With unwavering conviction

Assistant United States attorneys John D. Mitchell (JD ’04) and Jimmy L. Arce (JD ’12) team up to prosecute the violent Wicked Town gang

Risky business

Alissa Jubelirer (JD ’00) reaps success as the founder of a growing cannabis company

Wartime scholars

Ukrainian students overcome obstacles to earn their degrees
MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

It’s been an invigorating first year for me as dean of Loyola University Chicago School of Law. I’ve enjoyed meeting and working with you, our alumni and friends. The law school is thriving, and I believe this next year will be our best yet.

As we move beyond the pandemic, our students are back on campus and enriching our community with their contributions and camaraderie. I look forward to many vigorous intellectual exchanges, in and out of the classroom, as we prepare students to be ethical advocates for justice and equity—and to shape and transform the communities we serve.

I’m also grateful to you for your continuing commitment to your law school. We’re thrilled to have an extended community that’s willing and eager to help propel us to the next stage, and our graduates’ and friends’ loyalty and support are an irreplaceable part of that effort.

Thanks for all you do, and I hope to see you at our Reunion Weekend, October 26–28.

Michele Alexandre
Dean and Professor of Law

CONTENTS

2023 ISSUE
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LEGAL BRIEFS 2
ALUMNI UPDATE 29
FACULTY EXCELLENCE 25
CLASS NOTES 30
GIFTS 27
UNIVERSITY NEWS 35

Abolition advocate
Akira Cornelia Edwards (JD ’05) works toward a world where society dismantles the oppressive systems that draw their power from the law.

22

Risky business
Alexa Jablonski (JD ’10) is reaping success as the founder of a growing cannabis company.

10

Wartime scholars
Ukrainian students face down the challenges of conflict to earn their PROLAW degrees.

18

Honoring extraordinary service
2023 School of Law awards honor Sora Antolic, Alleen Farangan, Matthew T. Ghan, and Tony Morris.
School of Law welcomes new professors

Adam Crepelle and Sheldon Bernard Lyke join the faculty

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO SCHOOL OF LAW welcomes Adam Crepelle and Sheldon Lyke to the faculty.

Assistant Professor Adam Crepelle is an expert in federal Indian law and policy, particularly tribal economic development and criminal justice. He is a co-founder of the Gulf States American Indian Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Crepelle is an enrolled citizen of the United Houma Nation and serves as a judge on the Court of Appeals for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe. He was a Campbell Fellow at the Horner Institute at Stanford University and a commissioner on the American Bar Association’s Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Crepelle has published extensively in both academic and popular journals on a wide variety of topics including crime in Indian country; tribal economic development, and tribal federal recognition. In addition to his juris doctor, he holds a master’s degree in public policy and a master of laws in Indigenous Peoples law and policy. Crepelle is also an award-winning filmmaker, and his film, Indian Suante, screened at numerous venues including the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian. In 2019, Crepelle was named one of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development’s 40 under 40.

Associate Professor Sheldon Bernard Lyke is an expert in critical race theory, property, and trusts and estates. His research focuses on anti-discrimination laws regarding racial and sexual minorities in a comparative context and explores anti-affirmative action practices in higher education. His work also involves observing property law institutions in our shared social world—particularly in the realms of higher education, fashion, and natural resources—and understanding their role in creating and ameliorating social inequality.

In 2011, Lyke was appointed the inaugural Durie Legg Law and Policy Fellow at the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law. He has held positions at University of Baltimore, Northern Kentucky University Chase College of Law, and Whittier Law School. He also has held visiting positions at Howard University School of Law, the University of California Irvine School of Law, and Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law. In addition to his juris doctor, Lyke holds a PhD in sociology.

MILESTONE

Dean James J. Faught retires

IN JANUARY, Associate Dean for Administration James J. Faught (JD ’76) retired from the School of Law after 44 years of dedicated service. Faught joined the law school administration as an assistant dean in 1979 and earned a reputation as an educator who deeply invested in student’s success. In 1991, he was promoted to associate dean for student affairs, and in 2003, he was promoted again to associate dean, a role he held for 20 years. Faught managed the overall operation of the School of Law as well as duties related to pre-law advising, recruitment, registration, alumni relations, student conduct, staff management, and more. He was honored as an administrator of the extern program from 1980 to 2010.

One of Faught’s premier accomplishments is the establishment of the popular London Comparative Advocacy Program, which began in 1988. Each December, Loyola law students immerse themselves in London’s legal profession, accompanied by Loyola faculty members, and distinguished guests. Faught continues to be involved with the program.

In addition to serving on numerous University committees, Faught served on many state committees, including the Illinois State Association (ISA) Standing Committee on Legal Education, Admission and Compliance ISA Committee on Liaison with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, and the Loyuan’s Assistance Program of Illinois, where he served as president in 2009–10. In 2004, he was appointed to the Illinois Executive Ethics Commission and served for 14 years.

To honor Dean Faught and financially support Loyola law students for years to come, please consider donating to the James J. Faught Endowed Scholarship (see page 27).

THE LATE MICHAEL J. ZIMMER, PROFESSOR OF LAW, led a life of integrity. A prolific scholar, beloved mentor, and loyal friend to many, Zimmer believed in and fought for a more equal world. He was a renowned expert on employment discrimination law, labor and employment law, and constitutional law. Nearly eight years after his death, students across the country continue to benefit from his keen intellect, on display in a leading employment discrimination casebook and a casebook on international and comparative employment law, in addition to the many articles he authored on these pressing issues and others.

He devoted his career to legal and public policy questions about fairness, social justice, and closing the gap between law and justice,” says his wife, Margaret Moses. Michael J. Zimmer’s scholarship and in honor of his academic personal passions, Moses created two scholarship funds: one spendable and one endowment. The first scholarship will be awarded for the 2023–24 academic year.

Zimmer excelled in a variety of professional and legal circles. He served as the Marquette Law Review editor for the Honourable Thomas Fairchild of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, and professor and associate dean at Seton Hall Law School. During his seven years as a full-time faculty member at Loyola, Zimmer mentored and inspired countless law students.

Zimmer believed that law graduates were tasked with an important responsibility. In the spring of 2015, a few months before he died, he explained this concept to a gathering of Marquette Law School students, who had invited their esteemed alumnus to speak at a dinner. He said: “Look for work that interests you—that advances your values—and is work that needs to be done to make the world a better place.”

