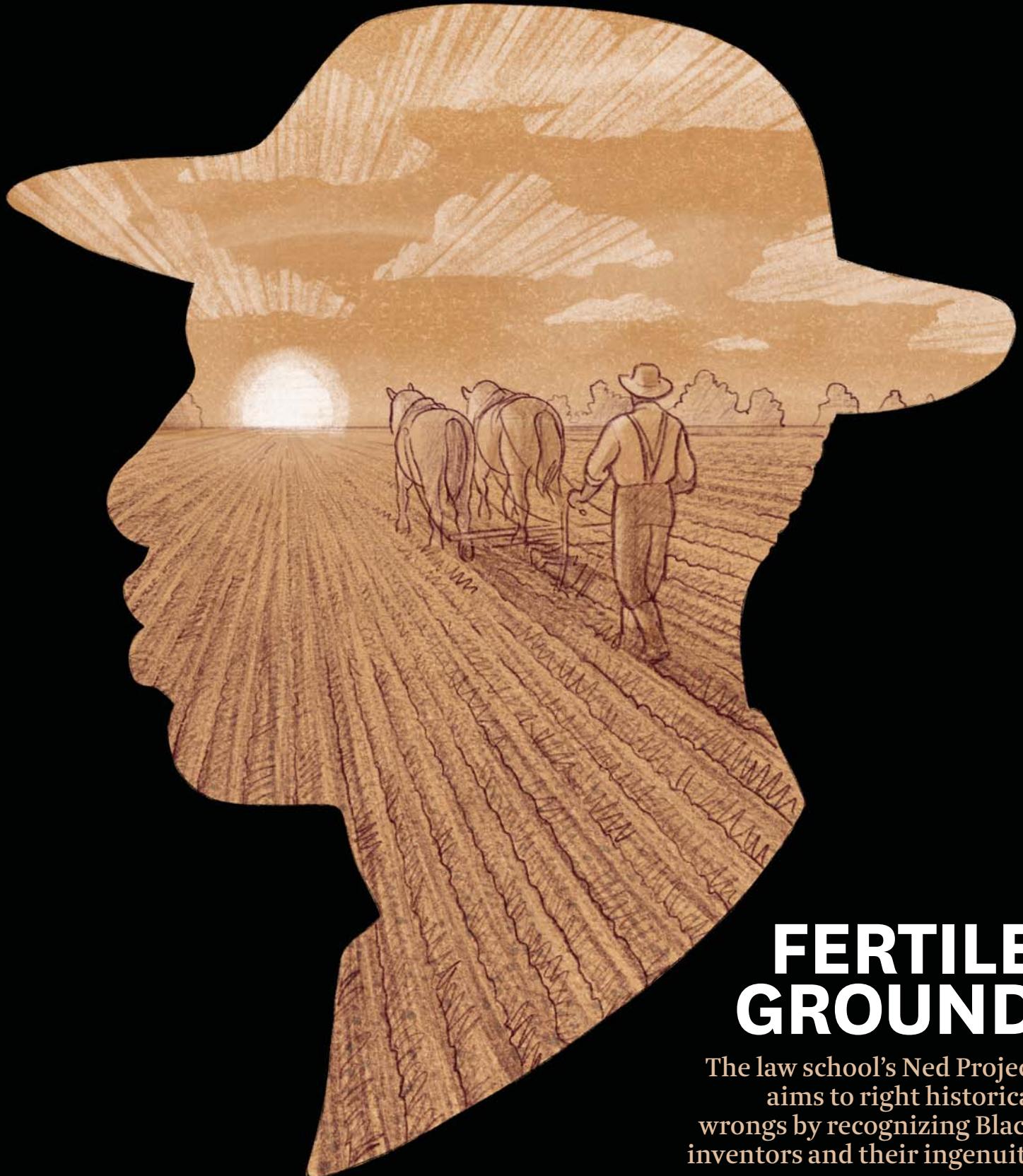


# Northeastern Law

SUMMER 2021

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW MAGAZINE

[law.northeastern.edu](http://law.northeastern.edu)



## FERTILE GROUND

The law school's Ned Project  
aims to right historical  
wrongs by recognizing Black  
inventors and their ingenuity



# Summer2021

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Luke Blackadar '14, deputy director of the Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston, helps entrepreneurs manage legal issues, including intellectual property rights.





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The law school's Ned Project aims to right historical wrongs by recognizing Black inventors and their ingenuity.

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Science delivered, but hesitancy and hoarding have hampered vaccine distribution. How can we do better?

By **REBECCA BEYER**

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The time has come, say Northeastern Law privacy experts, to rethink the power dynamics of social media sharing.

By **JERI ZEDER**



Professor Ari Ezra Waldman wants those who are most vulnerable to the excesses of information capitalism to help write legislative reforms.



Mahathi Vemireddy '22 weighs in on the benefits of her co-op with the National Advocates for Pregnant Women, based in New York City.

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Holding the Line on Hate

By Tram Nguyen '13



# Future Forward

**I**N HIS WIDELY ACCLAIMED BOOK, *Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World*, Fareed Zakaria places the COVID-19 moment in stark relief against the arc of world history and the present. The pandemic, he argues, didn't create our current conditions but acts as an accelerant, including enhancing our ability to adapt to change and recreate our world. As Zakaria artfully frames it, "we have many futures in front of us" — the future is ours to create through ingenuity and investing for the benefit of society. It is clear from this magazine that the Northeastern University School of Law community is playing a major role in making that future. Our graduates, students, faculty and staff are engaged in a wide variety of meaningful and critical frontline work: combatting racism, developing and setting policy for the innovation economy, advocating for social justice and ensuring the rule of law.

As you read through these pages, I encourage you to pause and think deeply about each of our stories and find inspiration for what roles — small or large — that you might play in creating change. What more can we do to assist and support State Representative Tram Nguyen '13 in advocating for legislation to help end the scourge of hate crimes against the AAIP community and other groups? What can we do to ensure that vaccines are equitably distributed across the globe? How can we, as consumers, help drive policies that protect our privacy? How can we go back in history to ensure Black inventors such as Ned are recognized for their ingenuity, and how can we move forward to ensure all people of color and women are supported as innovators and rewarded for their ideas through our intellectual property policies and protocols?

At Northeastern Law, we have a more than 50-year legacy of leading change, beginning with our reopening in 1968, a year marked by social upheaval and movements that would come to shape our future. Then, and now, our commitment to the public interest guides so much of our work. With President Joseph Biden's

nomination of Professor Margaret Burnham, head of our Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project, to the new Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board, we see a tremendous opportunity for our nation to disclose past harms and to seek justice. As you read about in every issue of our magazine, our three Centers of Excellence — the Center for Public Interest Advocacy and Collaboration, the Center for Health Policy and Law and the Center for Law, Information and Creativity — along with our other frontline programs and projects, offer bold ideas and



**As you read through these pages, I encourage you to pause and think deeply about each of our stories and find inspiration for what roles — small or large — that you might play in creating change.**

initiatives for delivering legal services, shaping the information economy, ensuring public health, advocating for human rights and more.

These are all issues that speak to our future. As we collectively look to the many paths before us, I know that our community here on campus and graduates across the globe will continue to take bold steps toward a better, brighter world for all of us.

Best,

James Hackney  
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](mailto:lawcommunications@northeastern.edu).

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### Editor

Deborah Feldman

### Associate Editor

Maura King Scully

### Contributing Writers

Elaine McArdle

Jeri Zeder

### Class Notes Editor

Siobhan Fanning

### Art Director

Laura McFadden

Please send editorial correspondence to:  
Deborah Feldman  
Director of Communications  
Northeastern University  
School of Law  
416 Huntington Ave.  
Boston, MA 02115  
[lawcommunications@northeastern.edu](mailto:lawcommunications@northeastern.edu)

Postmaster and readers:  
Send address changes to  
Office of Development and  
Alumni/ae Relations  
Northeastern University  
School of Law  
416 Huntington Ave.  
Boston, MA 02115  
[lawalumni@northeastern.edu](mailto:lawalumni@northeastern.edu)

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# NewsBriefs

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## Biden Nominates Burnham to Civil Rights Cold Case Board

President Joseph Biden has nominated University Distinguished Professor of Law Margaret Burnham to the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Review Board, which will review records that may pertain to federal civil rights crimes between 1940 and 1980, establish a collection of civil rights cold case records to be maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration, and make qualified records available to the public. Burnham is founder and director of the law school's Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project, a nationally recognized leader in investigating racial violence in the Jim Crow era and other historical failures of the criminal justice system.





# Celebrating the Class of 2021

» With the sun on their shoulders and a glimmer of post-COVID-19 normalcy on the horizon, about 250 Northeastern University School of Law graduates gathered on Parsons Field on May 14, 2021, after a year unlike any other. Simply arriving at the bright field located among the narrow streets of Brookline served as the last step in the graduates' tumultuous journey, said Dean James Hackney.

"Just as everything in our world has changed over this past year, getting to this field may have literally required rideshares and T fares. But figuratively, our students have climbed mountains to get to this terrain," said Hackney. "You are Northeastern University School of Law graduates. There is no doubt in my mind that you will reach heights that make our world a better place."



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## A Day to Remember

**1** Graduating students in the JD, LLM and MLS programs maintained social distance but embraced the glorious day at Parsons Field.

**2** Professor Margaret Burnham, head of the law school's Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project, was selected by the graduating class to deliver the faculty address. "If we've given you some of the tools you will need to build a lifelong public interest career, then we have succeeded. If we have prepared you to leverage the power of law to meet the moment — the convergence of structural racism, public health urgencies and vaccine apartheid, the ongoing impoverishment of working-class people, then we have succeeded," said Burnham. "Go forth, my dear ones. Be strong, be solid, be loving and make us a new world. We certainly deserve it."

**3-5** The JD class of 2021 completed 300,000 hours of legal work on co-ops in 26 US states and territories, Washington, DC, and four countries.

**6** LLM students elected Dr. Sumit Sachdeo LLM '21 to deliver a student address. The 29 LLM students who received diplomas hailed from 20 countries.

**7** Nabiha Syed, a free speech champion who is president of *The Markup*, delivered the commencement address. "... the last year was perhaps one of the most challenging we've ever seen. We felt the absence of justice in so many of our society systems," said Syed in a video address. "Take that feeling and stare it straight in the face. [It] is going to be what helps you find opportunity and motivation amidst all of the chaos."

**8** Dean James Hackney enthusiastically presided over the commencement festivities.

**9-10** Alysia Madan '21 (9) and Moriah Wilkins '21 (10) were selected by classmates to deliver the JD student addresses.

**11** The sky is not the limit for the class of 2021!



## Tooting Our Own Horn

Numbers don't tell the whole story but the School of Law is pleased to share good news about top spots we have earned in recent months.

# #1

For the seventh year in a row, Northeastern earned the top spot for practical training in *The National Jurist/preLaw*'s rankings.

# A+

*The National Jurist/preLaw* awarded only 19 law schools nationwide this top grade for intellectual property law.

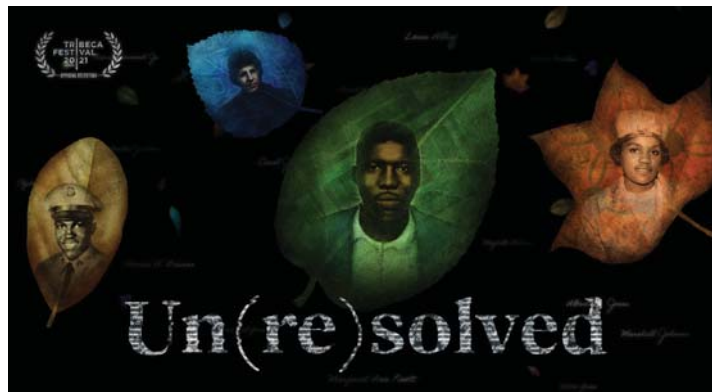
# #5

The law school's national leadership in healthcare law put us near the top of *U.S. News & World Report*'s 2022 rankings.

# 20

Enjuris ranks Northeastern as a top 20 school for female JD enrollment.

## CRRJ Featured on Big and Small Screens



» The law school's Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ), which investigates racial violence in the Jim Crow era and other historical failures of the criminal justice system in the South, is featured in several recent silver screen productions.

"Un(re)solved," a unique and unprecedented multi-platform investigation of civil rights cold case murders, produced by *FRONTLINE*, the PBS investigative series, in collaboration with CRRJ, premiered in June at the Tribeca Film Festival. Drawing on more than two years of reporting, thousands of documents and first-hand interviews with family members, current and former FBI agents, Justice Department officials and journalists, the

"Un(re)solved" project investigates the federal government's effort to grapple with America's legacy of racist killings, mainly against African Americans, through the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act — and makes available for the first time a comprehensive interactive database about all 151 people on the Till list.

The series tells the stories of those on the Till Act list — voting rights advocates, veterans, Louisville's first female prosecutor, business owners, mothers, fathers and children — and the families still seeking justice today. As a collaborator for "Un(re)solved," CRRJ shared case documents and connected producers with descendants and other relevant parties. Professor

Margaret Burnham, founder and director of CRRJ, served on the series' advisory council; former CRRJ student Collyn Stephens (MS in Media Advocacy '21) served as a producer for the project.

Earlier this year, CRRJ was featured on WCVB-TV's "Chronicle," which aired a segment on "The Lynching of Henry 'Peg' Gilbert," a documentary produced by CRRJ, ABC 7 Chicago and the Northeastern University School of Journalism. The film tells the story of Henry Gilbert, who was murdered in police custody in 1947. In 2016, Tara Dunn '17 and Ariel Kong '17 unearthed Gilbert's story; their investigation led to an official apology from public officials in Harris County, Georgia. Students from the School of Journalism partnered with Dunn and Kong to produce the film, which can be viewed on Hulu.

On PBS' *American Experience*, there is a short video, "The War at Home," which tells the tale of Pvt. Booker T. Spicely, a uniformed Black soldier killed by a bus driver in Durham, North Carolina, in 1944 after he resisted the driver's order to move to the last row of the bus. The case was initially uncovered by CRRJ student Shaneka Davis '14.

## Law School Team Assesses Boston as a Human Rights City



The law school's Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE) and Domestic Violence Institute (DVI) issued a recent report, "The State of Housing for Domestic Violence Victims in Boston During the COVID-19 Pandemic: An Assessment of Boston as a Human Rights City." The report lays out six human rights recommendations for Boston to implement to ensure that domestic violence victims' human rights to safe and adequate housing are protected during the COVID-19 pandemic and similar public health challenges.

"Our goal in preparing this report is to bolster Boston's ability to realize the human rights of all of its residents and foster a community that is aware of its rights," said

Professor Martha Davis, faculty co-director of PHRGE. "Consistent with the essence of a human rights city, we seek to empower victims of domestic violence to hold Boston's government officials accountable for protecting human rights to safe and adequate housing during the COVID-19 pandemic and any future public health crises."

As part of their work in Davis' US Human Rights Advocacy seminar, Kelly Gibson '22 and Adya Kumar '22 worked alongside Davis and Professor Margo Lindauer '07, director of the Domestic Violence Institute, to develop the report. Margaret Drew '80, director of clinics and experiential learning at the University of Massachusetts School of Law, also provided input. The report is available at [law.northeastern.edu/boston-hr-dv-report](http://law.northeastern.edu/boston-hr-dv-report).



# Davis and Students Contribute to Report on Water Affordability

» As a member of the Massachusetts State Advisory Committee (Mass. SAC) of the US Commission on Civil Rights, **Professor Martha Davis** co-authored a recent report, “Turning off the Tap: Massachusetts’ Looming Water Affordability Crisis.” Nilo Asgari ’22, Linnea Brandt ’22, Samantha Cardwell ’21 and Liam O’Leary ’20 also worked on the report, which urges Massachusetts to adopt the principle that water is a human right and to take affirmative steps to get ahead of the affordability crisis before it spirals out of control.

“The ongoing pandemic once again brings into sharp focus the precarious state of water access and affordability in the US,” said Davis. “The human rights and civil rights issues that this

situation raises require affirmative government responses. We can’t wait for after-the-fact corrections.”



KATHLEEN DOCHER

## PHAI Just Says No to Nicotine Addiction



The law school’s Public Health Advocacy Institute (PHAI) is once again at the forefront of taking on the tobacco industry through litigation. PHAI’s Center for Public Health Litigation recently persuaded the Massachusetts Appeals Court to reverse a defense verdict in *Lagadimas v. R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.*, a wrongful death action involving a woman who began smoking Newport cigarettes as a young teen. “The Appeals Court agreed with our client’s contention that the trial judge prejudicially hamstrung our expert on addiction,” said Mark Gottlieb ’93, executive director of PHAI.

