 countries. **(3)** In her speech, Morgan Wilson '17 joined classmate Tara Dunn '17 in shining a light on America's incarceration rates, which they said disproportionately target black and Hispanic males. **(4)** "Pussy hats" momentarily replaced mortarboards when Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards headed to the podium. **(5)** Professor Margaret Hahn-Dupont, selected by the class to deliver the faculty address, told the students, "What all of us have endeavored to teach you is how to view law itself — to look at it from a critical angle, to consider not just what law is but why, and not just why, but whether it should be." **(6)** In her remarks, Cecile Richards noted that Eve Paul, Dean Jeremy Paul's late mother, was a trailblazer among women in the legal profession, serving for 25 years as general counsel of Planned Parenthood.

Let's Do the Numbers

This year's JD graduates are an impressive group:

211,750
hours on co-op

27
states where
domestic
co-ops were
completed

550
co-ops

15
countries where international
co-ops were completed, including
Australia, Belgium, Germany, India,
Mexico, Sweden, Switzerland,
Turkey and the UK



Climactic Coup

Continued from page 25

delaying implementation of necessary pollution control measures. The vast number of violations Exxon committed and the 10 million pounds of illegal pollution it released all weighed in favor of the heavy penalty. Exxon's illegal air emissions included carcinogens, other toxic air pollutants and respiratory irritants like sulfur dioxide and ozone-forming chemicals.

"I've worked on many cases like this," says Kratka, "and on other big cases, but not anything as big and as far-reaching as this case turned out to be."

In the end, Kratka believes the real winners are the environment and the people of Baytown. Exxon's plant is located about 25 miles east of downtown Houston, within three miles of the homes of tens of thousands of people, many of them working class or low-income Hispanic families suffering high rates of cancer and respiratory problems.

"With the current Congress and administration, there is a move afoot to limit the public interest enforcement provisions we used in this trial," says Kratka. "A case like this is a perfect example of why, when state and federal agencies fail to enforce the law, it is so critically important that private citizens retain the right to step in and enforce the law themselves."

Exxon has already filed a motion asking the judge to reconsider his ruling.

Tracey Palmer is a freelance writer.

Courting Compassion

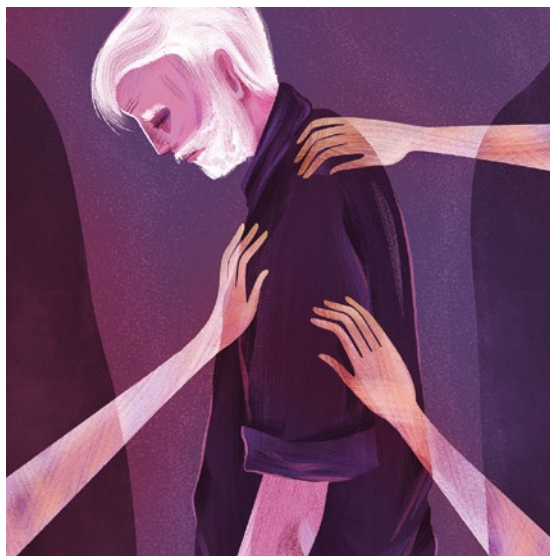
BY BENJAMIN COLTEN '09

IT WAS A TUESDAY at Quincy District Court, when I witnessed something I'd never seen before. It was a busy day — the courtroom was packed, with standing room only. As a member of Norfolk County Bar Advocates for the past seven years, I've represented hundreds of low-income clients. That day, I was before the judge to finish up discovery and to get a status of the case. We had delayed this date for a couple of months because my client, 65, had been caring for his sick wife around the clock. They had been married for 40 years. She had died the prior week.

My client was charged with a relatively minor misdemeanor — he could receive a one-year maximum in jail, but more than likely the maximum punishment would be probation. When his case was called, we just needed to get a final discovery date. However, the clerk reminded the judge my client hadn't paid his legal counsel fee. In Massachusetts, even though someone may qualify as indigent and unable to afford an attorney, the court still requires a \$150 administration fee be paid by anyone who receives appointed counsel. The indigent may choose to do community service in lieu of paying this fee. The judge asked my client if he had the money, and my client, who had been dependent on his wife's Social Security, said "no" but that he could get it in two weeks, or even do community service instead, but the judge ordered that he be held in the downstairs jail until he could figure out a way to immediately come up with the money. I pleaded with the judge, explaining the horrible life circumstances my client was going through. The judge didn't even blink. He re-ordered my client held.

That was when it happened: a moment of humanity, of charity and of compassion that I have never witnessed by so many people at the same time, in a place where you rarely encounter it.

Three members of the crowd jumped out of their seats at the same time and yelled, "I'll pay it!" These were other indigent, charged people who were waiting



for their cases to be called. One disheveled man, dressed in ripped jeans and a dirty sweater, put two \$100 bills into my client's hands as he was being handcuffed and dragged away. I later asked the man why he did that, and he replied that it broke his heart to see an old man like that being dragged to prison. I spoke to another man who offered to pay and he told me when he heard the man lost his wife he felt empathy, because he'd lost a lot of people he cared about recently. I asked a number of lifetime employees of the court, including the clerk that day, if they had ever seen anything like this, and they all told me they hadn't. These were acts of true selflessness, with no other agenda than having compassion for another human being. A human being who was by all accounts a stranger to them.

I hope that if a situation comes up in my life where I have the opportunity to show true selfless compassion for a stranger, I'll have the courage to jump up and do it, without even thinking, the way those heroes did that day.

Benjamin Colten is a solo practitioner who specializes in criminal defense.

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Classes of '72, '77, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02, '07, '12 and surrounding class years are invited to attend.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the nearby Colonnade Hotel.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Mary Bonauto '87

Civil Rights Project
Director, GLAD