This new scholarship is a tribute to Zimmer’s unfailing certainty that legal professionals can, and should, improve the world.

“Tribute to Zimmer’s legacy,” Moses says. “He worked so hard to try to make things more equal for more people.”

"I think this scholarship represents Mike’s legacy. He worked so hard to try to make things more equal for more people."

To contribute to the Michael J. Zimmer Scholarship, please visit LUC.edu/law/zimmer scholarship.
Students take top honors at competitions

Loyola’s strong advocacy tradition results in wins in moot court, mock trial, dispute resolution, and transactional competitions. During the 2022–23 academic year, 113 students participated on 28 teams and in 39 competitions. Loyola hosted the All-Star Bracket Challenge Region 3 mock trial competition (online) and the L. Edward Bryant, Jr. National Health Law Transactional Competition. The School of Law also hosted its 47th Annual Intramural Moot Court Competition.

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**LEGAL BRIEFS**

**AWARDS**

1. ABA Negotiation team: Ethan Mora, Anna Armel, Maxwell Savin, Nina Ordinario, Claudia Cornejo, and Patrick Johns. Armel and Johns advanced to Nationals.
2. Wagner Moot Court team: Alexa Curtis and Sarah Gleason.
3. Quinnipiac Trial Advocacy team: Ian Lindsay, Lauren Rovet, Alisha Shah, and Casey Callahan. All four were 2022–23 Corboy Fellows.
4. The School of Law hosted its 47th Annual Intramural Moot Court Competition and welcomed the Honorable Joy V. Cunningham of the Illinois Supreme Court, the Honorable Frank H. Easterbrook of the 7th Circuit, and the Honorable Diane P. Wood of the 7th Circuit to serve as the final-round panel of justices for the competition. The justices are pictured with Loyola’s two finalists: Rachel Wright (champion, far left) and Danielle Towe (runner-up, far right).

Here are the top awards taken home by the School of Law:

- **2022–23 American Bar Association Negotiation Competition**
  - Regional Co-Champions
- **2023 Evan A. Evans Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition**
  - Best Respondent Brief
- **2022 National Health Law Moot Court Competition**
  - Best Overall Oralist
- **2022–23 National Moot Court Competition**
  - Regional Best Brief
- **2022 Quinnipiac University School of Law American Bar Association Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition**
  - National Champions
  - Best Cross Examination
  - Best Opening Statement
- **2023 Robert F. Wagner National Labor and Employment Law Moot Court Competition**
  - National Champions
  - Best Final Round Oral Advocate

**ACCOLADES**

Loyola University Chicago School of Law continues to be recognized as one of the nation’s top law schools. PreLaw magazine grades the school in the following ways:

- **A+** Practical Training
- **A** Business Law
- **A** Tax Law
- **A-** International Law

**U.S. News & World Report** ranks the School of Law:

- **No. 4** Health Care Law
- **No. 13** Trial Advocacy
- **No. 18** Part-Time JD (Weekend JD)

Other accolades:

- **Bloomberg Law** named the School of Law as a top innovator in the justice sphere, singling out the Legislation and Policy Clinic, which provides students with opportunities to achieve social justice for clients by understanding the legislative process.
- **International Jurist** magazine named the school’s LLM program in its Honor Roll of LLM programs for foreign attorneys.

**Celebrating commencement**

On Saturday, May 13, the School of Law celebrated its 2023 graduates during the commencement ceremony in Gentile Arena. Keynote speaker Vincent Rougeau, president of the College of the Holy Cross, received an honorary degree from the University. Rougeau served on the School of Law faculty in the 1990s. For more about commencement, see page 33.
John D. Mitchell and Jimmy L. Arce are assistant United States attorneys for the Northern District of Illinois.

“This is the most important case I’ll ever work on.”

WHEN THE WICKED TOWN TRIAL ENDED ON NOVEMBER 15, 2022, resulting in convictions of two violent defendants and guilty pleas from 11 more, lead prosecutor John D. Mitchell (JD ’04) finally exhaled.

“Because of the scale and scope of the violence involved, it’s safe to say this is the most important case I’ll ever work on,” says Mitchell, an assistant United States attorney (AUSA) for the Northern District of Illinois.

The two-month trial — co-prosecuted with Jimmy L. Arce (JD ’12) as second chair — convicted leaders of Wicked Town, a faction of the Traveling Vice Lords gang, which operated primarily in Chicago’s Austin neighborhood and was responsible for at least 19 murders, 19 attempted murders, several armed robberies, and assaults.

“In most of our cases, there are victims who care about the outcome, and it’s important to them and to us that we do a good job,” says Mitchell. “But they’re not in the newspaper every week. There were a lot of eyeballs on this case, a lot of moms who lost their sons to the violence, and I had an enormous amount of relief when the jury returned guilty verdicts on all counts.”

The trial capped a sprawling, multiyear investigation by several federal agencies that resulted in the convictions of Donald Lee and Torance Benson on racketeering conspiracy and firearm charges, as well as drug charges for Lee. Both may receive life sentences. Eleven other defendants who pleaded guilty before trial—with several becoming cooperating witnesses—will receive sentences of 20–35 years to life.

Separate routes to a common goal

Arce and Mitchell took different paths to the Northern Illinois United States Attorney’s Office (USAO). As a child watching TV courtroom dramas, Arce decided he wanted to be a trial attorney—a goal that was reinforced when he witnessed a mock trial during his School of Law first-year orientation. He became a Loyola Corboy Fellow, which provided “valuable training in thinking on my feet and formulating a story that’s easy for a jury to grasp,” he says. After a stint at a law firm and a federal clerkship, Arce secured his “dream job” at the USAO in 2016, spending several years in the Civil Division. He’s now in the Criminal Division focusing on violent crimes—and Wicked Town was the first criminal case he tried as an AUSA.

Mitchell became interested in securities litigation during a Loyola law class at the height of the Enron scandal. He held an appellate clerkship and worked for a law firm, then prosecuted...
securities fraud cases for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission’s Division of Enforcement. The U.S. Department of Justice often has criminal cases running parallel to SEC civil cases. Mitchell says, “After working alongside the DOJ on cases including Ponzi schemes defrauding elderly people, Mitchell decided to make a shift to criminal prosecutions.” He joined the USAO in 2015 and now works in the securities and commodities fraud section, but he’s kept cases from his days in the gang and narcotics section. “I might have insider trading in the morning and gun murders in the afternoon,” Mitchell says. “Only working at the U.S. Attorney’s Office can you have that kind of cool mix on your docket.”