PHAI is also defending four plaintiff’s verdicts and expects to go to trial next in September in a case involving Camel cigarettes and in November in a case involving Marlboros. The first involves the lung cancer death of a man who had smoked Camel cigarettes since his teen years. The second is a wrongful death action brought by a widower whose wife was provided free samples of cigarettes by a tobacco company as a teen and became profoundly addicted, succumbing to lung cancer at age 61.

Proceedings in PHAI’s class action suit against Juul e-cigarettes and consumer fraud case against disposable e-cigarette maker Puff Bar continue. The latter has already resulted in the issuance of a permanent injunction on most sales in Massachusetts. Gottlieb notes that, “We have seen e-cigarettes companies use Big Tobacco’s playbook to addict millions of teens in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and, as with conventional cigarettes, litigation is needed where regulatory responses are inadequate.”

“The Appeals Court agreed with our client’s contention that the trial judge prejudicially hamstrung our expert on addiction.”

— Mark Gottlieb ’93

## AT CENTER STAGE

Brief news from the law school’s three Centers of Excellence ...



**The Center for Law, Information and Creativity (CLIC)** and the **Center for Public Interest Advocacy**

**and Collaboration (CPIAC)**, together with the College of Arts, Media and Design (CAMD), College of Social Sciences and Humanities and Khoury College of Computer Sciences, have been awarded a Northeastern University Tier 1 grant for an innovative interdisciplinary research project, “See Something, Frame Something.” Led by law faculty members Ari Ezra Waldman and Patricia Williams with CAMD Professor Jennifer Gradecki, the project will investigate how various governments and private companies collaborate to surveil marginalized communities. In addition to publishing its research findings, the interdisciplinary project will host a nationwide hybrid convening at Northeastern in 2022 to deepen understanding of this topic and engage additional researchers and artists in conversation.



**Public Health Law Watch**, housed in the **Center for Health Policy and Law**, recently produced a report,

“COVID-19 Policy Playbook II: Legal Recommendations for a Safer, More Equitable Future.” In the report, a variety of authors assess the US policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic and recommend concrete policy solutions for all levels of government that draw on the lessons of the past year and aim to ensure a healthier and more equitable future. Sponsored by the de Beaumont Foundation and the American Public Health Association, the report was produced by Public Health Law Watch in cooperation with the Center for Public Health Law Research at Temple University Beasley School of Law, the Center for Health Policy and Law at Northeastern University School of Law, Wayne State University Law School, the Hall Center for Law and Health, the Network for Public Health Law and ChangeLab Solutions.



## NuLawLab Joins Fight Against Evictions



KATHLEEN DOOHER

NuLawLab, the law school's innovation laboratory, has joined forces with Maverick Landing Community Services, City Life/Vida Urbana, the City of Boston Artists in Residence program, and

Runcible Studios to fight housing displacement and eviction during the COVID crisis and beyond through a new program called Boston Housing Support Station. Funded by The Kresge Foundation's Arts & Culture program, the team of collaborators is creating pop-up computer and internet stations that increase access to justice through technology and volunteer helpers. The first station is located in East Boston and is loaded with MassAccess — a suite of guided interviews developed by Suffolk Law

School's LIT Lab and Greater Boston Legal Services that helps tenants defend against an eviction in court, among other things. After completing the online interview, an answer and other pleadings are generated that the tenant can then file in court. The station also provides access to online and paper pandemic rental relief applications as well as remote human helpers drawn from Northeastern Law's Housing Law class and the organization Mutual Aid Eastie.

"This innovative collaboration demonstrates how universities, artists and community organizations can work together to improve people's lives in a very concrete way. Not everyone has access to the technology needed to apply for pandemic relief or to defend against an eviction. This project helps to bridge that gap," said Dan Jackson '97, executive director of NuLawLab.

The Boston Housing Support Station program plans to open additional locations throughout the city over the next year.

## Branching Out



This summer, NuLawLab welcomes **Mariana Costa Oliveira Moraes** and **Victoria Dandara da Silva Toth**, law students

at the University of São Paulo in Brazil, for a virtual residency focused on developing legal and critical design skills. Their law school recently launched Brazil's first legal design laboratory, Laboratório de Design Jurídico da USP, which uses human-centered design and methodologies to design new solutions for legal services.

"Inspired by NuLawLab and the Stanford Legal Design Lab, our main idea is to use design methodology to improve access to justice for vulnerable groups and advance human rights," said Moraes. "The methodology can be very useful for Brazil as it is a very unequal society, particularly when it comes to ensuring human rights for minority groups."

## Honors

## Kudos to Our Standout Students

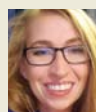


» **Lucie Gulino '21** has been awarded an Equal Justice Works Fellowship, one of the most prestigious and competitive post-graduate legal fellowships in the country. Gulino will launch a first-of-its kind clemency and family support project focused on holistic advocacy and outreach to lower-income Black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) and queer and trans people of color (QTPOC) in Boston through direct representation, a public awareness campaign and collaboration with community organizations.



» **Khalafalla Osman '21** is among only 28 law graduates nationwide selected for the prestigious Immigrant Justice Corps

Fellowship. Osman will spend his fellowship at UnLocal, a nonprofit community-centered organization that provides direct immigration legal representation and community education to New York City's undocumented immigrant communities.



» **Sarah Lee Day '21** has been awarded the highly competitive Justice Catalyst Fellowship, a project-based fellowship that funds groundbreaking social justice advocacy projects through partnerships with nonprofit organizations around the world. Day will spend her fellowship at NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts, expanding upon a project she designed during a law school co-op that aims to fast-track implementation of the Contraceptive

ACCESS Law, landmark legislation that was signed into law in Massachusetts in 2017 to guarantee free contraceptive coverage and a 12-month supply of birth control for qualifying Bay Staters.



» **Evan Jones '21** has been awarded first place in the Boston Patent Law Association Writing Competition for his paper, "Reckoning Patents as Public Franchise." The competition awards papers that contribute to knowledge of intellectual property law and engage the creative thought process.



» **Moriah Wilkins '21** has been named to Northeastern's Huntington 100, which

honors 100 outstanding students for achievements that are commensurate with the university's mission, ideals, values and academic plan. Wilkins is a past chair of the Black Law Student Association and has led and participated in a variety of programs, activities and events related to advancing Black and brown students and fighting against racial oppression.



» **Shahinaz Geneid '23** has been selected to receive the competitive Massachusetts Bar Foundation Legal Intern Fellowship. Geneid is spending her fellowship on co-op at Greater Boston Legal Services, splitting her time between the Employment Law Unit and the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic.





# Hear a Lecture, There a Lecture

Spring 2021 Lectures, Conferences and More

## Office of Development and Alumni/ae Relations

### Women in the Law Conference

**5.21.21 »** From an intimate conversation with NPR's **Nina Totenberg** to a heartfelt address by *Boston Globe* columnist Shirley Leung to friends-for-five decades **Michele Coleman Mayes** and the **Hon. Victoria Roberts '76** talking about all that they have endured and accomplished, the law school's 13<sup>th</sup> annual Women in the Law Conference knocked it out of the ballpark for the 300 people from across the globe who showed up on Zoom and stood up for women in the legal profession and beyond. The conference was generously sponsored by **Professor Emerita Judith Olans Brown** and her husband, **James Brown**, through their Brown Fund, as well as other donors committed to the empowerment of women. It's not too late to enjoy this amazing event: Visit [law.northeastern.edu/wil](http://law.northeastern.edu/wil) to view the full day's sessions.



▶ Director of External Affairs **Mielle Marquis** (left) enjoyed the interview of a lifetime: asking NPR Legal Affairs Correspondent **Nina Totenberg** (right) about her friendship with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, her role as a trailblazer in journalism and much more.



▶ The Hon. **Victoria Roberts '76** (left), a senior US District Court judge, and **Michele Coleman Mayes** (right), vice president, general counsel and secretary of the New York Public Library, discussed politics, progress and more.



▶ **Shirley Leung**, columnist and associate editor at *The Boston Globe*, spoke about racism and the complexities of life for Asian Americans.



▶ **Amy Carlin '00**, a partner at Morgan Brown & Joy and chair of the Women in the Law conference, moderated a panel on promoting diversity and inclusion.

**“She conveyed this incredible strength of conviction.”**

— Nina Totenberg commenting on Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

## Clinical Programs

### New England Clinical Conference

**3.26.21 »** The School of Law's clinical programs, under the direction of **Professor Margo Lindauer '07**, hosted the 2021 New England Clinical Conference, “Racial Injustice in the Law and Institutions: Building Toward an Anti-Racist Future in Experiential Programs.” Panel discussions focused on anti-racist learning communities; using psychological research to inform our approach to inclusive, effective feedback; and creating real change, among others.

## Northeastern University Law Review

### Symposium: The Many Faces of Health

**3.19.21 »** The *Northeastern University Law Review* collaborated with the law school's Center for Public Interest, Advocacy and Collaboration, Center for Health Policy and Law and Center for Law, Information and Creativity (CLIC) to host a full-day symposium dedicated to “The Many Faces of Health.” Panel discussions focused on the pandemic as well as the surge in awareness related to the nation's public health crisis in the context of systemic racism.

## Center for Law, Information and Creativity (CLIC)

### Lost and Found: Intellectual Property, Race and Restorative Justice

**2.25.21 »** CLIC hosted an interdisciplinary conversation exploring the racial gap in invention and patenting in the past and present. The wide-ranging conversation considered how IP regimes have been used to exploit BIPOC intellect and creatorship and what is needed to reverse this historic inequity and use IP policies to develop a more equitable society.

## Criminal Justice Task Force

### Confronting Racial Injustice Series

**2.18 – 6.9.21 »** Massachusetts is often heralded as the home of the abolitionist movement and one of the first states to abolish slavery. Yet the commonwealth's economy developed in collaboration with states that claimed people as property. This series explored how enslavement and white supremacy shaped Massachusetts' history and how they continue to influence its present.

*The series included:*

**February 18, 2021**  
Slavery, Wealth Creation and Intergenerational Wealth

**March 11, 2021**  
Redlining: From Slavery to \$8 in 400 Years

**April 15, 2021**  
Boston School Desegregation Through the Rearview Mirror

**May 19, 2021**  
The War on Drugs in Massachusetts: The Racial Impact of the School Zone Law and Other Mandatory Minimum Sentences

**June 9, 2021**  
The Charles Stuart Story: White Lies and Black Lives



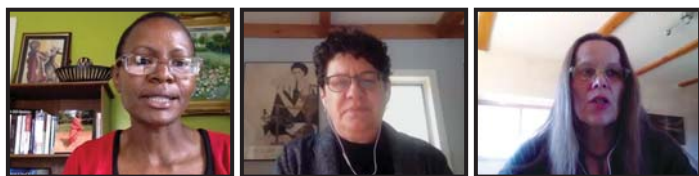
**Adrian Walker** (top), a columnist with *The Boston Globe*, moderated the panel on “Redlining: From Slavery to \$8 in 400 Years.” **Professor Deborah Ramirez** (bottom), founder of the Criminal Justice Task Force, introduced the series in February. Several hundred people attended each of the panels, which were co-hosted by the Massachusetts Historical Society.



**Center for Health Policy and Law and the Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE)**

**World Health Day: Celebrating the Work of Mariah McGill '09**

**4.7.21 »** The law school honored the life of the late **Mariah McGill '09** by celebrating her impactful work advocating for and writing on the subject of the human right to health. Roundtable speakers presented their work and discussed the connection to McGill's research and efforts with a goal of continuing her legacy and commitment to health equity and human rights.



Panelists included Esther Kamau (left), a PhD candidate in the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development and a fellow at the Center for Peace, Democracy and Development at UMass Boston; Gillian MacNaughton (center), associate professor of human rights in the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development at UMass Boston; and Anja Rudiger (right), senior advisor at Partners for Dignity & Rights.



Professor Margaret Woo (bottom) moderated the conversation with Qian Julie Wang (top), who came to the US at the age of 7, initially living an undocumented life in New York City. She went on to graduate from Swarthmore College and Yale Law School.

**Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA)**

**Author Event with Qian Julie Wang**

**4.7.21 »** The law school community enjoyed an evening with **Qian Julie Wang**, an author, speaker and litigator, when she shared an exclusive reading from *Beautiful Country*, her forthcoming memoir about growing up undocumented in New York City. **Professor Margaret Woo** and Wang discussed the recent spate of anti-Asian violence and how the "model minority" myth affects the advancement of Asian Americans in the legal profession and beyond. Co-hosts included the Office of Development and Alumni/ae Relations, Black Law Student Association, Latin American Law Students Association, Middle Eastern South Asian Law Student Association and Multicultural Law Students Association.

**"It's very important for all of us to recognize the incredible resilience of not just children, but of immigrants, of humans ...."** — Qian Julie Wang



**Center for Health Policy and Law  
ASLME Health Law  
Professors Conference**

**6.7-6.11.21 »** The Center for Health Policy and Law hosted the American Society for Law, Medicine & Ethics' 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Law Professors Conference, a national gathering of health law and policy, public health and medical professors and experts. The 2021 virtual event took place over several days in early June and drew attendees from around the world. A particular emphasis of this year's conference was health and racial equity, including a special session on finding humanity in teaching. The conference consisted of almost 50 sessions and featured a few networking events and virtual meet-ups for attendees hoping to connect after a year of working from home.



Professor Wendy Parmet (top), faculty director of the law school's Center for Health Policy and Law, welcomed colleagues from across the nation to the conference. Professor Kimani Paul-Emile (middle), of Fordham University School of Law, spoke on the "Hot Topics" plenary panel, which Professor Jonathan Kahn (bottom) moderated. Topics included FDA regulation, federalism and public health, and reproductive care.

**Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE)**

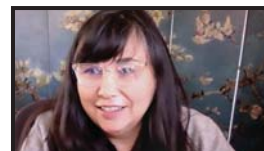
**West African Human Rights Defender Conference**

**3.29-3.31.21 »** PHRGE co-sponsored this conference hosted by Yale Law School's Schell Center for International Human Rights. Conference organizer **Alfred Brownell**, previously a distinguished scholar in residence at Northeastern Law from 2017 through 2019 and now the Tom and Andi Bernstein Visiting Human Rights Fellow at Yale Law School, credited several of his Northeastern Law co-op students for their contributions to framing the event.

**Center for Health Policy and Law**

**Health and the Body Politic: Undermining Democracy, Undermining Health**

**4.16.21 »** This annual conference, hosted in collaboration with the *American Journal of Public Health*, brought together leading academics, policy-makers and advocates to tackle the myriad challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussions included equity, access, mental health, availability of resources, vaccine development and rationing, and the crisis of governance. The *Northeastern University Law Review* co-hosted.



Dr. Mary Owen (top), director of the Center of American Indian and Minority Health at the University of Minnesota Medical School, and Eduardo Lugo-Hernández (bottom), assistant professor at the University of Puerto Rico, served as commentators.

“How can we create a system where Black people are not both over-policed and under-protected?” — Professor Margaret Burnham

#### Northeastern University

### Has Justice Been Served? Reflections on the Guilty Verdict of Derek Chauvin



Professor Margaret Burnham, who founded and leads the law school's Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project, provided expert insights during this panel discussion.

**4.28.21 »** Northeastern faculty, student and staff panelists offered reflections on the verdicts in the landmark Derek Chauvin trial, and considered whether this moment marks a turning point in the nation's acknowledgment of, and accountability for, racial justice.

**Professor Margaret Burnham**, director of the law school's Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project, spoke at this panel and told *News@Northeastern*, “This was a moment that affirms the humanity of Black people. The verdict restores a kind of moral balance ....”

#### Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE)

### Poverty and Human Rights: How to Address the Post-Pandemic Poverty Crisis

**4.14-5.18.21 »** In cooperation with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute in Sweden and the University of Minnesota Human Rights Center, PHRGE co-hosted this webinar series dedicated to poverty and human rights, featuring insights from **Professor Martha Davis'** new co-edited book, *Research Handbook on Human Rights and Poverty* (Elgar, 2021). Davis served as co-moderator of the series, and **Professor Lucy Williams** was a panelist for a session, “Poverty, Human Rights and Inequality.”

#### Public Health Advocacy Institute (PHAI)

### Public Health Approaches to Protecting Youth from Gun Violence: COVID and Beyond

**1.14-29.21 »** PHAI and its #UnitedOnGuns initiative hosted a three-part online conference focused on reducing gun violence as it affects youth during and beyond the COVID pandemic. The event, co-hosted with Northeastern University Bouvé College of Health Sciences and its School Health Academy, considered topics such as the impact of systemic racism on gun violence, domestic violence (including panelist **Professor Margo Lindauer '07**), suicide prevention, school shootings and community trauma. #UnitedOnGuns is directed by **Sarah Peck '96**, who hosted the conference with **Mark Gottlieb '93**, executive director of PHAI, along with colleagues in the School of Nursing.