Each AUSA’s caseload can go as high as 75 cases, so days in the office are a busy mix of court hearings, conferences about ongoing investigations with agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; and appearances before grand juries. “If we have a brief to write, that usually happens at night or on the weekend because during the day we’re getting phone calls and emails and pulled in every direction,” Arce says.

The challenges of trying a big case
Several years a year, AUSAs prepare to try cases—an all-encompassing project that requires temporary bands off their other cases to colleagues. “To get ready for the Wicked Town trial, which stretched over eight weeks, Mitchell and Arce, along with their co-counsel Meghan Morrissey and Beth Palmer, interviewed and prepared more than 100 witnesses, participated in jury selection, wrote the opening statement given by Arce and the rebuttal closing presented by Mitchell, and readied their examination and cross-examination.”

“It was about a six-month period where there was 100 percent focus on the trial, all day, every day,” says Mitchell who, like Arce, has small children. During high-intensity trials like this one, AUSAs spend far less time at home than they’d like, and their families—particularly their spouses—feel the strain. “My wife will probably kill me for saying this, but this trial may have required more sacrifice on her part than on mine,” says Arce, who is married to Lori, has small children. “Arce and I stood standing behind him. 4. The Oktowsky federal building in downtown Chicago, the site of the two-month Wicked Town trial. The trial capped a sprawling, multiyear investigation by several federal agencies that resulted in the convictions of Donald Lee and Tanorice Benson on racketeering conspiracy and firearm charges, as well as drug charges for Lee. Arce says.

get these convictions, and hopeful that they felt some small measure of justice.”

Though he notes that all his cases are significant and impactful for different reasons, Mitchell says a 2019 insider trading conspiracy trial—the first in Chicago in more than 15 years—“was really important to me because we were able to hold accountable all of the nine white-collar defendants, who were motivated to commit crime exclusively by greed rather than by poverty or lack of opportunity.”

Mitchell says he hopes that the successful prosecution has “deterred others who may consider using nonpublic information to cheat the system through insider trading.”

Arce, who spent more than four years in the USAO’s Civil Division before moving to the Criminal Division in 2021, has defended federal governmental institutions—such as the Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Postal Service, and various law enforcement agencies, as well as engaged in affirmative civil rights investigations.

While in the Civil Division, Arce worked on the Chicago Police Department Pattern and Practice Investigation that resulted in a report published by his office and the Department of Justice. The report served as a road map for a 2019 consent decree between the City of Chicago and the Illinois Attorney General’s Office that, ordered by a federal court, included a reform of the Chicago Police Department—including changes to police training and policies—while providing officers the support they need to implement safe and constitutional policing practices.

“The best job they’ve ever had”
As exhausting as the work can be, the job of an AUSA yields big rewards in the sense of meaningful accomplishment it confers. The USAO “really is a unique place,” Mitchell says. “A big part of why I went to Loyola was the emphasis on public service. Here, I work with people who could be doing other things and making more money doing it—but they choose to work the week of a trial waiting for victims of crimes. That’s what keeps me here.”

“The life and the work are very mission-driven,” Arce adds. “One thing I don’t have to worry about is whether I’m doing the right thing. We’re very deliberate in our approach, and that doesn’t mean we don’t make mistakes, but having that mission is a lodestar that maybe a lot of my private practice colleagues don’t have. Almost everyone who leaves the office says the best job they’ve ever had is here.”

Friends for life
John D. Mitchell and Jimmy L. Arce discuss their winning chemistry
Congressional Insight Assistant U.S. Attorneys (AUSAs) John D. Mitchell (JD ’04) and Jimmy L. Arce (JD ’12) had not met until they were assigned to try the Wicked Town case together—and discovered they were both Loyola alumni when Mitchell spotted Arce’s diploma on the office wall.

“It was great to be paired up with a fellow Loyola grad who’s now a friend for life,” says Mitchell, who praises Arce’s Gortboy training and calls his partner in prosecution “smart, kind, and thoughtful, with an incredible energy.”

Arce says, “Loyola teaches you to meet people where they are. Through this case I saw a real connection between John and the victims and their families, and I think that’s an important part of his Loyola background. John was a wonderful leader and guide, a dynamic lawyer who built the case in an incredible way. I hope one day I’m half as good an AUSA.”
**Risky business**

Alissa Jubelirer (JD ‘00) is reaping success as the founder of a growing cannabis company.

**BY ANDREW SANTELLA**

**ALISSA JUBELIRER HAS SOBERING NEWS** for would-be entrepreneurs thinking about following her path from corporate law to the cannabis industry.

“It’s not for the faint of heart,” says Jubelirer (JD ‘00), CEO of Dynamic Jack Cannabis Co., the New Mexico–based cannabis producer she launched in 2021 with a group of partners that includes fellow Loyola law alum Cole Eastman (JD ‘18).

The fledgling company operates a 140-acre farm about an hour outside Santa Fe. Its products, including the super potent Moon Rocks (made with mimosa buds, distillate, and kief), are available in more than 80 New Mexico dispensaries. This spring, Dynamic Jack partnered with Albuquerque bakery Rude Boy Cookies to produce a new line of cannabis-infused cookie dough under the name Rude Girl Goodies.

The company’s early progress has not come easily, but according to Jubelirer, that’s typical of the industry she has chosen.

“It’s not the gold rush everyone thought it was going to be,” she says. “You’re constantly pushing a boulder up two feet, and then falling back one. This is an industry where you have to be prepared to take risks.”

**Seeking greener pastures**

Jubelirer’s career move into cannabis certainly seemed risky. In 2019, she was deputy general counsel for Groupon, looking for opportunities to step up to a general counsel role. She figured the cannabis industry would be more exciting than traditional companies to take a chance on someone in her position, and she knew her background at a startup would be attractive to cannabis companies in the growth stage, much like Groupon was in the early days. But Jubelirer had apprehensions about cannabis. For starters, cannabis remains illegal under federal law—no small detail for an attorney.

“I had people ask me, ‘You’re a lawyer—how can you go to work on something that’s federally illegal?’” she recalls. “I wondered if I would ever be able to work outside cannabis again, or would I always have this scarlet letter?”

Would I be able to get a mortgage? Would I get flagged at the airport?

But Jubelirer was intrigued by the new challenges the cannabis industry offered, and opportunities in the business seemed plentiful—especially in Chicago, where several multistate operators had set up shop, creating the closest thing to a Silicon Valley for weed businesses. So, when Chicago-based multistate company Revolution offered her the general counsel position, she took the leap.

Jubelirer’s responsibilities, which at Groupon had been limited mostly to employment and compliance, expanded at Revolution to include everything from real estate to M&A to IP to commercial contracts. She had to learn fast.

“I felt like I was drinking from the fire hose,” she says.

Jubelirer was the only woman on the executive team at Revolution, so she jumped at the chance to join an informal networking group of executive-level women working in the cannabis industry. Although cannabis products are increasingly popular with female consumers, the industry remains predominantly male run. A 2022 study by the industry observer Marijuana Business Daily reports that only 22 percent of executive positions in cannabis were held by women.

“One of the things we talked about was the need for women to create generational wealth for themselves, instead of doing it for everyone else,” Jubelirer says of the networking group. “That group served as a great sounding board and was part of what inspired me to start Dynamic Jack.”

**Setting down roots**

Jubelirer chose to apply for cannabis licenses in New Mexico, where recreational, adult-use cannabis had just been legalized and where she has a network of connections.

The fledgling company reached out to him to help launch her new cannabis company, Dynamic Jack.

“Getting the legal side of it set up was key,” Eastman says. “I always perform tasks that fit within my job description.”

Eastman has helped forge the company’s partnership with Albuquerque bakery Rude Boy Cookies to produce a line of “take and bake” cannabis-enhanced cookie dough called Rude Girl Goodies. The Rude Girl brand has proved to be one of Dynamic Jack’s most successful and is available in about two dozen dispensaries in and around Albuquerque.

“Hammering out the specifics of that partnership, and all the details from packaging to compliance to having licenses to place the products in dispensaries, has been a huge learning experience,” Eastman says.

And, he adds, the company is looking to expand into new markets. “So watch out, Illinois,” he says.

**FRESH OUT OF LAW SCHOOL** Cole Eastman (JD ’18) went to work as an assistant counsel to the speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives and got a front-row seat to the legislative process that led to Illinois’s legalization of recreational cannabis in 2019.

“Attending the hearings and listening to the debates, I was excited about the opportunities the new law presented to seek restorative justice for communities most impacted by the War on Drugs,” Eastman says. “I decided to make a go of it in cannabis law.”

Eastman met future Dynamic Jack CEO Alissa Jubelirer in 2020 when he was working at the cannabis company Justice Grown and Jubelirer was interviewing candidates for a position on her team at the multistate cannabis producer Revolution. Though Eastman didn’t think that position was a good fit for him, he and Jubelirer stayed in touch, and she reached out to him to help launch her new cannabis company, Dynamic Jack.

Eastman is a founding partner and director of legal and compliance operations for the New Mexico–based company. His role at Dynamic Jack “varies depending on the needs of the company,” he says. “As an attorney with startups, I’ve always performing tasks that fit within my job description.”

Eastman has helped forge the company’s partnership with Albuquerque bakery Rude Boy Cookies to produce a line of “take and bake” cannabis-enhanced cookie dough called Rude Girl Goodies. The Rude Girl brand has proved to be one of Dynamic Jack’s most successful and is available in about two dozen dispensaries in and around Albuquerque.

“Hammering out the specifics of that partnership, and all the details from packaging to compliance to having licenses to place the products in dispensaries, has been a huge learning experience,” Eastman says. And, he adds, the company is looking to expand into new markets. “So watch out, Illinois.”
friends, including some fellow Loyola law alumni. Jubelier entertained grand plans a farm to start with, and then a consumption area—mountain views, and maybe vineyards. But then the coronavirus pandemic was halted. Jubelier knew that raising money would be extraordinarily challenging for cannabis business owners.

"Your options are really limited when it comes to getting capital," says Eastman, a Dynamic Jack partner and the company's director of legal and compliance operations. "It creates a brutal and undermined financial picture."

Knowing that they could not secure a small business loan or a line of credit. Most banks avoid both banking for and lending to cannabis companies, Jubelier says, perceiving them as too high a risk to their FDIC insurance. While raising capital is difficult for most businesses, it is extraordinarily challenging for cannabis business owners.

"We have seen a remarkable normalization and acceptance of cannabis" in recent years, Dashevsky says. "Cannabis" is now heralded as one of the fastest-growing industries in the U.S. and a space bursting with potential. The legal cannabis market in the U.S. was valued at $13.2 billion in 2022, according to marketing data firm Grand View Research, and industry observer New Frontier Data estimates that sales could top $14 billion by 2030.

But when Dashevsky made her first foray into cannabis law, she did so in part because others would not. Her entry into the field grew out of conversations she had in 2018 with the proprietor of a multisite cannabis operation when she was an associate at Locke Lord. The dizzying variety of cannabis regulations from state to state required the business owner to engage a number of small law firms in various markets, a strategy that was proving costly, confusing, and difficult to manage. What was needed, the business owner told Dashevsky, was one-stop legal shopping at a single larger firm that could offer a presence in many key markets.

Great idea, but there was a problem: "At that time, most big law firms would not touch cannabis," Dashevsky says.

For Dashevsky, however, the timing could not have been better. She was growing frustrated with her dependence on her firm's partners for new work. In contrast, cannabis seemed to be something of a new legal frontier with unique challenges and untapped opportunities awaiting those who dared to take them on.

"I saw cannabis as a field that was not already totally carved up," she says. She pitched the idea of creating a cannabis practice to decision-makers at Locke Lord. "They surveyed the risk and determined that it was an area where they could help," she says. The cannabis group Dashevsky created at Locke Lord followed her to Greenspoon Marder in 2021. "At that time, most big law firms had not named her a Cannabis Group Chair," says Dashevsky. "It was a risky move that paid off," she says. Her swerve into the uncharted territory of cannabis law has earned her recognition from industry publications like Law360, which named her one of its Rising Stars; the National Law Journal, which named her one of its RIsing Stars; and Colorado Lawyer, which named her one of its Notable Women in Law. Her inwork into the uncharted territory of cannabis law seems to have worked out for her, her employers, and for her clients. "It was a risky move that paid off," says Dashevsky—Andrew Santelle.