#### New Markets

### Lunch & Learn Speaker Series

**3.17-6.14.21 »** The Office of New Markets, which focuses on developing and expanding employment opportunities and career paths in new, emerging and growth areas, hosts an annual Lunch & Learn Speaker Series aimed at increasing student access and engagement with graduates and practitioners in innovative, interdisciplinary and non-traditional legal roles. This spring's offerings included “ESG, Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability — A Bridge Between Public Interest and the Private Sector” and “The Big Wide World of Compliance in Financial Services — An Inside View.” The Office of New Markets also hosted the “Spring 2021 Microsoft Agile Diversity Mentoring Program,” designed to develop a diverse student talent pipeline in technology law.



#### Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy (PHRGE)

### Valerie Gordon Human Rights Lecture

**4.9.21 »** The annual Valerie Gordon Human Rights Lecture celebrates the memory of the late Valerie Gordon '93, a fierce advocate for human rights.

**Justin Hansford** (top), professor of law and director of the Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center at Howard University, delivered the keynote address on “Human Rights and Racial Justice.” The event also honored the two most recent winners of the Spirit of Valerie Gordon Essay Contest, which is conducted annually by the Black Law Student Association (BLSA). **Princess Diaz '23** (middle) won this year for her essay, “In the Name of ‘Terrorism’: Silencing Dissent in Saudi Arabia.” **Bianca Pickering '22** (bottom) was honored for winning last year for her essay, “The Forgotten Refugees: The Quandary of the Democratic Republic of Congo's Internally Displaced Peoples.”



Professor Hansford is a leading scholar and activist in the areas of critical race theory, human rights, and law and social movements. He is a co-author of the forthcoming seventh edition of *Race, Racism and American Law*, the celebrated legal textbook that was the first casebook published specifically for teaching race-related law courses.

#### Northeastern Law and the Roux Institute

### Legal and Ethical Issues in Artificial Intelligence

**6.11.21 »** The School of Law and Northeastern's Roux Institute, based in Portland, Maine, partnered with the Center for Law + Innovation at the University of Maine School of Law to host a virtual conference that brought together leading attorneys, data scientists, business executives and academics from the US and EU to discuss law, policy, ethics and careers. **Professor Woodrow Hartzog** served as a panel chair for the “Privacy and Policy Responses to AI” session.

#### Office of Development and Alumni/ae Relations and Alumni/ae Association

### Denise Carty-Bennia Memorial Bar Awards



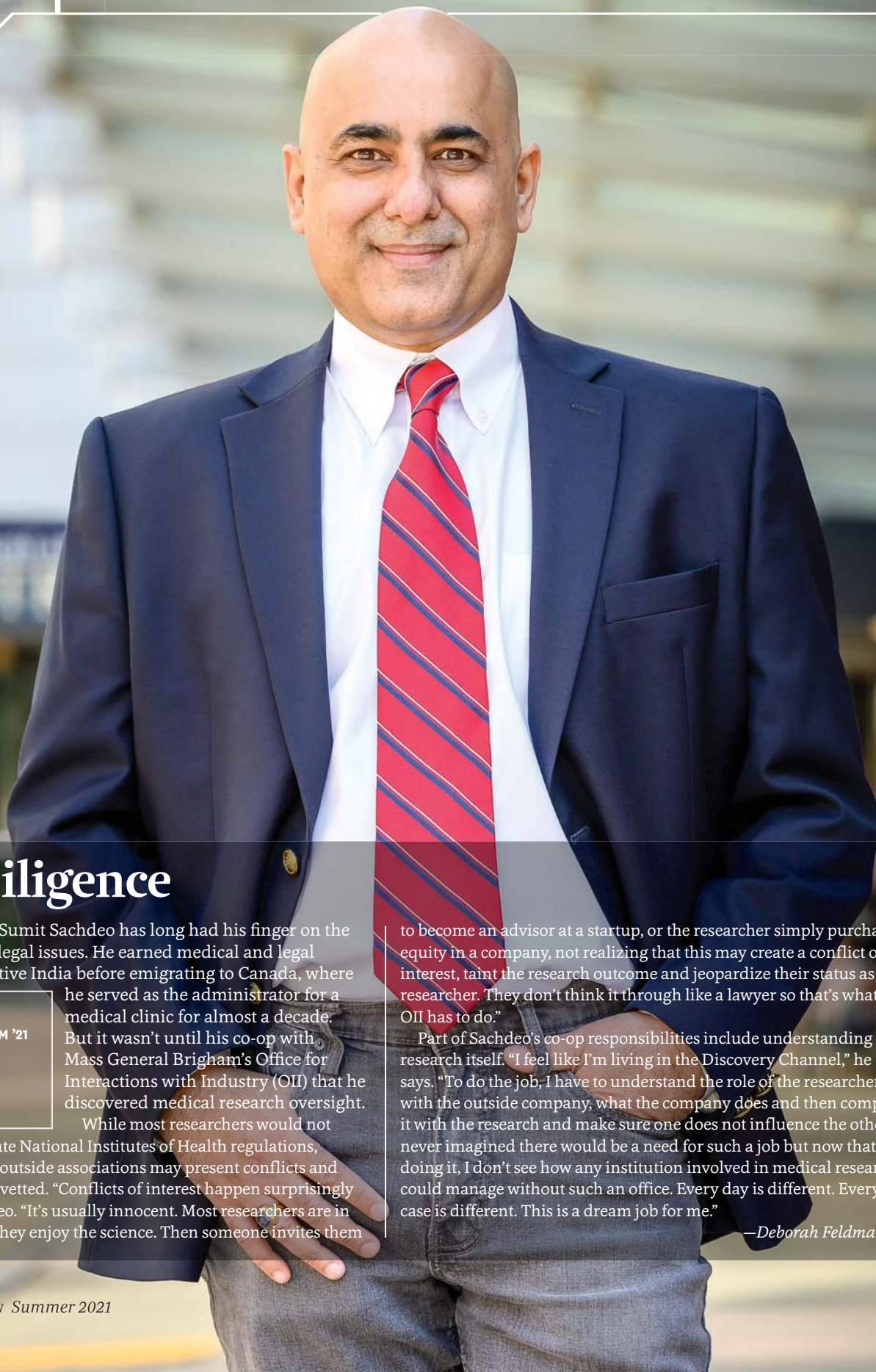
**5.12.21 »** The 28<sup>th</sup> annual Denise Carty-Bennia Memorial Bar Awards Reception honored the memory of a beloved Northeastern Law faculty member who was a tireless educator, advisor, mentor and friend to countless Northeastern Law students. Each year, a small number of deserving students of color are selected for bar awards, funded by graduates and friends of the school. Recipients are chosen based on their commitment to advocating for social and political change, which was at the heart of Professor Carty-Bennia's life. **Professor Deborah Ramirez** (left) delivered this year's keynote address, calling on students to fight oppression and racism.

*Congratulations to this year's bar award winners:*

|                     |                   |                      |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Jenna Agatep '21    | Jodie Ng '21      | Khalafalla Osman '21 |
| Iashai Stephens '21 | Hannah Taylor '21 | Joanna Xing '21      |



# Co-opMatters



## Due Diligence

LLM student Dr. Sumit Sachdeo has long had his finger on the pulse of medico-legal issues. He earned medical and legal degrees in his native India before emigrating to Canada, where he served as the administrator for a medical clinic for almost a decade. But it wasn't until his co-op with Mass General Brigham's Office for Interactions with Industry (OII) that he discovered medical research oversight.

While most researchers would not intentionally violate National Institutes of Health regulations, Sachdeo says that outside associations may present conflicts and must therefore be vetted. "Conflicts of interest happen surprisingly often," says Sachdeo. "It's usually innocent. Most researchers are in the field because they enjoy the science. Then someone invites them

to become an advisor at a startup, or the researcher simply purchases equity in a company, not realizing that this may create a conflict of interest, taint the research outcome and jeopardize their status as a researcher. They don't think it through like a lawyer so that's what the OII has to do."

Part of Sachdeo's co-op responsibilities include understanding the research itself. "I feel like I'm living in the Discovery Channel," he says. "To do the job, I have to understand the role of the researcher with the outside company, what the company does and then compare it with the research and make sure one does not influence the other. I never imagined there would be a need for such a job but now that I'm doing it, I don't see how any institution involved in medical research could manage without such an office. Every day is different. Every case is different. This is a dream job for me."

—Deborah Feldman

### VITALS

**Sumit Sachdeo LLM '21**  
Co-op with Mass  
General Brigham  
Somerville,  
Massachusetts



“What I found surprising about this co-op is how varied the field of reproductive rights actually is. The reproductive justice movement is about so much more than just protecting the right to medically induced abortion in *Roe*. I did a lot of constitutional law research and research into state statutes and ordinances. My supervisors were truly invested in making sure that I got the most out of the co-op, including meetings focused on how attorneys make strategic decisions about their cases and public outreach.”

→ VITALS  
**Mahathi Vemireddy '22**  
Co-op with National  
Advocates for  
Pregnant Women  
New York, New York



→ VITALS  
**Shannon Mathew '21**  
Co-op with Jacksonville  
Public Defender  
Jacksonville, Florida



“During this co-op, I worked on a range of cases, from juvenile life without parole to capital crimes. I expanded upon my skills by being versatile and creative with research, writing and motions. I was also able to see how these tasks came to life in court, learning how to effectively advocate for each client. This co-op solidified my decision to become a public defender and increased my confidence that this is the work that I am meant to practice.”

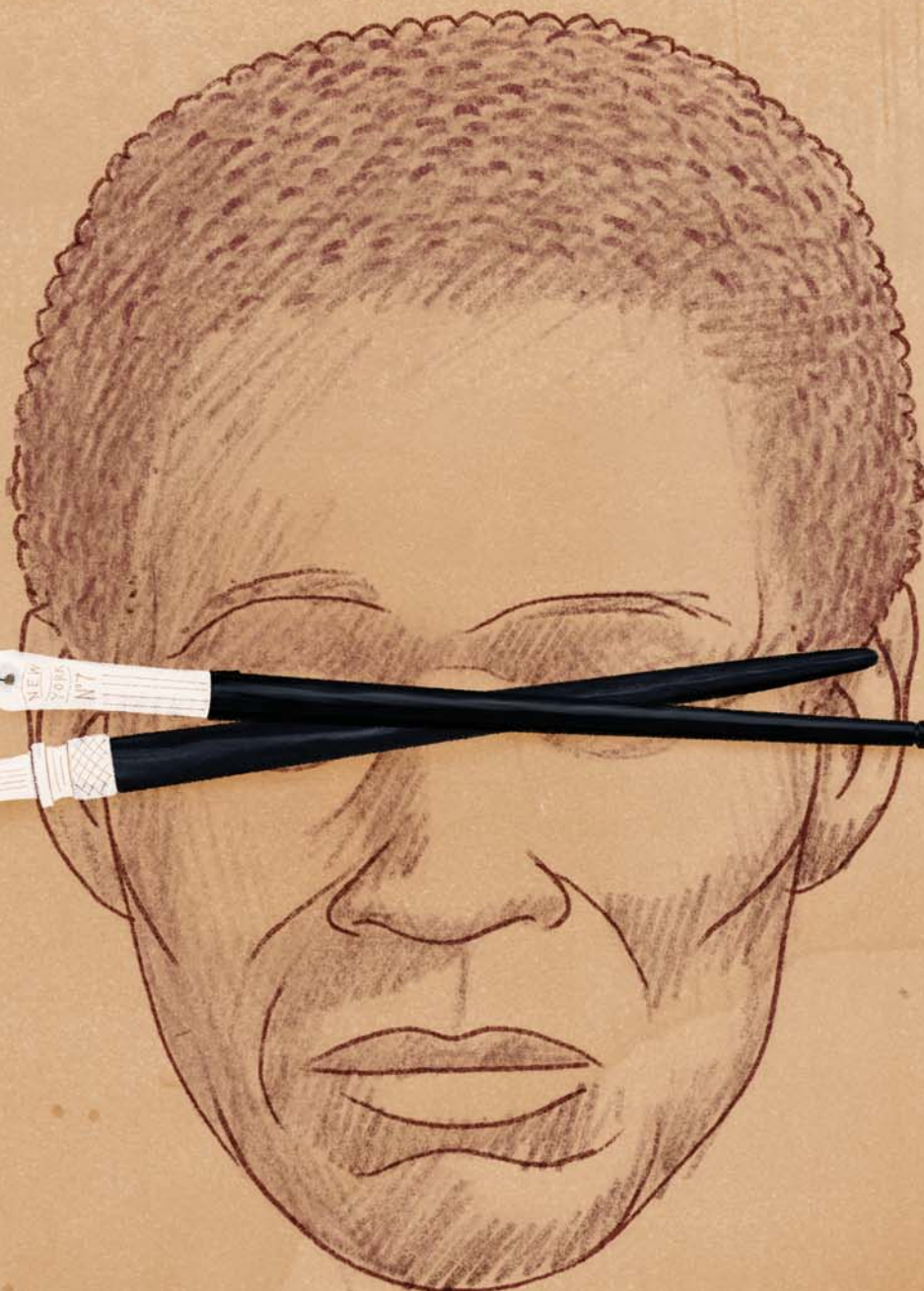
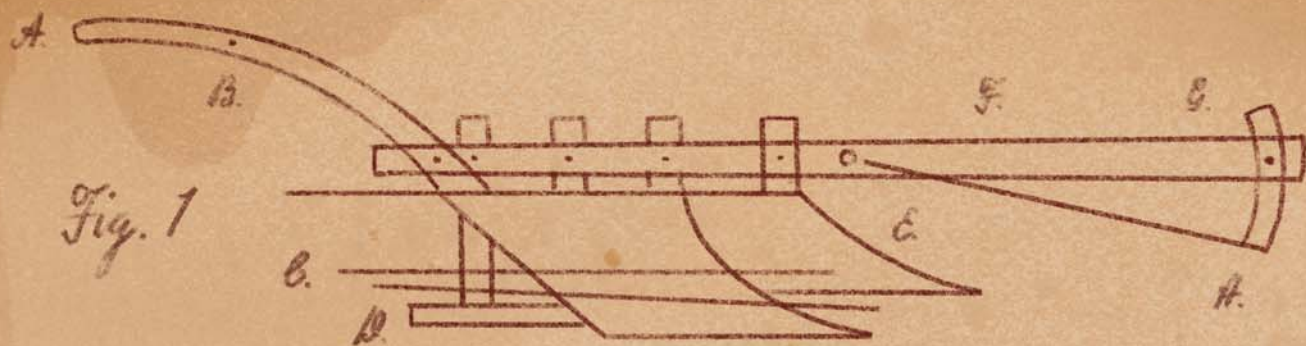


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The law school's  
Ned Project  
aims to right  
historical wrongs  
by recognizing Black  
inventors and  
their ingenuity

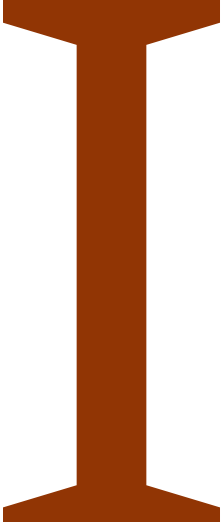


Ad



A photograph of Professor Kara Swanson sitting on a set of wide, light-colored concrete stairs. She is positioned in the lower-middle part of the frame, looking slightly upwards and to the right. She has shoulder-length brown hair and is wearing a dark grey blazer over a black top, dark grey trousers, and black loafers. Her hands are clasped together in her lap. To her left is a concrete wall with a black metal handrail. The stairs lead up towards a building with large windows and black frames in the background.

In addition to holding a JD, Professor Kara Swanson trained as a biochemist and molecular biologist at Yale University and the University of California at Berkeley, and then earned a PhD in the history of science from Harvard University.



IT'S UNLIKELY YOU'VE HEARD OF AN INGENIOUS inventor named Ned, who was enslaved in antebellum Mississippi, nor of his innovative plow and scraper, which made it easier to till soil and plant crops.

It's hard to know much about Ned. Neither his name nor his technology are included in patent records, an erasure from history that is just one example of systematic under-recognition of Black inventiveness, the reverberations of which echo to this day. Known to us today only through the words of his enslaver — who did not afford him the dignity of a second name — Ned's accomplishment and a legal opinion involving his plow and scraper have been kept alive by African American activist communities, yet little known in legal circles, even among patent attorneys.

But the Ned Project, which launched last fall at Northeastern Law, is working to not only uncover the story of Ned's life but also to get him long-overdue credit for his invention, perhaps through a posthumous patent. Under the leadership of Professor Kara Swanson, the project is one of restorative justice, seeking to acknowledge not just Ned's contributions to US technology but also the innovations of all the enslaved people whose creative rights were denied by a system that refused to allow them to own their own ideas.

"The story of Ned stands for all these hidden and lost stories," says Swanson, a patent attorney turned legal scholar and historian. Swanson, who received a Smithsonian Lemelson Fellowship to support her latest book, *Inventing Citizens: Race, Gender, and Patents*, argues that patents are a sociopolitical marker of American identity, especially in terms of what it means to be a citizen within a representative democracy. "We are trying to develop Ned's story as fully as we can as an act of restorative justice to not just honor Ned in a very belated fashion, but to honor all the other Black inventors whose contributions have


been used [by others] but whose names and stories are lost and which we may not be able to recover."

An interdisciplinary partnership between the law school's Center for Law, Information and Creativity (CLIC) and the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ), directed by Professor Margaret Burnham, the Ned Project is applying a critical race lens to the field of intellectual property and drawing a direct line from the injustices Ned endured to the racial disparities in innovation, invention and patenting that remain today.


## Intellectual Plagiarism

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Black Americans make up an estimated 0.3 percent of American-born innovators, according to statistics highlighted in a February law school panel discussion, "Lost and Found: Intellectual Property, Race and Restorative Justice," that included Swanson; two of her Ned Project research students, Abby Plummer '22 and Tim Kobba '22; and Luke Blackadar '14, deputy director of the Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston; among others.


The roots of this racial gap can be traced directly to the white supremacy embedded in early patent law, Swanson explains, including the 1858 decision regarding Ned's plow, "Invention of a Slave," issued by US Attorney General Jeremiah S. Black. Ned's enslaver, Oscar J.E. Stuart, a lawyer, saw the financial potential of Ned's invention and sought to grab it for himself. He applied for a patent but unlike other enslavers, Stuart didn't pretend the invention was his own idea, which would likely have allowed the application to be granted readily. Instead, he argued that because he owned Ned, he owned all of the fruits of Ned's mind, too.



**"We are trying to develop Ned's story as fully as we can as an act of restorative justice to not just honor Ned in a very belated fashion, but to honor all the other Black inventors ...."** — Professor Kara Swanson







This fall, Moriah Wilkins '21 will begin a Skadden Fellowship at the Legal Aid Justice Center in Virginia, where she will work on issues related to housing inequality and racial injustice.

The patent commissioner denied Stuart's application because he could not swear under oath that the invention was his own — it wasn't — and also denied a patent to Ned because, as a slave, he couldn't take an oath at all. Black agreed with Stuart's interpretation of patent law and also formally announced that Ned, and all enslaved persons, couldn't take an oath of inventorship and citizenship at all. Under Black's reasoning, even free African Americans could not get patents, as the US Supreme Court had recently denied them citizenship.

Stuart proceeded to try to sell Ned's invention anyway, which he named the "Stuart Double Plough and Scraper," but the Civil War intervened. Among many things yet unknown, but which Swanson and her students hope to learn, is whether Stuart made any money from Ned's creation. One of the bitter ironies of the story is that Stuart's letters describe his view of the "general stupidity" of Black people at the very time he sought to capitalize on Ned's intellectual abilities.

## Justice, IP Style

"Ned's story is the story of someone trying to use the laws of slavery to not only take [someone else's] physical labor but their mental creativity and make it something of value that the white enslaver could use," says Swanson. "So to me, remembering Ned is a way of remembering that Black Americans are very much a part of the history of technology in the US."

"There has been a long historical and cultural practice of exploitation, and that includes deliberately denying the legal right" of Black people to their own intellectual property rights, says Joe McClintock '22, who worked on the Ned Project last fall. "It is the way our economy exploits the creations of people for someone else's profit, and that has persistent racial aspects to it."

The Ned Project launched last year, Swanson says, "because I felt a strong compulsion to participate in all the ways our community could aid racial justice in 2020 America." In the aftermath of the

killing of George Floyd by former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin and the killings of other Black people, "last summer was so difficult for all of us and our students, so I pulled it together with the help of CRRJ," says Swanson. This included learning from CRRJ how to approach the work within a restorative justice framework.

"We started with, 'let's bring justice to Ned,' but now the broader question is, what does restorative justice look like in the IP space, how does IP law fit into the national conversations we are having about restorative justice and recognizing what has been stolen [from Black Americans] and figuring out ways to heal those harms," says Swanson. As the project continues, healing those harms is a primary goal.

## Fits and Starts

Though Swanson is trained as an historian, the ongoing process of uncovering Ned's story is "as close to a literal search for a needle in a haystack that you can imagine," she says. Considered chattel, Ned did not appear by name in any state or federal census before 1870. A federal slave census from 1860 did note that Ned's owner, Stuart, had two enslaved men, ages 34 and 20, and that one was a blacksmith. Blocked by the pandemic from traveling to Mississippi to comb through archives, Swanson and her students scoured online documents and interviewed librarians and others by phone. Their efforts initially concentrated on letters and diaries from Stuart and his family, but they also examined Freedmen's Bureau documents and Civil War veterans records to find references to Ned, and turned to modern tools like ancestry.com and findmygrave.com. Last fall, Swanson's student team was McClintock and Moriah Wilkins '21, who met with Swanson weekly to share findings and theorize about Ned's life. "Would he have run away and joined the Union Army during the Civil War? Would he have worked as a blacksmith for the Union Army? There were lots of things we were trying to guess and imagine his life might have been," McClintock says.

After frustrating fits and starts, they finally located a marriage certificate from 1865 for a man named Ned Stuart who matched what they guessed was Ned's age. That suggested that Ned not only survived the Civil War but also took his former owner's last name, a common practice for formerly enslaved people.

"I felt kind of emotional when we found the marriage certificate. I was just happy he survived the war," says Wilkins, who also spent the spring term as Swanson's research assistant. "Slaves were often killed for nothing, and my fear was he would have been sold off or died because he tried to escape." Wilkins, who is now trying to track down Ned's post-war life, plans to stay involved with the project as she heads to her post-graduate Skadden Fellowship at the Legal Aid Justice Center in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Getting due credit for Ned has broader implications, says Swanson. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, hundreds of African Americans were granted patents, even before the Civil War, sometimes using white people as proxies in their applications to avoid issues related to racism.

"There was broad participation in the patent system in the US, but predominantly by white men, so creativity was linked to masculinity and whiteness," says Swanson. As the patent system created a growing record of US inventiveness that included

**"Slaves were often killed for nothing, and my fear was he would have been sold off or died because he tried to escape."** — Moriah Wilkins '21



almost exclusively white men, it confirmed racial and gender stereotypes about Black people and white women. Patents are awarded for the applicant's ability to be an independent thinker originating new inventions, a quality considered essential for self-governing citizens in a democracy, particularly voting. The patent record became further proof that Black women and men and white women were not qualified for citizenship and the vote, a presumption activists fought to overcome by proving that they had earned patents. "I think this idea that patents and inventiveness are linked to who we think the ideal American citizen is still exists today," says Swanson. That so few Black Americans currently participate in the patent system is a significant problem that the Ned Project and similar efforts can begin to redress.

## Lowering Barriers

"We can't afford, as a nation, to discard the inventiveness of a big part of our country," says Swanson, adding that it's not just a matter of racial justice. The very reason the patent system exists, after all, is to encourage technological innovation and economic growth. But the barriers remain high: It costs about \$60,000 to file a patent application today, a serious financial barrier for many people. Meanwhile, only about 1 percent of intellectual property attorneys are Black, and most investment in innovation continues to go to white people, according to experts at the law school's February panel. Even today, patent applications perceived to have been invented by African Americans and white women are less likely to be granted because patent examiners have the same implicit biases as many other people, Swanson argues. "The reason we don't see as many Black patentees is historical inequities and the cascading effects over time rather than inherent differences in capability or even interest," says Swanson.

It's expensive not only to apply for patents and other IP rights but to protect them, notes Blackadar, who manages the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts at the Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston. However, the US Patent and Trademark Office offers a network of pro bono attorneys for low-income

inventors who need legal advice, and in New England, the council runs that program. And the US Copyright Office recently created a small claims court for copyright infringement disputes, making it easier for low-income copyright holders to enforce their rights. "We still have a long way to go," Blackadar says, "but it's a step in the right direction."

Alvin Benjamin Carter III '18, a corporate and intellectual property lawyer at Brown Rudnick in Boston, is often approached by Black inventors with questions about IP. As part of his firm's pro bono Racial Justice Initiative, Carter has worked with entrepreneurs and artists of color on various business and IP matters. He gained a passion for IP and entrepreneurship while earning his bachelor's degree in music industry at Northeastern, managing and producing musicians, and serving as the innovation director at the Hiphop Archive and Research Institute at Harvard University prior to attending law school. "I think recruiting Black law school candidates who are working or studying in certain fields is a first step to increasing the number of Black lawyers that practice IP," says Carter, who participated as a student and a teaching assistant in the law school's IP CO-LAB, an intellectual property clinic. "Recruiting undergraduate and graduate students with degrees in music, art, engineering, technology and science from Historically Black Colleges and Universities could provide a pipeline of Black law students interested in IP because those students already have an interest and background in areas that are relevant to practicing IP law."

As the Ned Project continues, Wilkins and the other students and graduates involved are eager to see what is discovered next about Ned. "It's an exciting project, unlike anything I've ever heard of before," says Wilkins, who plans to take part in one of the project's hopeful culminations: a dedication ceremony to Ned on the land on which he worked.

"The fact that someone can create something in such a state of subjugation is incredible," Wilkins says, "and the question is, what could he have done if he were free? What could he have done if he were educated and able to live in his real humanity instead of as chattel?"

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*Elaine McArdle is a contributing writer based in Saratoga Springs, New York.*

**"Recruiting ... students with degrees in music, art, engineering, technology and science ... could provide a pipeline of Black law students interested in IP ..."**

— Alvin Benjamin Carter III '18

Luke Blackadar '14 is a visual artist and intellectual property attorney who is passionate about serving small businesses and creative entrepreneurs.







**KAHLIL MITCHELL '10**

"Multi-million dollar supply agreements that would take several months were getting signed within weeks."

# INCHING TOWARD IMMUNITY



## Ben Kahlil Mitchell '10

joined the general counsel's office of Moderna in August 2019, his role was to help facilitate research and development for the clinical-stage biotechnology company. Moderna, founded in 2010 to explore messenger RNA (mRNA) as a way of targeting disease, still hadn't brought any drugs to market; Mitchell was focused on finding partners who could come up with "scientific innovation," not on "drugs that were really tied up and ready to go," he recalls.

All that would soon change. In January 2020, Moderna announced it would develop an mRNA vaccine for the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19, which had just begun to spread around the world. It did so in 25 days, and the rest, as they say, is very recent history: On December 18, 2020, the US Food and Drug Administration approved the Moderna vaccine under an Emergency Use Authorization. Three days later the first shots — which have an efficacy rate of 94.1 percent — were given.

As part of that effort, Mitchell was redeployed within Moderna to handle vaccine-related agreements, including those ensuring the company had access to the requisite raw materials. Urgency was in the air. "Multi-million-dollar supply agreements that would take several months were getting signed within weeks," he says. During one negotiation, instead of pushing back on a contract's provisions, an attorney for a supplier told Mitchell: "We're rooting for you."

**Science delivered, but hesitancy and hoarding have hampered vaccine distribution. Faculty and graduates weigh in on how we can do better in the event of a future pandemic.**

**By REBECCA BEYER**



“

**Vaccines are an interesting example of the intersection between individual care and care for the community. Because much of the benefit is not to the self— it's to the community — there has always been this resistance.**

”

PROFESSOR WENDY PARMET



That a safe and effective vaccine for a new disease could be developed and distributed so quickly is a testament to unprecedented levels of collaboration among scientists, private companies and government. And Moderna's was not the only success. Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson also had vaccines approved in record time, as did other companies in other countries. More are in the pipeline.

But could we have done better? By early June, more than 50 percent of the US population had received at least one COVID vaccine shot, yet 30 other countries hadn't dosed even 1 percent of their people. And more than a year into the pandemic, public mistrust of the vaccine and pretty much everything else related to COVID-19 was still staggeringly high in the United States and elsewhere. What have we learned from COVID-19 that will make us better prepared for a future pandemic?

In short: Science works; we should fund it. Humans are more complicated.

## Ensuring Supply

One thing pretty much everyone can agree on is that intensive funding of vaccine development paid off. Combined with early sharing of the genetic makeup of the virus, massive public funds from mostly developed countries expedited a process that normally takes years. But the countries that funded vaccine development did little to ensure the vaccines would be available to anyone else. “Leading Western governments gave away money with no strings attached in terms of transferring the technology,” says Professor Brook Baker '76, a senior policy analyst for the access-to-medicines nonprofit Health Gap. “Instead, they were satisfied with the quantities they were going to get preferential access to, and the rest of the world could take care of itself.”

The move wasn't just selfish; it was also shortsighted. As variants of the virus have emerged, they have proven to be less responsive to existing vaccines, meaning infections continue to grow and put everyone at risk all over again. “You may think you can vaccinate your own and keep the drawbridge up, but there is no drawbridge,” Baker says.

The stakes could not be higher. A study by Northeastern's Laboratory for the Modeling of Biological + Socio-technical Systems (MOBS Lab) last fall estimated that twice as many deaths could be averted by distributing hypothetical single-dose vaccines equally based on each country's population rather

than supplying only rich countries with the ability to pay full price up front. Since then, vaccine makers have entered into contract manufacturing agreements to allow outside partners to make their products for them, and the United States and other countries have been donating excess doses. But demand still far exceeds supply globally.

Baker, who helped advocate for the establishment of the Medicines Patent Pool to expand access to HIV treatment in 2010, says things could — and should — be different. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, he was an early proponent of the World Health Organization's COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP), which calls on companies to voluntarily share their knowledge and intellectual property to accelerate manufacturing around the world.

Intellectual property rights, including patents and trade secrets, are crucial to product development, especially in the medical arena. “You need some kind of exclusivity to provide incentives for people to put money into this industry,” says Y. Jenny Chen '06, a partner at McDermott, Will & Emery in Boston, who works on patent-related matters in the life sciences. “At the end of the day, only a very small percentage of drug candidates actually get approved and get on the market.”

But Baker argues IP rights should take a back seat during public health emergencies. He says mandatory licensing — through a World Trade Organization treaty waiver or so-called march-in rights for drugs that receive federal funding in the US — should be discussed for COVID-19 vaccines and treatment, if only to expedite voluntary sharing (C-TAP was launched in May 2020; by early 2021, not a single patent had been contributed). “Let's give the government a big stick,” Baker says. “We think that will force companies to the table to negotiate better technology transfer.”

In May, the Biden administration announced it would support waiving international intellectual property protections to help eradicate the pandemic, but biotechnology executives continued to argue that supply bottlenecks and a lack of proper production facilities — not patents — are to blame for the dearth of doses.

## Follow the Science

One challenge with the initial COVID-19 vaccines is that they require precise

temperature controls and trained medical professionals to administer them. They also face manufacturing constraints. That makes them expensive and time sensitive. Potential solutions are in the works.

For example, Jason Rifkin '03 is president and chief executive officer of PhageNova Bio, a developmental stage biotechnology company focused on targeted gene expression for cancer treatments, molecular imaging and — most recently — vaccines. Last year, the company turned its attention to COVID-19 to see if its technology could play a role in beating back the pandemic. PhageNova uses bacteriophage, or phage — a fast-growing engineered bacteria construct that has been modified to express a specific gene — to attack a disease at its source.

Early results are promising. In December 2020 and March of this year, PhageNova scientists published two papers demonstrating positive results. The first showed that an aerosol could be used to deliver phage particles to the body through the lungs, and the second provided a pre-clinical proof-of-concept for the use of phage to deliver COVID-19 vaccine prototypes. The goal is a vaccine made from a fast-growing biomass that could be delivered without a needle or temperature controls and with minimal medical supervision, which could help distribution in developing countries. “The science is progressing very well,” Rifkin says. “We do check a lot of boxes that were not necessarily able to be checked in early iterations.”

But Rifkin cautions that his company’s efforts are nascent and ongoing; PhageNova hasn’t conducted any human trials. “The science can only go so fast, and we continue to develop our cancer program,” he says. “But this is really good science. We’re working to have a tremendous impact on global healthcare. I think everyone in the world of life sciences is intending to have the same impact.”

## The Social Contract

No matter how good the science is, though, it can’t succeed if people don’t trust it or don’t care enough about others to follow it. Early politicization of the COVID-19 pandemic led some people to refuse the simplest means of preventing exposure — masks — and to a phenomenon known as “vaccine hesitancy.”