"I saw cannabis as a field that was not already totally carved up."
RISKY BUSINESS

The company raised capital, turned to nontraditional avenues. The company attracted an additional million from family and friends for future equity or SAFE—abbreviated, two-month growing cycle was mostly lost. But another, planted at the same time but requiring four months in the ground, flourished and was ready for harvest in October. Learning from that mistake, Jubelirer eventually came to lean on “legacy growers” who learned their craft in the prelegalization years.

A growing business

Most startups stumble at some point, but the cannabis business, where accessing capital is so difficult, affords little margin for error. “I’m not sure I understood what it means to be ‘capital constrained’ until I was running my own cannabis business,” Jubelirer says. “If we were any other business, we could open a line of credit while we ramp up or access a small business loan.” She admits that, typical among many new operators, cash flow is a constant challenge, and there are times when her company is “running on empty” while she hopes for money to come through. “Whoever said hope is not a strategy has never worked in cannabis,” she says.

The industry continues to grow dramatically, with the U.S. legal weed market projected to reach $72 billion annually by 2030, according to industry research group New Frontier Data. Yet the unforgiving and regulatory realities facing cannabis companies make it difficult for them to thrive. A survey by the National Cannabis Industry Association showed more than one-third of U.S. cannabis companies failing to turn a profit, and Green Market Report found that 10 major multistate operators owe federal back taxes of over $500 million that, if paid, would put them out of business. To say it’s a tough market in which to operate and fundraise is an understatement.

Yet Jubelirer remains optimistic about Dynamic Jack’s prospects. She says the farm is in good hands with a new grower, and the team has a solid manufacturing plan in place for the August harvest. Jubelirer was named a Who’s Who in Cannabis 2023 in New Mexico, and the company’s Rude Girl cookie dough is “a big hit,” having officially launched at a Who’s Who in Cannabis event last year.

Her business may not be for the faint of heart, but Jubelirer is undaunted. “I know we’ve got this.”■

A clean slate

Regina Hernandez (JD ’14) helps clients clear their cannabis-related criminal records.

Hernandez (JD ’14), a supervisory attorney with Legal Aid Chicago, leads the agency’s criminal records relief efforts. Her clients often find themselves haunted by their criminal records. Readily available to anyone conducting a routine background check, those records can become insurmountable barriers to employment, education, and even a lease on an apartment. Even when there has been no conviction, a criminal record limits people’s access to fundamental needs, Hernandez says.

What her clients need, she says, is a clean slate.

Hernandez helps her clients navigate the byzantine process of petitioning to clear their criminal records. In Illinois, petitioners can pursue two avenues: They may seek to have records sealed, which hides the record from public view, or have them expunged, which erases the record completely, as if it had never been created. Expungement is an option only in cases that did not result in a conviction; sealing is the only option for those with criminal convictions on their record.

As high as the stakes may be for her clients, Hernandez says a fundamental goal is simply letting people know that a remedy is available. Legal Aid Chicago is one of 20 advocacy organizations participating in the New Leaf Illinois initiative, a state-funded program offering free cannabis expungement services. Since the program’s launch in 2021, grantees have opened more than 3,300 legal cases and expunged or sealed records of more than 646 arrests or convictions.

“There is never a shortage of clients,” Hernandez says. A native Chicagoan who concentrated on public interest law, Hernandez has spent most of her career in that arena.

“I like knowing that I’m doing whatever I can with my abilities to bring some positive change to our clients’ lives,” she says. “Every client I’ve had told a new story of how the maintenance of criminal records as public records continues to harm our communities, furthering cycles of poverty and disenfranchisement. As long as our clients don’t give up, we won’t.”—Andrew Santella
Aisha Cornelius Edwards (JD ‘05) works toward a world where society dismantles the oppressive systems that draw their power from the law. From the courtroom to the classroom, Edwards challenges criminal justice’s systemic issues. Here, she discusses her career, her curriculum, and how she helps her students imagine a more equitable future.

You’ve centered your career on public interest—why is this important to you?

I spent some early childhood years in a Chicago suburb, exposed to a racially and economically mixed community where there was a lot of support and opportunity. My mother became single and had to move us back to a community on Chicago’s South Side, where I experienced a dramatic change in quality of education, health care, opportunities, and general life expectations. We were exposed to much higher rates of surveillance, control, and incarceration. More than half of my high school class did not make it to graduation. And I was told by one of my teachers that I should not pursue my dream to become a lawyer and address these inequities because “Black women cannot succeed in law.” But I’d had a glimpse into another reality, and it gave me fuel to dream of a better future for myself and others.

What do students learn in the Abolition and Movement Lawyering course?

My course co-creator, Arti Walker-Peddakotla, and I wanted to create a space to go deeper than simply learning what the law is. We talk about the concept of abolition in modern context, going beyond abolition of policing or the prison industrial complex, and discuss systemic oppression, inequities, and how they show up in multiple systems, usually protected by the law. We talk about broad concepts in the first half of the class, and then we imagine a future if abolition were to happen for various systems. We also spend time talking about what movement lawyering is, and how to stand in solidarity with the community you want to help. We want to work to disrupt the power dynamic between attorneys and communities, so it’s more of an equitable partnership.

What do you hope students will get out of the class?

A lot of what we’re doing is unlearning. We’re doing it as a collective. It is a community of folks who sense something is not right and want to do better. The main things I hope students get out of this is critical thinking, the ability to think about an issue from multiple sides as well as courage to speak out against injustices. The importance of collective, robust thought about solutions and problem solving. The importance of partnering with impacted communities and letting them lead. Growing an understanding of racism and capitalism and how it affects so many things. It’s something we must be ever vigilant to identify and work to dismantle. Though abolition is not just about dismantling, it is envisioning and building anew. Collectively creating a future based on community responses and where more people have the freedom to thrive.

“...we want to work to disrupt the power dynamic between attorneys and communities, so it’s more of an equitable partnership.”
IN A SCHOOL KNOWN FOR turning out graduates who pay it forward, these individuals stand out as particularly strong symbols of service. Here are the recipients of the 2023 Loyola University Chicago School of Law alumni awards, which will be presented at the Reunion and Alumni Awards Dinner on Saturday, October 28. (Visit LUC.edu/law/ReunionAwards to learn more about the event.)

Sonia Antolec (JD ’07)

FRANCIS J. ROONEY/ST. THOMAS MORE AWARD

The Francis J. Rooney St. Thomas More Award recognizes continuing, outstanding loyalty and dedicated service to the School of Law.