Immunization has a long and complicated history in the United States. Professor



PROFESSOR BROOK BAKER '76

“

**You may think you can vaccinate your own and keep the drawbridge up, but there is no drawbridge.**

”

Wendy Parmet, an expert on public health law, points to the case of Dr. Zabdiel Boylston, a Boston doctor who inoculated his son, his slaves and more than 200 other people against smallpox in 1721 and was arrested and faced death threats for doing so. “Vaccines are an interesting example of the intersection between individual care and care for the community,” says Parmet, faculty director of the law school’s Center for Health Policy and Law. “Because much of the benefit is not to the self— it’s to the community — there has always been this resistance.”

Parmet has written about the erosion of our social contract, or the implicit agreement between members of a society and their government that some personal freedoms must be given up to preserve the wellbeing of the larger community. That idea has been on the decline for decades, Parmet says, and it took another hit during the COVID-19 pandemic when the US Supreme Court ruled in *Roman Catholic Diocese v. Cuomo* that restrictions on religious service attendance meant to curb the spread of the virus were unconstitutional. The decision was in contrast to *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, a 1905 decision upholding a Cambridge law that all residents be vaccinated against smallpox. “There are manifold restraints to which every person is necessarily subject for the common good,” Justice John Marshall Harlan wrote in the 7-2 *Jacobson* decision. “On any other basis, organized society could not exist with safety to its members.”

Parmet says it will take work to rebuild the social contract.

One way to do so is to reframe our thinking about immunization. In 2005, Parmet wrote a paper, “Informed Consent

and Public Health: Are They Compatible When It Comes to Vaccines?,” Parmet believes they are but that informed consent needs to be understood as something more than providing individuals with information so that they can make a choice about their own health. In the context of COVID-19, where anti-vaxxers and anti-maskers have viewed public health recommendations and mandates as violations of their personal freedoms, the article turned out to be “prescient,” she says.

“Informed consent shouldn’t be just about your risk of COVID-19 versus your risk of the vaccine,” she explains. “As we move forward in dealing with this pandemic or the next or any other public health crisis, we need to also think about the risk to the community versus the benefit to the community. Ultimately, we’re all in this together.”

*Rebecca Beyer is a freelance writer and editor in Boston.*





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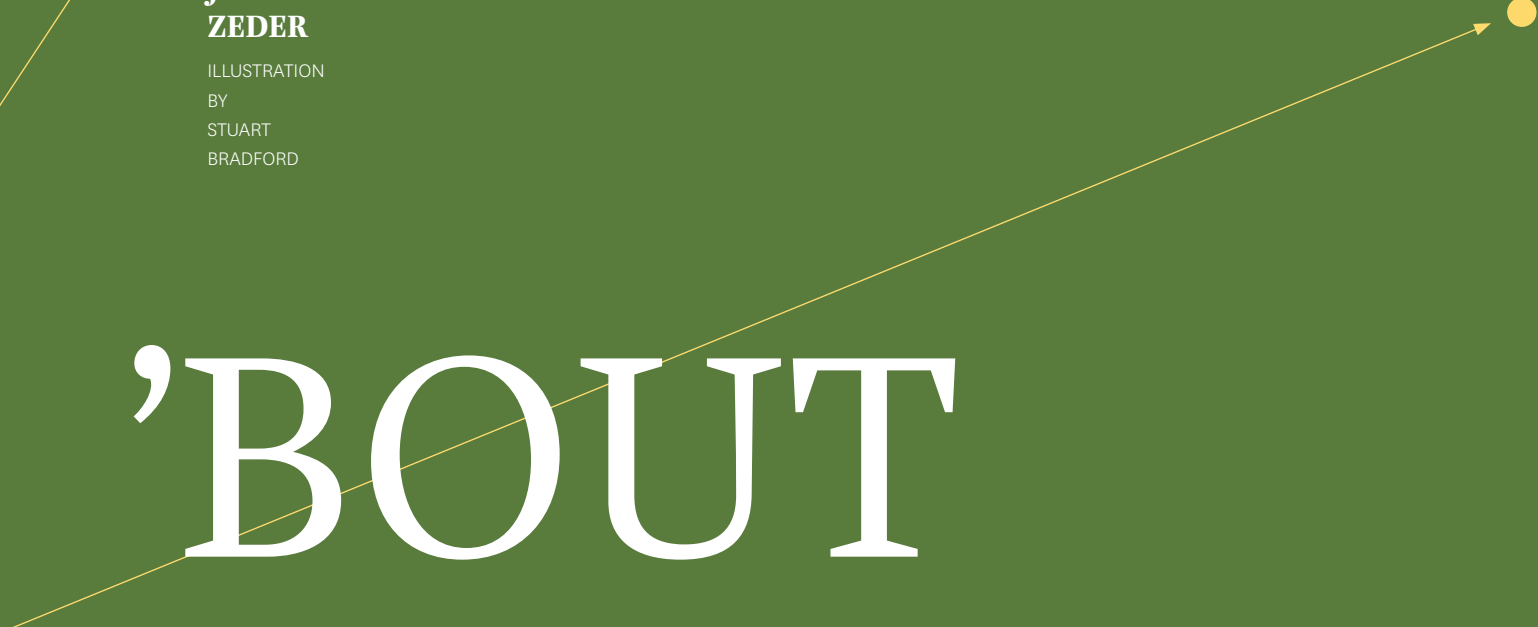
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# TALKING



BY  
JERI  
ZEDER

ILLUSTRATION  
BY  
STUART  
BRADFORD



# 'BOU

The time has come, say Northeastern Law  
privacy experts, to rethink the power  
dynamics of social media and data sharing



# EVOLUTION





## FLOWERS

are attention-getters. They need to be. If they can't attract honeybees, then they can't produce seeds. No seeds, no future. And so flowers, with their shocking shapes, alluring aromas and blazing colors, have evolved to be irresistible to pollinating insects.

When the flower is, say, a lilac, the insect-plant relationship is nicely symbiotic. But when the flower is a carnivorous Venus flytrap — well, that's a different story.

Our relationship to online companies like Facebook, Google, Twitter, 23andMe and Tinder isn't so dissimilar. We swarm to them for their free or comparatively low-cost services. But, like flowers, they have their own agenda. Their agenda is to profit from the data that they collect from our usage of their sites: our names, locations, dates of birth, schools attended and where we work — along with our every comment, click and hover. They aggregate our data with the data of billions of others into massive collections of information that can be mined for intelligible patterns of interest to marketers, lenders, law

enforcement and more. To keep us coming back and sharing data, these companies curate what they show us based on what our data reveals will capture our attention.

### FALLING SHORT

If there's any doubt about how lucrative all of this is, consider how much the industry is spending to protect its interests in Washington, DC: According to *The Markup*, in 2020 alone, Facebook spent approximately \$19.7 million on federal lobbying; Amazon, \$18.7 million; and Google, \$8.8 million. Together, 25 lesser-known data broker companies spent \$29 million.

Increasingly, legal scholars, advocates and some lawmakers are raising alarms not only about the harms to individuals caused by the data-extraction industry, but about its social harms as well. These harms include perpetuating discrimination based on race, gender and sexual orientation; political micro-targeting that erodes democracy; undue monitoring of the poor and other powerless and marginalized people; and sexploitation of women. As Professor of Law and Computer Science Ari Ezra Waldman argues, our newest laws, like the European

General Data Protection Regulation and the California Consumer Privacy Act, and the dozens of bills pending in Congress and state legislatures, are not up to the task. They do only two things, he says: give individuals more buttons they have to click and let companies police themselves.

That's not enough, according to Waldman, who is the faculty director of Northeastern Law's Center for Law, Information and Creativity (CLIC), which focuses on technology, law and social justice. "We need to limit the power of data-extractive companies," he says. "Control over data is power. If we don't structure our laws to directly address the effects of that power, then we're headed for a future like we see in those sci-fi movies, where corporations control everything we do and monitor us wherever we go."

Waldman wants those who are the most vulnerable to the excesses of information capitalism to help write legislative reforms. "Although it may sound radical," he says, "there is one group that absolutely does not have to be at the table, and that is industry."

On this point, Juliana Spofford '89 respectfully disagrees. Spofford is general counsel and chief privacy officer at Aidentified, a sales intelligence company that provides artificial intelligence-driven data prospecting services to businesses and nonprofits; she previously spent almost a



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Control over data is power. If we don't structure our laws to directly address the effects of that power, then we're headed for a future like we see in those sci-fi movies ....”

— Professor Ari Ezra Waldman

decade with Dun & Bradstreet, where she served as assistant general counsel and chief privacy officer. Spofford agrees that the current system needs reform, including human rights protections for the least powerful. But, she says, there are legitimate business interests around the collection and use of big data that should be reflected in privacy laws. “Data services and business intelligence companies provide important services that, among other things, enable businesses to do business with each other by finding better contacts for marketing, sales and data management, and for knowing who they are doing business with,” she says. “Corporate representatives should be at the table when laws are being written, as they can give insight into how data is actually being used and why. This would help governments understand the reasons for certain exceptions that corporations may be arguing to be written into privacy laws.”

Spofford also thinks that our privacy laws need an overarching federal response, and that the public needs to be better educated about the protections we do have. “In the US, we currently have a patchwork of state and federal privacy laws that are not adequate to protecting a person's privacy interest, and, to the extent that laws exist, people do not necessarily take enough advantage of some of the rights they may have under the laws,” she says.

## CHANGING THE CONVERSATION

That's likely true. But Professor of Law and Computer Science Woodrow Hartzog argues for a paradigm shift. The dominant conversation about privacy, Hartzog says, focuses on the rights of individuals to access their personal information and to rectify any incorrect information, and on companies' obligations to get individuals' consent to collect and use their personal information. This misses our modern relationship with these technologies and these companies, Hartzog believes. “We've seen how technology companies can endanger our privacy, but our vulnerabilities go far beyond our data. We're working within a system that is acting upon all sorts of incentives to harvest our attention and information without regard to what's best for our well-being, our mental health, our public institutions and our democracy,” he says.

The challenge is what to do about it. “The amount of data that is getting collected and used is staggering,” Hartzog says. “We're not exactly sure how to tackle this problem, because there's no set playbook for how to respond to power at this scale. These are the most powerful companies in the world, and they control our entire online experience, making us vulnerable to manipulation and abuse that is hard to measure in isolation but is quite clear at scale. And so, we are still trying to figure out what the right rules should be.”

Hartzog argues for embracing a holistic approach. “I would require more formidable rules surrounding transparency and accountability, similar to how the Securities and Exchange Commission holds executives accountable





for transparency,” he says. “I would impose duties of loyalty, duties of care and duties of confidentiality on companies that we regularly interact with and make ourselves vulnerable to.” And, he says, “I would want rules that are at least cognizant of how tech companies have the power to facilitate an attack on democratic institutions and our social discourse and hold them accountable for their foreseeably dangerous actions. I also recommend rules to protect against abusive and manipulative user interfaces and data practices.”

In addition to beefed-up government oversight, Waldman prefers to regulate the business model by ending surveillance-based advertising and imposing harsher punishments, breaking up big companies, and building and protecting worker power. He notes that a \$5 billion fine for a company that makes 11 times that in a year isn’t enough when the company gets to keep all the benefits it gained from the data it improperly gathered. He wants companies that break the law to be forced to turn over all of their ill-gotten gains — profits, certainly, but also valuable algorithms developed from predatory data collection. Tech workers also need a union to stop companies from firing privacy advocates. The biggest companies, Waldman says, need to be stripped of their monopoly power, and the



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Corporate representatives should be at the table when laws are being written, as they can give insight into how data is actually being used and why.” — Juliana Spofford '89

“

We're not exactly sure how to tackle this problem, because there's no set playbook for how to respond to power at this scale.”

— Professor Woodrow Hartzog



## The Social Harm of Data Sharing

Examples, from *The New York Times*, the ACLU and the investigative news organizations *The Markup* and *ProPublica*, of how our data is used:

- ➔ **Aggregated data** used to predict student success by more than 500 American universities has been found to be four times more likely to flag Black students as opposed to white students as high academic risks, possibly causing schools to channel Black students toward less challenging courses of study.
- ➔ **More than 100 websites** serving undocumented immigrants, domestic and sexual abuse survivors, sex workers and LGBTQ individuals have sent data about their visitors to advertising companies.
- ➔ **Dating apps** like OKCupid have shared their users' locations, sexual desires, partner preferences, alcohol use and political views with other companies.
- ➔ **Health information websites** like WebMD have sent user data about page visits to dozens of marketing companies.
- ➔ **Geo-location technology** has resulted in emergency-room patients being targeted with ads for personal injury lawyers.
- ➔ **The approximately 3,000 websites** dedicated to revenge porn frequently post the names, ages, addresses, jobs, email addresses and links to social media platforms of their victims, who are then subjected to cyberbullying, threats and harassment.
- ➔ **Facial recognition technology** has resulted in the false arrests of Black men.
- ➔ **Algorithms** typically predict — incorrectly — significantly higher recidivism risks for Black people, resulting in their unfair treatment in the criminal justice system.

business model — where our data powers algorithmically targeted ads — needs to be regulated, limited or rethought.

There are nascent signs that Congress and some state legislatures are starting to respond. One attempt at federal reform is the Data Accountability and Transparency Act filed by Senator Sherrod Brown, a Democrat representing Ohio. It would limit the collection, use and sharing of personal data, prohibit the use of aggregated data for discriminatory purposes, ban the use of facial recognition technology and create a new federal regulatory agency. There are also proposed bills at the federal and state level that ban practices like political microtargeting and the use of facial recognition in public places and put substantive limits on automated decision-making and certain kinds of dangerous data collection practices.

Reformers would likely say that, when it comes to data protection, there's a lot more work to do to equalize lilacs and Venus flytraps. But it's at least a start in tending the garden of privacy.

*Jeri Zeder is a contributing writer.*



# FacultyNews

Hartzog's previous book, *Privacy's Blueprint: The Battle to Control the Design of New Technologies* (Harvard University Press, 2018), has been called "one of the most important books about privacy in our times."



## Hartzog Honored by Northeastern

» **Professor Woodrow Hartzog**, an internationally recognized expert in the areas of privacy, media and robotics law, earned a 2021 Northeastern University Excellence in Research and Creative Activity Award for the prolific body of work he produced in 2020, including law review articles and a co-authored forthcoming book, *Breached! Why Data Security Law Fails and How to Improve It* (Oxford University Press).

Hartzog was also recently appointed to a special Massachusetts legislative Commission on Government Use of Facial Recognition Technology. The commission, comprised of representatives from the private sector, government, civil liberties organizations, law enforcement and academia, is charged with conducting a study of facial recognition's use in the commonwealth and making policy recommendations.

“I am profoundly honored and humbled to receive an award named for Dr. John Hope Franklin, an historian ... whose work is a shining example of history attentive to racial justice.” — Professor Kara Swanson

## Swanson Receives Law and Society Association Top Honor

» **Professor Kara Swanson**, an expert in intellectual property law, gender and sexuality, the history of science, medicine and technology, and legal history, has been selected for a Law and Society Association Annual Award. Swanson received the John Hope Franklin Prize, which recognizes exceptional scholarship in the field of race, racism and the law, for her essay, “Race and Selective Legal Memory: Reflections on ‘Invention of a Slave.’” The essay repositions a US attorney general opinion from 1858 that declared inventions by African Americans — enslaved and free — unpatentable.

Combining history with her own experiences in patent law, Swanson contrasts legal forgetting of the opinion with generations of Black activists remembering the story of Ned, an enslaved blacksmith, and his innovative plow (see page 14). In so doing, she traces a color line in US legal thought, pedagogy and practice in ways that connect the antebellum patent office to 21<sup>st</sup>-century questions of racial justice. “I am profoundly honored and humbled to receive an award named for Dr. John Hope Franklin, an historian of the United States whose work is a shining example of history attentive to racial justice. I wrote this essay as my small contribution to that ongoing project,” said Swanson, whose research has been supported by the Mellon

(Continued on page 36)



Swanson

# Adler and Swanson Selected for “Reckoning” Fellowships

» The Humanities Center at Northeastern University’s College of Social Sciences and Humanities has selected professors **Libby Adler** and **Kara Swanson** (pictured opposite page) as 2021–2022 “Reckoning” Fellows — a multidisciplinary group of Northeastern faculty and PhD candidates who are exploring “reckonings” that involve an intersectional, multidimensional process of truth-telling and accountability around all forms of systemic oppression, from the intimate and familial, to the social, political, planetary and cosmic.

Adler’s project, “Governing the Terrain Called Beauty: Cuba as a Case Study of LGBTQ Progress in a Socialist Legal Environment,” explores whether there is an approach to LGBTQ progress that is not based on the liberal legal model that relies on individual rights such as privacy or expression — both of which have proven essential in the US. “If there is an

alternative model for LGBTQ progress, might it improve on the American tendency to advance the interests of the most privileged within that population on axes of race and income, while leaving the most marginalized behind?” Adler wonders. “I’m looking forward to convening with this fascinating, interdisciplinary group as I think through these questions.”