THERE WAS A MOMENT during her law school orientation—her first week on campus—when Sonia Antolec thought she would have to drop out. The single mother of one had wanted to become a lawyer since age 7, but things were not aligning in her personal life to allow her to take all the classes she needed in the full-time program. “I went to Dean [Pamela] Bloomquist and just cried,” Antolec recalls. Bloomquist consulted with Dean James Faught, and together they figured out how she could take a mix of day and evening classes and still finish her degree in three years.

And she does just that. In her third year of law school, Antolec began volunteering as assistant coach of Loyola’s team for the Hispanic National Bar Association’s Uvalde-Herrera National Moot Court Competition. Right after graduating, she became head coach and continued in that role for nearly 12 years. She has taught trial practice, child law, and other courses at the law school since 2013. Antolec also serves on the Law Alumni Board of Governors as the inaugural Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity chair. She also volunteers with several other organizations, including as president of the San Ignacio Society, an alumni board at St. Ignatius College Prep that advocates for Latino students there. Serving Loyola as an alumnus was a “no-brainer,” says Antolec. She explains, “I come from an underserved community I have grandparents who didn’t speak English. My mom was a migrant worker. My parents don’t have college degrees. I was a teen mom. Against all those odds, I made it through college and law school. That’s why I began to understand that, once a person’s housing is gone, they are hanging on to their stability by their fingernails. It’s so difficult to regain what you’ve lost after that,” she says.

Now Flanagan herself is contributing to what she could be regarded as another landmark for both improved access to justice and homelessness prevention: the Early Resolution Program (ERP) of the Circuit Court of Cook County. The ERP improves the eviction court process by providing free legal counseling to self-represented tenants and landlords and connecting them with resources that can help resolve a case before trial, avoid an eviction, or at least help tenants leave the property with dignity, says Flanagan. “Historically, eviction court is a stressful experience at the legal clinic and the guidance and mentorship of Professor Henry Ross.”

Antolec has taught trial practice, child law, and other courses at the law school since 2013.

“Every time I was exposed to at Loyola I was encouraged to pursue being a lawyer if it weren’t for Loyola. They supported all of me, so I can give all of me back.”

“Aileen Flanagan (MUND ’85, JD ’89)

PUBLIC SERVICE MERIT AWARD

The Innaest Public Service Merit Award recognizes a School of Law graduate who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to public service and social justice in their career.

“EVERYTHING I WAS EXPOSED to at Loyola encouraged a sense of obligation to be present for people in need.”

“All of the students who have come through my office have been at the mercy of the system. They were poor tenants, who almost never have lawyers and who tend to be low-income families and marginalized community members. Many of our clients are women of color with children.”

Since fall 2020, when the ERP was only an idea, stakeholders from the City of Chicago and Cook County (including the Chicago Bar Foundation, the Center for Conflict Resolution, and several legal aid agencies) have collaborated to develop the program. Now Flanagan coordinates LCBH’s participation in it. Thanks to the ERP, many cases have been settled before trial, conserving judicial resources and avoiding the abrupt loss of housing for many families, Flanagan says. The ERP is the most recent, and probably the most visible, example of Flanagan’s work to advance social justice.

“Beyond her focus on housing, she has also represented—pro bono—disadvantaged clients in issues of domestic disputes, child custody, and consumer rights.

“When Flanagan talks about her alma mater, she expresses deep appreciation for the values of academic excellence, integrity, and service to others. “From the minute I walked in the door as an undergrad to the day I graduated law school, I felt I belonged at Loyola. I knew I was being prepared for a life of meaning and purpose beyond myself.”

Aileen Flanagan (MUND ’85, JD ’89)
Matthew T. Glavin (JD ’09)

ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE AWARD

The St. Robert Bellarmine Award recognizes a graduate who earned a JD within the past 15 years for distinguished service to the community, to the legal profession, and to the School of Law.

SOME CHILDREN WANT TO BE doctors when they grow up. Others want to be teachers or, of course, lawyers. When Matthew Glavin was a kid, he wanted to be exactly where he is now: a lobbyist. More accurately, he thought he’d be a congressman, but, he says, “I quickly realized that you can do a lot without being an elected official. I feel like I’m doing my best work when I’m making other people shine.”

As a lobbyist, Glavin helps clients navigate the legislative and regulatory landscape in industries from sports to health care to energy and more. His resume also includes a long list of agencies for which he has volunteered over the years, including Equality Illinois, promoters of LGBTQ+ rights; Juvenile Justice Initiative, advocates for humane treatment of youth in the justice system; and the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, a voice for the state’s businesses.

At first glance, no theme emerges from the list, but Glavin sees it differently. “Every place [I volunteer] needs help dealing with government—maybe securing funding or getting bills passed,” he says. “That world can seem complex and intimidating, but I know that world well.”

When directors at Youth Guidance, a nonprofit agency providing in-school counseling to help teenagers overcome obstacles in their lives, heard rumors that their funding from the City of Chicago might be reduced, they promptly contacted board member Glavin, who was volunteering with his family at Disney World. “My kids were spinning around in the tucaps while I was reaching out to people in the mayor’s office to talk about the great work of our organization,” he says. “When the final budget was released, “it was clear that the message had been received,” he says. Glavin, a member of the Law Alumni Board of Governors, says Loyola played a big role in his journey.

“You hear that law school is a brutal, cutthroat environment; my experience at Loyola was the opposite,” he says. “People helped each other at every opportunity. Success never came at the expense of anyone else. Now that’s my job: building and maintaining relationships.”

Glavin’s affection for his class is reflected in his willingness to serve on the Loyola committee toward alternative dispute resolution in 2014 when he founded Terry F. Moritz LLC. Since then, he has arbitrated more than 200 disputes and guided clients in countless mediations, both in the U.S. and internationally. Dedication to his craft is evident in his host of notable associations: Moritz is an elected member of the American Law Institute. He is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, serving as chair of its Chicago chapter. He is a charter member of the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals and serves on the board of the Resolution Systems Institute. The list goes on.

The School of Law community might know him best from his years as an adjunct professor and as a former member of the Law Alumni Board of Governors. Those engagements were among the most meaningful to him. “What I enjoy most is being involved in the education of young people and creating better opportunities for them,” says Moritz.

Beyond Loyola, he points to several nonprofits that he and his wife, Carol, have supported. Two of their favorites are Big Shoulders Fund, which helps inner-city Catholic schools (Moritz is on the board), and Amurice College, Loyola’s associate degree program that helps students graduate with little or no debt.

Moritz says that all of us lose when individuals aren’t able to maximize their potential. “We have far too many young people who don’t get the opportunity to do that. So, in the context Carol and I can support organizations that attempt to benefit those students, we want to do that.”

Moritz says he is honored to receive an award from his alma mater, which he admires so much.

“When I was teaching at Loyola, I would be on the elevator with students who didn’t know who I was, and I would see students being very respectful and supportive of one another. It was genuine. It was meaningful and inspiring,” Moritz says. “That is the character of Loyola that I have witnessed over many, many years. I benefited from it as a student and feel I still benefit from it today. I have been a very fortunate person.”

Terry Moritz (BS ’66, JD ’70)

MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE

The Medal of Excellence honors a member of the School of Law community who exhibits the qualities of character, intellect, and social and professional responsibility that the School of Law fosters.

“One of the great benefits a lawyer can provide to our social system is to assist in the resolution of conflict," says Terry Moritz, who has demonstrated his belief in this principle throughout his 50-plus years as a litigator, mediator, and arbitrator. Moritz definitively pivoted his career toward alternative dispute resolution in 2014 when he founded Terry F. Moritz LLC. Since then, he has arbitrated more than 200 disputes and guided clients in countless mediations, both in the U.S. and internationally. Dedication to his craft is evident in his host of notable associations: Moritz is an elected member of the American Law Institute. He is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, serving as chair of its Chicago.

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Wartime scholars

BY GAIL MANSFIELD

DURING NATALIIA OKHOTNIKOVA’S first term in Loyola University Chicago’s Rule of Law for Development (PROLAW) program in fall 2022, she did much of her coursework in a Kyiv supermarket. It was one of the few places with reliable, generator-created electricity—and thus a Wi-Fi connection—as the Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022 pounded the city infrastructure.

“When you’re under stress, you show your real face. And I found out that the face of Ukrainians is amazing,” says Okhotnikova, who came to Kyiv after her home city of Kharkiv was devastated by Russian attacks. “If you had light or hot water, you shared it. We exchanged information about where you could charge your phone. If you lived near a hospital or a railway station, it meant your house was equipped with its own power generator.”

Okhotnikova is among several Ukrainian students who are surmounting overwhelming challenges of wartime to earn advanced degrees in rule of law for development. While Okhotnikova was at the supermarket, classmate Yuliya Voitenko was elsewhere in Kyiv, connecting to her assignments from wherever she could find electricity.

“I would be at the hospital, gas stations, or McDonald’s with my phone. If you lived near a hospital or a railway station, it meant your house was equipped with its own power generator,” says Voitenko, who began in the PROLAW program in fall 2022, she did much of her coursework in a Kyiv supermarket.

Forces for change

Based at Loyola’s John Felice Rome Center in Italy, PROLAW offers LL.M. and MJ degrees to students from across the globe. It’s a unique academic and experiential learning program that prepares students for jobs in the growing rule of law and development field.

“Ukraine is in a long period of reform of the judicial system,” she says. “As one person I can’t change all the world, but I believe even one person can change something.” In PROLAW, Voitenko has studied people-centered justice and an approach to rule of law that isn’t top-down but considers the needs and input of users of the justice system. “I want the concepts of people-centered justice to become fashionable in Ukraine,” she says.

Voitenko began her career as a human rights lawyer and consultant, working in the framework of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and on projects with Caritas Ukraine. She’s now a project manager with SoftServe, a global digital solutions company with Ukrainian roots, and plans to continue in project management while consulting or volunteering in the areas of human rights and justice reform. “I truly believe my country will become more developed,” she says. “And I hope I can add my perspective by using my experience and the expertise I’ve gained during this program.”

Overcoming obstacles

Okhotnikova is among several extraordinarily resilient Ukrainian students who are surmounting the overwhelming challenges of wartime to earn advanced degrees in rule of law for development. While Okhotnikova was at the supermarket, classmate Yuliya Voitenko was elsewhere in Kyiv, connecting to her assignments from wherever she could find electricity.

“I always tried to get the subtitles to a video saved in the home city of Kharkiv was devastated by Russian attacks. “If you had light or hot water, you shared it. We exchanged information about where you could charge your phone. If you lived near a hospital or a railway station, it meant your house was equipped with its own power generator.”

“Another member of the PROLAW cohort, Nataliia Hrytsenkova, says “I was impossible to plan anything” during last fall’s shellings. “I sometimes sat in my office from morning until night because it is equipped with its own power station and internet access, so it was possible to study there when the electricity went out,” Hrytsenkova says. “But missile attacks then, and again now while we’re getting ready for our final deadlines for the program, mean sleepless nights and extra effort to study”

Still another classmate, Iana Verteba, was preparing to move to Malta in early 2022. “Then, on the 24th of February 2022, everything changed,” she says. Already in the process of applying to the PROLAW program.

“I didn’t know what I’d be doing the next week or the next month, but I knew I had to finish applying and see what happens,” she says. Writing the required letter explaining her reasons for applying, she was consumed by “strong feelings, a real passion, about how PROLAW might help me change my country and help vulnerable Ukrainians after the war is over.”

Supportive professors and a chance to gather in person

The Ukrainian students say PROLAW administrators and faculty worked hard to accommodate the unique obstacles faced by students whose country is at war. “My poor professors,” Okhotnikova says. “Once I was scheduled for a Zoom with a professor and had to email her: ‘We’ve planned our call for this time, but now Russian rockets are on their way to Kyiv and based on our previous experience, they’ll impact electrical stations in five minutes. Could we reschedule?’” and she said, “Oh, my God, yes,”

“Certainly the rule of law is fundamental for Ukraine’s sustainable development,” she says. About 90 percent of Verteba home city, Mariupol, has been destroyed in the war, so she has a special interest in working with displaced persons. “We have to help the women explain to their children to return,” she says.

Voitenko is a judge of the Sviatoshynskyi District Court of Kyiv and a former judge of the Bolgad District Court of Odessa. She held various posts with the Secretariat of the Committee on Justice of the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine’s unicameral parliament. “Ukraine is in a long period of reform of the judicial system,” she says. “As one person I can’t change all the world, but I believe even one person can change something.” In PROLAW, Voitenko has studied people-centered justice and an approach to rule of law that isn’t top-down but considers the needs and input of users of the justice system. “I want the concepts of people-centered justice to become fashionable in Ukraine,” she says.