Swanson’s project, “Inventing Citizens: Race, Gender and Patents,” examines the surprising role of invention and patenting in answering the consequential question, who is an American? “I will be considering how white women and Black Americans have used their participation in technology creation and the patent system to make claims for recognition as full American citizens, using this multidisciplinary community to explore the relationship between past exclusions and contemporary reckonings in the United States,” said Swanson.



Adler

## Appointments to Keep



» **Professor Martha Davis** has joined the academic advisory council for the ERA Project, a new law and policy think tank housed at Columbia Law School’s Center for Gender and Sexuality Law. Headed by Katherine Franke ’86, director of the Center for Gender and Sexuality Law and James L. Dohr Professor of Law at Columbia Law School, the ERA Project develops rigorous academic research, policy papers, expert guidance and strategic leadership to support the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the US Constitution. Davis has written widely on the ERA and

the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and is a faculty director for Northeastern’s Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy and NuLawLab.



» **Professor Stephanie Hartung** has been appointed to the affiliate program at Boston University’s Center for Antiracist Research. Launched in 2020, this interdisciplinary network strives to investigate and dismantle racism at multiple levels, from the structural to the interpersonal. Hartung has written extensively in the area

of state and federal criminal procedure and wrongful convictions, specifically focusing on procedural bars to post-conviction innocence claims. She also serves as the resident fellow for the law school’s Center for Public Interest Advocacy and Collaboration (CPIAC), where she is involved in the Cradle-to-Prison (C2P) Pipeline research project. As part of the C2P project, Hartung is the principal investigator of an ongoing survey of incarcerated people in Massachusetts, focusing on government systems involvement and early childhood experiences, designed to help understand and dismantle the pipeline to prison.

## GOING PLACES



**Across the River**  
In March, **Professor Leo Beletsky** joined

colleagues at Harvard Law School’s Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology and Bioethics for a panel discussion, “Addressing the Overdose Epidemic: Substance Use Policy for the Biden Administration.”



**Virtual Viewing**  
**Professors Dan Danielsen** and

**Sonia Elise Rolland** spoke on a panel about “Globalization After Neoliberalism: Disruption, Distribution and Democracy in the World Economic Order” at the virtual “Law and Political Economy: Democracy Beyond Neoliberalism” conference in February.



**Italian Itinerary**  
**Professor Woodrow Hartzog** delivered

a keynote conference address for “Contemporary Challenges for AI and Society: Disciplines in Dialogue,” hosted in March by the AI Society at the University of Padua in northern Italy.



**Connecticut Crossing**  
In February, **Professor Claudia Haupt** spoke about “Regulating

Speech Online: A Comparative Constitutional Perspective” for Yale Law School’s Information Society Project.



**Princeton Pride**  
In March, **Professor Ari Ezra Waldman**

spoke about “Queer Lawyers and Queer Identity” for Queer Politics, a seminar organized by Princeton University scholars that is dedicated to research and scholarship for LGBTQ+ justice and equality.



## Great Reads

## Faculty Books

Grab your Kindle and coffee or put your feet up and savor a book in hand — whatever it takes to relax and enjoy these thought-provoking works by our award-winning faculty.



## Williams Has No Qualms About Giving a Damn

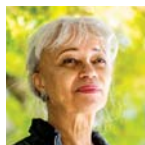
» In *Giving a Damn: Racism, Romance and Gone with the Wind* (Harper Collins, 2021), **Professor Patricia Williams** finds that when you begin to unpick current debates around immigration, freedom of speech, the culture wars and wall-building, beneath them lies the unexamined history of laws by which human beings were rendered property. Williams argues that practices of dehumanization rely on structures that can be traced all the way from the plantation to ex-President Trump's Twitter account.

Williams begins in the American South with *Gone With the Wind* (still the second most popular book in the USA after the *Bible*), that nostalgic tale full of the myths of the Southern belle, Southern culture, “good food and good manners.” The scene is seductive, from a distance. How nice it is to paper over the obliging slavery at the novel's core and enjoy the wisteria-covered plantations, now the venue for weddings. But papering over has left us in a world that has never been more segregated, incarcerated or separated from each other. Williams wants to know which ideas brought the richest and most diverse nation on the planet to the brink of resurgent, violent division and what this means for the rest of the world.

Williams' previous books include *The Alchemy of Race and Rights*; *The Rooster's Egg*; *Seeing a Color-Blind Future: The Paradox of Race*; and *Open House: Of Family, Food, Piano Lessons and the Search for a Room of My Own*.

## Davis Co-Edits Two New Books on Human Rights

» **Professor Martha Davis**, an internationally recognized expert on human rights, is co-editor of the *Research Handbook on*



“I’m interested in less visible artifacts that affect us all, like the aesthetics of hierarchy, the sense of geographic place or normed modes of address.”

— Professor Patricia Williams



“Bringing human rights tools and perspectives to bear on persistent poverty and inequality is more important than ever in this moment of political and social unrest.”

— Professor Martha Davis



“We show how and why exam questions require students to argue both sides so that getting it right starts with *Getting to Maybe*.”

— Professor Jeremy Paul

*Human Rights and Poverty* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2021). The volume explores the nexus between human rights, poverty and inequality as a critical lens for understanding and addressing key challenges of the coming decades. The book, which includes a chapter authored by **Professor Lucy Williams**, will also serve as a much-needed resource for people working practically to address poverty in both the Global North and Global South.

In addition, Davis is co-editor of *COVID-19 and Human Rights* (Routledge, 2021). Contributors to the collection, including **Professor Brook Baker**, argue that a human rights perspective is necessary to understand the pervasive consequences of the crisis. Acknowledging the pandemic as a defining moment for human rights, the volume proposes a post-crisis human rights agenda to engage civil society and government at all levels in concrete measures to roll back increasing inequality.

Davis' previous books include *Global Urban Justice: The Rise of Human Rights Cities*; *Human Rights Advocacy in the United States*; *Bringing Human Rights Home*; and *Brutal Need: Lawyers and the Welfare Rights Movement*.

## An Oldie But a Goodie

» In a recent BARBRI online article, “Three Books You Should Read Before Starting Law School,” the leading LSAT prep company calls out **Professor Jeremy Paul's** co-written book, *Getting to Maybe: How to Excel on Law School Exams* (Carolina Academic Press, 1999), a study aid that goes well beyond conventional advice by focusing on more nuanced legal analysis. The article states, “*Getting to Maybe* is an important book to read to demystify law school exams. ... The book focuses on improving performance and provides a blueprint to exam taking strategies and success tactics. This is a ‘must read’ for all incoming 1L students.”

# Northeastern Law Welcomes Five Exceptional Faculty

## » Melvin J. Kelley IV



joins the faculty as associate professor of law and business within the

School of Law and the D'Amore-McKim School of Business. Kelley previously served as assistant professor of law at Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law. His areas of expertise include state and local government law, property law and legal theory. Kelley's research focuses on the sociopolitical, geospatial and civil rights implications of decentralizing public authority, antidiscrimination jurisprudence governing real estate transactions and community economic development tactics to redress enduring regional inequities in access to resources that enable upward mobility.

Kelley previously served as the first Elizabeth Ann Zitrin Fellow and visiting assistant professor of law with the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ) at Northeastern, and held industry positions with the Connecticut Fair Housing Center and the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut. He serves on the advisory committee for the College of the Holy Cross' Slavery, Memorial and Justice Initiative and the advisory board of CRRJ. He received his BA in political science, economics and Africana studies from the College of the Holy Cross and his JD with Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar Honors from Columbia Law School.

## » Elizabeth Knowles



joins the faculty as associate teaching professor in the Legal Skills in Social

Context program. She is an immigration and human rights advocate with a decade of experience helping immigrants successfully navigate our complex immigration system.

Throughout her career, Knowles has assisted detained adults and children fleeing horrific persecution — experiences that fuel her desire to help bridge the access to justice gap that persists in our immigration system today. Knowles has practiced in both private and nonprofit settings, previously serving as executive director of the ABA Immigration Justice Project in San Diego, California, and most recently as director of the Immigration and Human Rights Clinic and clinical professor at the University of Akron School of Law. Knowles has extensive experience defending individuals from deportation in immigration courts across the nation, before the Board of Immigration Appeals and the US Courts of Appeals.

Knowles earned her bachelor's degree in fine arts from San Diego State University and her JD from Thomas Jefferson School of Law. Knowles serves on the board of directors for the ACLU of Ohio and is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. She is a member of the State Bar of California and the US Courts of Appeals for the 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Circuits.

## » Alexandra (Xander) Meise



joins the faculty as associate teaching professor in the Legal Skills in Social

Context program. Meise researches the intersection of public and private international law, with a focus on the limits of sovereign power in emergency contexts. She is particularly interested in the contributions of democratic governance and economic development to rule of law and national security policy.

Meise comes to Northeastern from the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, where she served as a senior fellow at its Center for Ethics and the Rule of Law. Previously, Meise spent over a decade in practice preventing and resolving international disputes, including representing and advising sovereign governments and human rights victims in US courts, in treaty-based international arbitrations and public international law disputes, and in designing and implementing legal reforms and human rights best practices, as well as serving judicial chambers of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia.

Meise has taught at Georgetown University Law Center (GULC) and was a non-resident fellow of the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment. She is a political partner of the Truman National Security Project and holds degrees from Dartmouth College, Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and GULC.

## » Rashida Richardson '11



joins the faculty as assistant professor of law and political science within the

School of Law and the Department of Political Science within the College of Social Sciences and Humanities. She specializes in race, emerging technologies and the law and is a senior fellow in the Digital Innovation and Democracy Initiative at the German Marshall Fund. Her research focuses on the social and civil rights implications of data-driven technologies, including artificial intelligence, and develops policy interventions and regulatory strategies regarding data-driven technologies, government surveillance, racial discrimination and the technology sector.

Richardson previously served as a visiting scholar at Rutgers Law School and Rutgers Institute for Information Policy and Law and as director of policy research at New York University's AI Now Institute, legislative counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union of New York and staff attorney at the Center for HIV Law and Policy. She serves on the board of trustees of Wesleyan University, the advisory board of Northeastern Law's Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project and the advisory board for the Electronic Privacy Information Center, among others. She received her BA from the College of Social Studies at Wesleyan University and her JD from Northeastern University School of Law.

## » Lua Kamál Yuille



joins the faculty as professor of law and business within the School of Law

and the D'Amore-McKim School of Business. Yuille is a recognized praxivist, which is a philosophy that involves using her theoretical scholarship to inform her engagement in social change. Her current interdisciplinary work draws into conversation property law, heterodox economics, business law, critical pedagogy and group identity. Yuille's diverse professional formation — federal law clerk, Latin Americanist socio-economic development lawyer, Wall Street corporate transactional attorney, public school teacher and pro bono immigration litigation practitioner — provides a strong foundation for her engaged scholarship on a wide range of questions.

Yuille began her academic career as a visiting professor at the University of Oregon School of Law and as a William Hastie Fellow at the University of Wisconsin Law School. In 2013, she joined the University of Kansas, where she served on the law faculty and in the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

Yuille holds degrees from Columbia Law School, the Johns Hopkins University and the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies. Fluent in English, Spanish and Italian, she credits her most enduring education to the varied experiences she has had as a praxivist doing service all over the world.



“One of the most important issues at the vanguard of advancing 21<sup>st</sup>-century civil rights is ... how to mobilize white individuals and communities in the fight to dismantle white supremacy.” —Professor H.C. Robinson

## Robinson Co-founds NAACP North Shore Chapter

» As Black Lives Matter and the national reckoning on race took center stage in 2020, a small group of residents on the North Shore of Massachusetts, including **Professor H.C. Robinson**, decided it was time to launch their own chapter of the NAACP. With assistance from the New England conference, the new chapter has quickly grown to include residents of 17 towns and boasts more than 1,000 members.

“One of the most important issues at the vanguard of advancing 21<sup>st</sup>-century civil rights is the question of how to mobilize white individuals and communities actively in the fight to dismantle white supremacy,” said Robinson, who helped found the branch and serves as vice president. “Though the most horrific and obvious examples are the Derek Chauvins of the world, there are simply not enough of them to be holding up this structure 160 years after Emancipation. It’s the passivity of

well-meaning but inactive non-racists that is holding it up. So simply putting out a Black Lives Matter sign is not enough — you have to look around your community and identify where white supremacy is operating. Maybe it’s in the naming of something that honors someone in a present-day way, when that history belongs more appropriately in a museum that can give it context: I’m thinking

here of the renaming of Aggasiz Rock in my own town. We see our role on the North Shore — an area with 97 percent white residents — as leading by example: showing how the ‘oldest and boldest’ civil rights organization in the country — the NAACP, founded 1911 — can effectively mobilize people of any color, creed or orientation to work together to end racial hatred, racial violence and racial discrimination, and to promote democracy, dignity, and freedom for all.”



H.C. Robinson



## Leahy Receives ALWD Outstanding Service Award

» The Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD) recently honored **Professor Stevie Leahy** with an Outstanding Service Award in recognition of her contributions as a member of the organization’s Leadership and Development Committee. Leahy was hailed for organizing a series of webinars on inclusive leadership. Leahy joined Northeastern Law in July 2019 in the Legal Skills in Social Context program.

## Swanson

(Continued from page 32)

Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, among other funding sources and organizations.

## Extra Credit

## All on Board



» **Professor Ari Ezra Waldman**, a leading authority on law, technology and society, has been appointed to a three-year term on the editorial board of *Law & Social Inquiry (LSI)*, a peer-reviewed journal that publishes work on sociological issues across multiple disciplines, including anthropology, criminology, economics, history, law, philosophy, political science, sociology and social

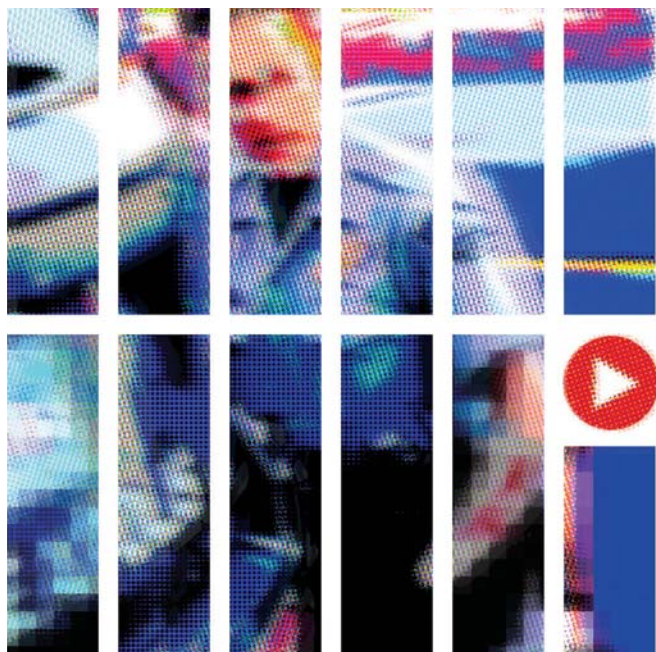
psychology. Published four times a year by the American Bar Foundation and Cambridge University Press, *LSI* is among the highest-ranked scholarly journals in the field of sociolegal studies.

» **Professor Jared Nicholson**, director of the law school’s Community Business Clinic, has joined the editorial board of the *Journal of Affordable Housing and Community Development*, a publication of the



American Bar Association Forum on Affordable Housing and Community Development Law. With three issues per year, the journal is targeted toward attorneys and other housing and community development specialists. It provides current and insightful practical information, public policy and scholarly articles of professional and academic interest.

# Talking the Talk



## Show and Tell

“Without that video, this may have all played out very differently.”

**Professor Daniel Medwed**

“How Derek Chauvin Became the Rare Police Officer Convicted of Murder”  
*The Washington Post*, April 20, 2021



## Inject Common Sense

“If IP isn’t important, why are companies refusing to voluntarily give it up when it could be used to expand supply in the middle of the world’s worst public health crisis in a century? It’s not important, or it’s so important it has to be closely guarded and protected. You can’t have it both ways.”

**Professor Brook Baker ’76**

“How Bill Gates Impeded Global Access to Covid Vaccines”  
*The New Republic*, April 12, 2021

## Health and Consequences

“*Fabick* applies only to Wisconsin. But the court’s refusal to consider the health consequences of its decision reflects a broader trend among conservative jurists, one that may have dire consequences for the nation’s health.”

**Professor Wendy Parmet**

“Conservative Courts Say They Can’t Set Health Policy — And Then They Do It Anyway”  
*The Washington Post*, April 12, 2021



## Arresting Tropes

“That idea that I’ve done nothing wrong,

that I was framed, I was acting in self-defense, or my wife is crazy: These are tropes that I hear all the time to question our clients’ credibility. Typically in violent situations, it’s not that a victim is perfect or has acted perfectly. But that doesn’t mean someone deserves to be strangled or have a TV thrown at them.”

**Professor Margo Lindauer ’07**

“Domestic Violence Within the Ranks: How Recent Allegations are Shaking Faith in BPD”  
*The Boston Globe*, May 27, 2021



## Insuring Change

“... the problem is that police brutality right now in the US remains unchecked because the police unions, through collective bargaining, have created a system that makes it nearly impossible for police chiefs to discipline or fire police officers for misconduct.”

**Professor Deborah Ramirez**

“Should Police Pay For Their Own Liability Insurance? This Law Professor Thinks So”  
Wisconsin Public Radio, May 5, 2021

## Uniform Injustice

“We are unearthing these cases in order to prod the military to engage in a thoroughgoing examination, accounting and program of redress for soldiers like Albert King. These were men who were killed not just because they were Black, but because they were Black soldiers.”

**Professor Margaret Burnham**

“Albert King Is Not Forgotten”  
*The Washington Post Magazine*, May 28, 2021





OntheHouse



# Front and Center

For Karen O'Malley '94, passion for women's issues comes to the fore through pro bono work | *By Bill Ibelle*

**F**IGHTING FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS HAS BEEN CENTRAL in Karen O'Malley's life since childhood. "I attended parochial grammar school where, in addition to getting an excellent education, I witnessed the direct impact that structural misogyny could have both within the church and the school. Why were women always typecast? Why were women's agency and autonomy systematically suppressed?" recalls O'Malley, a director at Goulston & Storrs and a long-time co-chair of the firm's Pro Bono Committee. "I got in a bit of trouble with the school principal for continually writing to the archbishop of New York about these issues and demanding equal access and justice for girls and women."

After graduating from Boston College, O'Malley enrolled in Northeastern Law because of the school's emphasis on public interest law and her desire to utilize the law to empower women and people of color. "I loved law school because it allowed me to see the world through a different lens," she says. "How could the law be used to give voice to those who were, by design, kept out of power?"

## Opening Doors

The co-op program provided O'Malley with real-world experience in a variety of settings, including the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama, a clerkship at the Massachusetts Superior Court with the Hon. Isaac Borenstein '75, a boutique civil rights firm in Washington, DC, and a mid-sized real estate firm in Boston. These combined experiences put her on a career path that led to her position today at Goulston & Storrs, where she represents a diverse range of clients, from large public and private real estate companies to smaller businesses and nonprofits; she also works to expand affordable housing.

While in college and law school, O'Malley volunteered with a variety of organizations, including the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC), where she helped to identify an important service gap for sexual assault survivors: knowledgeable, compassionate legal support was not easily accessible. As a result, sexual assault survivors often did not find justice in the criminal justice system and did not know where to turn for help.

In response to this gap, O'Malley, working with others at BARCC, developed legal trainings for attorneys and eventually assisted in launching the Victim Rights Law Center (VRLC) in 2003 — the nation's first nonprofit law center dedicated to providing comprehensive legal representation to sexual assault survivors. "Karen played a huge role in getting us off the ground, taking us from being a local project to a nonprofit institution with national reach," says Executive Director Stacy Malone. "Goulston & Storrs was courageous, stepping up to help child rape victims, undocumented immigrants and other survivors of sexual assault, leading and enlisting others into a cause that was shrouded in secrecy, fear and taboos."

## Culture of Care

Through the firm's Pro Bono Committee, O'Malley continues her mission of defending women against the forces of sexual abuse and discrimination and promoting reproductive rights. She also enjoys expanding the reach of the firm's pro bono work while men-

**"... I witnessed the direct impact that structural misogyny could have both within the church and the school."**

—Karen O'Malley '94

toring and inspiring new lawyers to get involved.

"Goulston & Storrs is uniquely committed to pro bono work. We believe deeply in doing our work well and doing good. It is a big part of why many of us first joined the firm and provides a tremendous opportunity for attorneys who love doing sophisticated legal work and

leveraging that experience to give back to and advocate for under-represented communities," says O'Malley, who also serves as a member of the law school's Women in the Law advisory group.

It is no secret that O'Malley's pro bono work is both a passion project and ongoing commitment. It is also far from a one-way street. "I get so much meaning and satisfaction out of serving and working with pro bono clients — so much more than I could ever give to them," she says.



# ClassActions

## Wealth of Knowledge

### → PROFILE

**Patrick Parker '99**  
*Chief of Staff, UBS  
Americas and Global  
Wealth Management*

**Patrick Parker reads like he's still in college.**

"I try to read five different types of books at a time," he says. He's always got a science or physics book going. There's likely to be one on finance, something on history, something on business and a self-help book. "You find

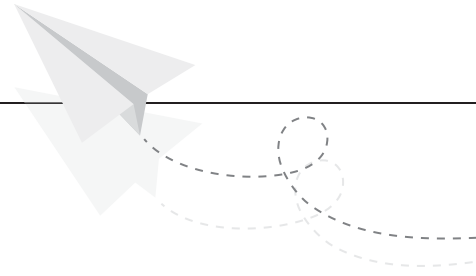
within these different areas that some of the same rules are discussed, and that allows you to synthesize these rules, to have a better understanding of life, the way people think, the way the world works," Parker says.

That open curiosity has propelled him along a rich career path from fresh-out-of-college local newspaper reporter to associate with Clifford Chance to the world of global wealth management and investment banking. He was recently promoted to chief of staff for UBS Americas

and Global Wealth Management, a multinational investment bank and financial services company.

Parker grew up in the poorer sections of Brooklyn, New York, and Bridgeport, Connecticut, with four brothers and one sister. His oldest brother's achievements as a college graduate inspired him to seek higher education — not just to get ahead, but also to learn. "I always thought that when you learned it, it was yours and you can do whatever you want with it," he says. From his mother, Parker got the gift of confidence: no matter what crazy ideas he passed by her, she always encouraged him to try. Because of her, Parker says, "I approach life that way. I don't give up on things because I'm not afraid of criticism or of something not working." When you're chief of staff at a multinational, multi-billion dollar company, it's the perfect attitude.

—Jeri Zeder



## CLASS NOTES

### 1997

**Neelam Chanda** has joined the Los Angeles office of the Wagner Law Group, one of the country's top ERISA and employee benefits law firms, as a partner. She was previously a partner at Reich, Adell & Cvitan and worked for the Employee Benefits Security Administration of the US Department of Labor, where she dealt with ERISA issues involving both single employer and multi-employer plans.

### 1981

**Nancy Lassen**, a partner with Willig Williams & Davidson in Philadelphia, has been named to the 2021 *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* list. She has focused exclusively on labor law since 1984, working tirelessly for unions.



**James Morton**, president and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Boston, has been appointed to the board of Rockland Trust's parent company, Hanover-based Independent Bank Corp.

### 1988

**Mary Cataudella** has joined the Andover, Mass., office of real estate law firm Touchstone Closing as a partner. Mary has worked in private practice and as in-house managing counsel. Most recently, she served as chief operating officer for Donovan Hatem, an insurance defense firm in Boston.

### 1989



In February, **Navjeet Bal** was appointed to the board of trustees of the Boston Public Library by former Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. Navjeet is managing director and general counsel at Social Finance, a Boston-based national nonprofit organization dedicated to mobilizing capital to advance social progress. She also has more than 25 years of experience at private law firms as a public finance attorney and as an appointed public official, having served as the Commissioner of Revenue for Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick from 2007 to 2011.

### 1991



**Jeffrey Dretler**, a partner at Rubin and Rudman and president of the law school's Alumni/ae Association for 2020-2021, was recognized as a Go to Employment Lawyer by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*. Jeff has more than 20 years of experience representing employers in state and federal courts and administrative agencies in cases involving discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wage and hour issues and the enforcement of non-competition agreements and protection of trade secrets.

**Alan Friel** has joined the Los Angeles office of Squire Patton Boggs as partner and deputy chair of the firm's global data privacy and cybersecurity practice. Alan, who previously

served as chair of BakerHostetler's US consumer privacy practice, has worked with clients on issues around the landmark California Consumer Privacy Act and compliance with the California Privacy Rights Act, which takes effect in 2023.

The **Hon. Kevin Nasca** was elected in November 2019 as a New York State Supreme Court Justice. He previously worked as a support magistrate in Monroe County Family Court and as a principal law clerk to New York State Supreme Court Justice and Monroe County Surrogate Court Judge John M. Owens. Earlier in his career, he was counsel to the Monroe County sheriff, deputy county attorney for Monroe County, deputy general counsel for the Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources and an assistant attorney general with the Consumer Protection and Antitrust Division of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office.

### 1992

**Jaclyn Kugell**, managing partner at Morgan Brown and Joy in Boston, was named a Go to Employment Lawyer by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*. Jackie serves as chair of the firm's management committee; her practice encompasses daily employment counseling, training, employment litigation, collective bargaining and labor arbitration.

**Amy Baker Mandragouras** has joined Cooley in the Boston office of the Silicon Valley-based firm as a partner in the life sciences patent



## In Memoriam

### 1970s

Arthur L. Johnson '74

### 1980s

Susan F. Cole '81

Maren Heidelauf Robinson '87

### 2000s

Hector H. Gonzalez '01

counseling and prosecution practice. She was previously head of Nelson Mullins' life sciences patent practice and has three decades of experience advising biotech and pharma companies on patent and IP matters.

## 1994



The **Hon. William "Mo" Cowan**, president of global government affairs and policy at General Electric, has joined the board of directors of Goldfinch Bio, a

Cambridge-based clinical stage biotechnology company focused on discovering and developing precision medicines for the treatment of kidney diseases. Mo is also co-founder of the New Commonwealth Racial Equity and Social Justice Fund, a coalition of Black and brown executives from some of Massachusetts' most prominent corporations who have raised more than \$20 million to support communities of color across the commonwealth.

## 1995



**Amy Rosenberger**, a partner with Willig Williams & Davidson in Philadelphia, has been named to the 2021 *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* list. Amy is well

known for her zealous representation of labor unions and employees.

## 1999

**Tiffany Williams**, associate director of advocacy, empowerment and faith at Pepperdine Caruso School of Law, has been



awarded a grant for the Faith in the Vaccine Ambassador Program from the Interfaith Youth Core, a national nonprofit that equips the next generation for leadership in a religiously diverse world. Under the grant, 12 Pepperdine students will receive a stipend and join students throughout the US to develop and implement special projects to reduce vaccine hesitancy in communities in partnership with faith-based organizations.

## 2000

**Vanessa Candela** recently joined data mining startup Celonis as the company's first chief legal officer. She was previously with Netcracker Technology, a subsidiary of NEC Corporation, where she was chief legal officer and chief compliance officer. Before that, she served as vice president and general counsel at Virtustream and spent more than nine years as assistant general counsel at EMC before its merger with Dell.

## 2001

**A. Nicole Phillips**, a partner in the litigation office of Montgomery McCracken Walker and Rhoads in Philadelphia, is running for a seat on the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas. Prior to joining Montgomery McCracken, she served as an assistant US attorney in the criminal division of the US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She has tried more than 100 bench and jury trials in federal and state courts.

## 2004

**Jennifer Breen** has joined Donovan O'Connor & Dodig in North Adams, Mass., as an associate. After 13 years as a solo practitioner, Jennifer continues to focus her practice in the areas of family law and bankruptcy. She started her legal career as a prosecutor with the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office, served as a city councilor in North Adams from 2011 until 2015, and volunteers for several local organizations and task forces, including the Berkshire County Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force and the Pro Bono for the Child Program.

## 2005

**Allison Cross** has joined GrayRobinson as a senior associate in the firm's Lakeland, Pa.,

office, where she focuses her practice on corporate law and real estate. Prior to joining GrayRobinson, Allison spent five years as a legal and contracts supervisor with Universal Creative, a division of Universal Parks and Resorts. While in that role, Allison served three years at Universal Studios Japan in Osaka, handling contracts for more than 200 companies and vendors worldwide.



**Rebecca Knudson**, a partner in the Wilmington, N.C., office of Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog who focuses her civil litigation practice on the construction industry, was selected for inclusion in the 2021 *North Carolina Super Lawyers* and *Rising Stars* lists.

## 2008

**Stacy Coleman** has advanced to senior counsel in the environmental enforcement section in the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the US Department of Justice (DOJ). Stacy, who has been with the DOJ for more than 12 years, previously served as a trial attorney in the division.

## 2009



**Caitlin Barrett** has been elevated to partner at Burns & Levinson in Boston. A member of the firm's business law group, Caitlin advises financial institutions

and corporate borrowers on a broad range of commercial finance transactions, including asset-based financings, acquisition financings and working capital facilities of all sizes. She also advises purchasers and sellers in the structuring and negotiation of mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and other general corporate matters.

In February, **Travis Rodger** was named chief equity and strategy officer at Partnership with Children, the 110-year-old nonprofit whose pioneering social work and community school programs support the mental health and well-being of children in schools across New York City. Travis previously served as the director of diversity and equity for teacher licensure at Educational Testing Services. Prior to his work in the educational sector, he practiced law as a litigator at Brown Rudnick, focusing on complex civil litigation and corporate bankruptcy.



In November, **Jamie Tracey Szal**, an associate at Brann & Isaacson in Lewiston, Maine, published her debut book, *#Networked: How 20 Women Lawyers Overcame the Confines of COVID-19*

*Social Distancing to Create Connections, Cultivate Community & Build Businesses in the Midst of a Global Pandemic*, a 20-chapter anthology written by 20 women lawyers who met through a networking group on LinkedIn in the early days of the pandemic. The book has remained a top 10 bestseller on Amazon in its categories since it was published.

## 2011

**Allison Garren**, an attorney with Teddy, Meekins & Talbert in Shelby, N.C., was recently recognized as a board-certified specialist in North Carolina criminal law by the state bar. Allison concentrates her practice in the areas of criminal defense, family law and Social Security disability law.

**Veronica Louie** has been named a principal in GTC Law Group's M&A, tech transactions and licensing and corporate groups. She joined the firm in 2011 after serving at the US District Court for the District of Massachusetts, the Electronic Privacy Information Center and the US Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, DC. She has extensive experience counseling clients on domestic and international acquisitions, divestitures and investment transactions, with particular focus on software, information technology and data-intensive businesses.



**Paola Maynard-Moll** has been promoted to executive director of the Scholars Strategy Network (SSN), a nonprofit organization that connects journalists, policy-

makers and civic leaders with America's top researchers to improve policy and strengthen democracy. Paola joined SSN in 2014 as assistant director of policy before being promoted to director of policy and chapters and, most recently, managing director. In her new role, she oversees the work of the organization's staff, financial direction and long-term strategy.

(Continued on page 47)



# Strategist in Chief



## PROFILE

**Lisa Warren '94**  
Managing Partner,  
Morse

For **Lisa Warren**, leader of the patent practice group at Morse, there's a lot to love about IP law. "It allows me to draw on my strengths —

developing strategy, interpersonal relationships and problem-solving," she explains. A microbiologist by training, Warren's patent experience covers the waterfront of life science technologies, from biologics to medical devices.

In 2007, Warren left a partnership with Ropes & Gray to launch a patent operation at Morse, which has offices in Waltham and Boston. Her impressive success has not gone unnoticed: She was named the Most Influential Woman in Patent Strategy in *AI Magazine's* 2018 Global Excellence Awards.

Warren also finds her interpersonal strengths handy in her role as Morse's managing partner; she is now serving her third, three-year stint. "I enjoy talking through issues, trouble shooting.

I find it breaks up what I do in a day," she adds. In that respect, she has found the COVID-driven work-from-home imperative to be particularly challenging. "I miss the ability to pop by people's offices or grab lunch. I'm looking forward to when we can all be back."

In recent years, Warren has flexed these skills through the law school's Women in the Law program, through which she has served as a mentor. "It's interesting to hear the challenges people face," she reflects. "I've been so impressed with the programming at the Women in the Law conference and the people I meet there. There's great energy."

Her take-home message to mentees? Whether clients or colleagues, "work with people you enjoy," she concludes. "Those people will inherently want to help you. It's all about making real, rewarding connections." And that, perhaps, is the greatest skill of all.

— Maura King Scully



Take  
Note

## Honors, Awards and More News About Alumni/ae

## Roberts Takes Senior Status



Shortly after the inauguration of President Joe Biden, the **Hon. Victoria Roberts '76** announced her decision to take senior status after more than 22 years as a federal judge. Roberts was commissioned by President Bill Clinton on June 29, 1998, to serve as a US District Court

judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, with the unanimous advice and consent of the US Senate. Prior to that, Roberts was in private practice and served as the managing partner of the Detroit law firm of Goodman, Eden, Millender & Bedrosian. In addition, she also served as an assistant US attorney in the Eastern District of Michigan.

Roberts was the 62<sup>nd</sup> president of the State Bar of Michigan and thus far the only Black female to hold that position. An author, teacher and lecturer, Roberts has served as a faculty member for many legal education seminars, both in the United States and abroad.

She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the two highest conferred by the State Bar of Michigan: the Roberts P. Hudson Award and the Champion of Justice Award.

"Judge Roberts has been a trailblazer in our profession and a role model for so many young attorneys, including scores of our graduates," said Dean James Hackney. "Her retirement from the full-time bench is well deserved. Her contributions to the law school, particularly through our Women in the Law program, have been exceptional. We look forward to seeing even more of her in the years to come."

**"Judge Roberts has been a trailblazer in our profession and a role model for so many young attorneys ...."**

— Dean James Hackney

## Francisco Named Head of Boston Impact Initiative Fund



**Betty Francisco '98**

has been appointed CEO and Investment Committee member of the Boston Impact Initiative Fund, which

invests in enterprises throughout Eastern Massachusetts that address the growing wealth gap and ecological challenges of our times. Francisco previously served as general counsel of Compass Working Capital. She is also a co-founder of Amplify Latinx, a non-partisan, collaborative movement whose mission is to build Latinx economic and political power by significantly increasing Latinx civic engagement, economic opportunity and representation in leadership positions across sectors. Francisco sits on the boards of Beth Israel Lahey Health, the Boston Foundation and Nellie Mae Education Foundation, among others. *Boston* magazine named her one of the 100 Most Influential People in Boston in 2021 and 2018, and the *Boston Business Journal* named her as one of its Power 50 for 2021: Extraordinary Year, Extraordinary People.

## Epperson-Temple Honored as MBA Outstanding Young Lawyer



**Avana A. Epperson-Temple '15**, an

associate in the Boston law office of Peabody & Arnold, was honored by the

Massachusetts Bar Association (MBA) as its 2021 Outstanding Young Lawyer in recognition of her many legal and civic achievements. The annual award recognizes one young lawyer who has demonstrated exceptional character,

leadership and legal achievement, and has contributed service to the community. Epperson-Temple focuses her practice on professional liability and insurance coverage litigation. She serves on the board of directors of Pine Street Inn, and since 2016, has provided pro bono representation to domestic violence survivors in restraining order and family law matters as part of the Women's Bar Foundation's Family Law Project.

## Dealy Retires After Exemplary Pro Bono-Focused Career at HLS



**Lisa Dealy '95** retired

in May as assistant dean for the Harvard Law School (HLS) Clinical and Pro Bono Programs. Dealy

began her career at HLS in 1987 as administrator at the Prison Legal Assistance Project, where she worked alongside students representing incarcerated people in parole hearings. After graduating from Northeastern Law, she returned to HLS in 1996 as director of the Low Income Protection Plan, which reduces the loan repayment burden for graduates working in government, public sector and academic jobs. Dealy assumed leadership of the clinical and pro bono programs in 2005 and was instrumental in the transformational growth and reimagining of clinical education at HLS.

## Robinson-Etienne Honored with Caribbean Impact Award



**Nicole Robinson-Etienne '96** was

honored with a 2021 Caribbean Life Impact Award by Schneps Media and *Caribbean*

*Life News* at a virtual gala in February. The special award recognizes the achievements and contributions of outstanding individuals of Caribbean background who have created the most impact in their respective fields, including healthcare, the arts, advocacy and entrepreneurship. A first-generation Caribbean American of Vincentian descent, born and raised in Brooklyn, Robinson-Etienne is vice president of community and government affairs for the Institute for Community Living, one of New York's largest human service agencies, which provides integrated help to people in need of trauma-oriented, recovery-oriented and person-centered care.

### Formey Launches Court Treatment Program



The Hon. **Roxanne Formey '04**, who sits on the Chatham County juvenile court bench in Savannah, Ga., has launched

Healing Opportunities Through Positive Empowerment (H.O.P.E.) Court, a treatment court designed to address the special needs of court-involved youth who have been victimized by human trafficking. H.O.P.E. Court is the first program of its kind in Georgia, bringing together a multi-disciplinary, centralized and trauma-informed approach. With a therapeutic and safety-first lens, the court addresses each child's specific treatment needs, skills-building and personal goals. The objective of H.O.P.E. Court is to safely assist, protect and prepare victims and survivors in their journey toward restoration by bridging the gap between systems and services.

### Vaid Honored by Auburn Seminary



**Urvashi Vaid '83**, president and founder of the Vaid Group, was honored as a Woman of Moral Courage at Auburn Seminary's

Lives of Commitment celebration in April. The Vaid Group is a consulting and innovation firm working for racial, gender and economic equity. An award-winning researcher and author, Vaid's books include *Irresistible Revolution: Confronting Race, Class and the Assumptions of LGBT Politics* and *Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay & Lesbian Liberation*. Auburn Seminary, one of the oldest religious institutions in the United States, helps leaders of faith and moral courage to heal the world.

### Poet Chandy Twice Honored



**Suny Chandy '98** received the 2021 Terry J. Cox Poetry Award from Regal House Publishing for her collection, *My*

*Dear Comrades*. "I write poems to build pathways out of the mazes of our lives — whether a social injustice, a personal grief, or often, both, and to remind myself of life's small joys, with grateful observation and occasionally, humor," said Chandy.

In March, Chandy, who serves as legal director of the National Women's Law Center, was named to the 2021 Queer Women of Washington list by *The Washington Blade* in partnership with the DC Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs and the Office of Women's Policies and Initiatives.

(Continued on page 46)

### Congrats to Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly Honorees

#### UP-AND-COMING

**Elizabeth DiMarco '11**  
Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks

**Patrice Dixon '12**  
Jackson Lewis

**Tara Dunn '17**  
Todd & Weld

**Robert Kaitz '11**  
Davis Malm

**Michael Kippins '13**  
Seyfarth Shaw

**Amy Pimentel '14**  
McDermott Will & Emery

#### EXCELLENCE IN PRO BONO

**Stesha Emmanuel '11**  
McCarter & English  
(below)



DAVID LEIFER

### Five Grads Among Boston Magazine's 100 Most Influential People: All Hail Our Local Heroes!



The Hon. **William "Mo" Cowan '94**  
President, Global Government Affairs and Policy, General Electric



**Betty Francisco '98**  
CEO, Boston Impact Initiative Fund



**Maura Healey '98**  
Attorney General, Commonwealth of Massachusetts



**James Morton '81**  
President and CEO, YMCA of Greater Boston



**Rachael Rollins '97**  
District Attorney, Suffolk County



Take  
Note

## Honors, Awards and More News About Alumni/ae

### Congratulations BBA Public Interest Leaders

Seven graduates of Northeastern University School of Law have been selected as members of the 2020-2021 Public Interest Leadership Program (PILP) class by the Boston Bar Association. The PILP class spends 14 months developing leadership skills and pursuing public service initiatives.

**Allison Belanger '16**  
Krokidas & Bluestein  
**Samuel Bombaugh '17**  
Sullivan & Worcester  
**Diana Chiang '13**  
National Grid  
**Patrice Dixon '12**  
MassDOT and the MBTA

**Meghan MacKenzie '11**  
Massachusetts Office of the  
Inspector General  
**Victoria Morte '15**  
Parker Gallini  
**Pamela Swanson '16**  
Nixon Peabody

### Eshghi Hailed as One of Boston's 50 Most Influential People of Color in Higher Education

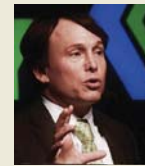


**Nima Eshghi '96**, associate dean for academic programs at Harvard's Radcliffe Institute, was named to Get Connected!'s

inaugural list of the Most Influential People of Color in Higher Education. The list was unveiled in April during a virtual event in partnership with GBH media. Prior to joining the Radcliffe Institute team in July, Eshghi served as assistant dean for cooperative legal education and career development at Northeastern Law. Earlier in her career,

she held a staff attorney position with GLAD: LGBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders.

### Englander Takes Helm of Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee



**Shep Englander '91** has been appointed CEO of the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee in Florida. He previously

served for 16 years as CEO of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati. Among other exciting challenges in Sarasota, he will manage the construction of a new 33-acre community campus for the organization.



### Grads Link Online for Connections

In April, more than 200 students and graduates came together virtually for Connections, the law school's largest annual networking event. Sponsored by the Office of Development and Alumni/ae Relations and the Alumni/ae Association, the evening included 16 breakouts by practice areas — each hosted by graduates who presented information on their areas of expertise and answered questions posed by students. Connections often leads to ongoing mentoring relationships, which students deeply appreciate. Many thanks to those graduates who participated this year.

Clockwise from upper left: Director of External Relations **Mielle Marquis** encouraged students to reach out to graduates throughout the year. **Jeff Dretler '91**, president of the Alumni/ae Association, offered a warm welcome. **Lisa Warren '94**, managing partner of Morse, advised students to be authentic and build connections based on true areas of interest. **Andrew Glincher '84**, CEO and managing partner of Nixon Peabody, spoke about the importance of finding a meaningful career path.

## Class Actions

(Continued from page 43)

### 2013

**Katherine Amato** has been elevated to partner at Robinson Donovan in Springfield, Mass. Katherine completed one of her co-ops at Robinson Donovan and joined the firm upon graduation. She focuses on all aspects of family law, including divorce, custody, representing children, parents and guardians in guardianship of minors proceedings, and appellate work.

**Arpita Bhattacharyya** has been elevated to partner at Finnegan in Palo Alto, Calif. With an undergraduate degree in electronics engineering and a doctorate in biomedical engineering, Arpita brings diverse technical expertise to her practice, which focuses on patent litigation, post-grant proceedings at the US Patent and Trademark Office and client counseling. For her significant role in championing diversity in the intellectual property sector, she was honored in 2020 as a trailblazer by *WIPR Influential Women in IP*.

### 2014

**Deirdre Foley** has joined the Boston office of Murtha Cullina as an associate in the firm's construction practice group, where she handles construction, product liability, professional liability and insurance coverage matters for clients. Previously, Deirdre served as an assistant district attorney in the Essex County District Attorney's Office.

### 2016



**Robert Lynch** has joined Murtha Cullina as an associate in the Boston-based firm's business and finance department. Robert regularly represents start-ups and closely held businesses during all stages of the business life cycle, including choice of entity, capital raises, financing, acquisitions and dispositions.

### 2017

**Janelle Dempsey** has been selected as a judicial law clerk for the 2021-2022 term by Judge Denise Casper of the US District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

### 2018

**Lauren Kilmister** has joined the Concord, N.H., office of Rath, Young and Pignatelli as an associate attorney. A member of the firm's renewable/alternative energy and utility practice group and its business and finance practice group, Lauren's work focuses on assisting clients in the development and financing of renewable energy projects, including solar, hydroelectric, wind and landfill biogas. She also assists businesses in a wide variety of corporate and real estate matters. Lauren previously practiced general corporate and real estate law with McLane Middleton in Manchester, N.H.

### 2018

**Samuel Botsford** has been elected to serve a one-year term as constable of the town of Brookline, Mass.

### 2019



**Siri Nelson** has joined the National Whistleblower Center (NWC) in Washington, DC, as executive director. An experienced whistleblower attorney, policy expert and adjunct professor of law at Northeastern Law, Siri will also serve as the managing director of the NWC-supported legal program, which aids whistleblowers. She was previously an Estelle S. Kohn Fellow at Kohn, Kohn & Colapinto (co-founded by Stephen Kohn '84), the nation's leading whistleblower law office, and she continues her work as an editor and legislative correspondent at *Whistleblower Network News*.

### 2021

In April, **Patrick Reynolds**, an associate at Chisholm Chisholm & Kilpatrick in Providence, R.I., was elected to serve on the town council for North Attleborough, Mass. Patrick previously served for five years on the North Attleborough Board of Selectmen, including as chair.



# Always Social. Never Distant.





## Holding the Line on Hate

By Tram Nguyen '13

**L**ONG BEFORE SHOTS WERE FIRED IN THREE Atlanta salons, before an AAPI woman was knocked down on a New York City sidewalk, even before Asian Americans were spat on because of a xenophobic association with a “Chy-na virus,” Asians and Pacific Islanders experienced racism in America and have been treated as the “other.” Most of us have been ridiculed or harassed for the shape of our eyes, our small stature or a perceived accent. Many of us, myself included, have been told to “go back to your country, you don’t belong here.”

America has a long and troubling history of racism against AAPI people, from the Chinese Exclusion Act, which prohibited all immigration of Chinese laborers, to the horrible injustice of Japanese internment camps during World War II, to the murder of Vincent Chin, whose killers walked free with a fine and probation despite targeting him because of race. People of Asian descent have lived in the shadows, relegated as perpetual foreigners or sex objects, and now diseases. Anti-Asian hate crimes increased 150 percent since the onset of the pandemic. But only when a gunman killed eight people, including six Asian women, did the country finally take notice: Asian people are being targeted. Injured. Murdered. We have to stop it.

Recently, I partnered with Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey '98 and State Senator Adam Hinds to introduce H1819/S1051, *An Act to Reform the Hate Crime Statutes*, in order to address the rise in hate crimes and bias-motivated attacks against the AAPI community, as well as other communities of color, the LGBTQ+ community, persons with disabilities, immigrants and other vulnerable people. Hate crimes not only injure victims; they terrorize entire communities.

That’s why it’s important to hold perpetrators accountable. Currently, Massachusetts has two vague, partially overlapping statutes, which are rarely enforced. Our bill combines them into one, clarifies

prohibited conduct, assigns penalties based on severity, addresses the reality of perpetrators having mixed motivations for attacking someone, and adds gender and immigration status as protected classes.

These reforms are just one part of the many solutions we need to meet the moment and increase accountability for racism and hate, while supporting communities. We need to work on issues of racial, social, economic and gender justice, including fighting for equity in the areas of access to housing, transportation, healthcare and other basic necessities. We need to improve language access, collect better data and promote racially and culturally inclusive K-12 education.

We need to work together to turn the tide against bias-motivated attacks in America, including anti-Asian ones. Do not tolerate verbal attacks or microaggressions that you witness; let the speaker know that their words aren’t acceptable. It is our responsibility to build a community where people of all races, creeds and genders are accepted and celebrated for who they are. That’s the world that I choose, and I invite you to join me in working toward it.

▼  
Tram Nguyen is a Massachusetts state representative representing the 18<sup>th</sup> Essex District. First elected in 2019, she is the first Vietnamese-American woman elected to the state legislature.





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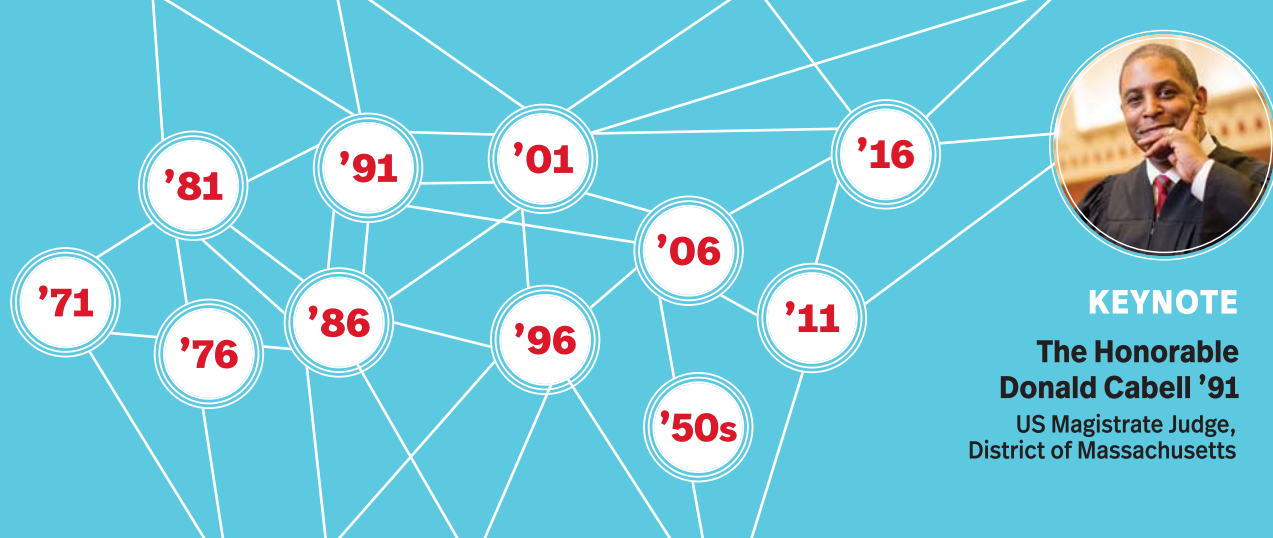
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