Voitenko began her career as a human rights lawyer and consultant, working in the framework of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and on projects with Caritas Ukraine. She’s now a project manager with SoftServe, a global digital solutions company with Ukrainian roots, and plans to continue in project management while consulting or volunteering in the areas of human rights and justice reform. “I truly believe my country will become more developed,” she says. “And I hope I can add my perspective by using my experience and the expertise I’ve gained during this program.”

The coordinator of the Equal Opportunities Caucus in the Parliament of Ukraine, Verteba has also been a senior advisor on gender policy and program activities for the Ukrainian Women’s Congress and deputy chair of the Institute for Tax Reform. “I’m convinced the rule of law is fundamental for Ukraine’s sustainable development,” she says. About 90 percent of Verteba home city, Mariupol, has been destroyed in the war, so she has a special interest in working with displaced persons. “We have to help the women explain to their children to return,” she says.

1. Yuliya Voitenko is a judge of the Sviatoshynskyi District Court of Kyiv. 2. Nataliia Okhotnikova is a human rights lawyer in Ukraine. 3. Iana Verteba is the coordinator of the Equal Opportunities Caucus in the Parliament of Ukraine. 4. Nataliia Hrytsenkova began her career as a human rights lawyer and consultant and is now a project manager with a global digital solutions company.

OKHOTNIKOVA says. "Once I was scheduled for a Zoom with a professor and had to email her: ‘We’ve planned our call for this time, but now Russian rockets are on their way to Kyiv and based on our previous experience, they’ll impact electrical stations in five minutes. Could we reschedule?’" and she said, ‘Oh, my God, yes,”

"I truly believe my country will be developing according to rule of law standards."
propo
Ukrainian students managed to get refuge from a war-torn country. Still, the problem-solving
position for students living to Rome from there,” recalls Verteba, who represents 25 percent of the
The gene editing technique known as clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeat (CRISPR) is hailed as the most precise and efficient gene editing technique. Discovered in 2012, the CRISPR-Cas9 method uses the Cas9 enzyme and an RNA guide sequence to target a specific gene sequence, eliminate the faulty segment, and either repair the defect or insert a new functioning gene. CRISPR holds unlimited commercial potential across a spectrum of applications, especially medicine, including therapeutic interventions for neurological and genetic diseases, infectious diseases, cancers, and autoimmune disorders. This article discusses the contentious patent litigation between the Broad Institute and the Regents of the University of California relating to CRISPR methods and addresses potential implications for medical innovation.

This article examines the constitutional limits on state informed consent laws, focusing on recent legislation mandating disclosures in the context of sexual and reproductive health. Recognizing the tension that health care providers experience when legal requirements violate the norms of medical ethics, the article identifies avenues by which the medical profession can challenge consent laws requiring disclosure of information that is biased, misleading, or scientifically inaccurate.

BLANCHE BONG COOK
Curt and Linda Rodin Professor of Law and Social Justice

Jeffrey Epstein, a billionaire child rapist, ran an international sex trafficking ring. The federal government’s failure to prosecute Epstein is all the more problematic because it sits at the easement of mass incarceration. Through its carceral system, the United States disappears persons of color from existence, removing them from the political process and from the capacity to reproduce, at rates both unprecedented and staggering. Epstein, however, inhabited a body that dictated the unprecedented process he received. Epstein’s race, class, and gender (this white heteropatriarchal privilege) incentivized the federal government to decline prosecuting him. Epstein’s case demonstrates how prosecutors distribute premature death in vulnerable communities and life and liberty for the rich. It dramatically illustrates that while heteropatriarchy is the result of both individual decision-making and structural dynamics within the criminal legal process, this stark depiction of the two-tiered system of criminal justice—life for the powerful and death and destruction for the vulnerable—solidifies calls for its abolition.

Research and scholarship
Loyola’s law faculty publishes a wide variety of research and scholarship. Here’s a sampling of recent work.

JORDAN PARADISE
Georgia Reithal
Professor of Law
“The CRISPR Patent Ruling and Implications for Medicine,” 129 JAMA 19, 2023

NADIA N. SAWICKI
Georgia Reithal
Professor of Law
“The Politics of Informed Consent and the Limits of the First Amendment,” 129 JAMA 19, 2023

Verteba’s work with the parliament’s Equal Opportunities Caucus has shifted during war-time. “Everything that existed before the war is still important, but we have many problems we have to solve right now,” she says. For instance, the caucus is working on legislation related to wartime sexual violence and partnering with NGOs to find appropriately sized clothing and protective vests for its women soldiers, who represent 25 percent of the Ukrainian army.

“When the war started, I had to collect all my optimism in a heap to believe I needed new knowledge to further work on positive changes in Ukraine, especially after a victory,” Verteba says. “In such difficult times, life gives us a chance to learn, and with new experiences and strength, return to what you love to do. Thank you, Loyola, for this chance and the support to take on this project.”
Faculty and staff appointments

Mahdis Azimi (JD ‘14) is associate director of student services.
Erin Baumann (JFRC ‘13, BA ‘14) is associate director of the Clinical Child Law Center, co-authored a Chicago Tribune op-ed proposing solutions to Cook County’s juvenile detention practices.

New endowment honors a living legend

The James J. Faught Endowed Scholarship provides a scholarship to one Loyola Law student each year.

If you graduated from the School of Law within the last four decades, you likely know the name Jim Faught (JD ‘76). For many, Faught’s name conjures a kind face, a welcoming presence, a tall man with a gentle demeanor. Some alumni say that Faught, who retired as associate dean for administration in January, is synonymous with the School of Law itself.

In fall 2021, an anonymous donor established the James J. Faught Endowed Scholarship in honor of Faught’s tremendous contributions to the School of Law. The donor expressed admiration for Faught’s ideals, including his commitment to educational equality and his dedication to ensuring student success through guidance and support. This endowed fund provides a full or partial scholarship to one Loyola Law student annually.

Follow the School of Law on social media:

@LUCLawAlumni
@LoyolaLaw
Loyola Law_chicago
Loyola University Chicago School of Law

Jeannine Bell

In the news

School of Law faculty members have been featured prominently in the news this year. Here's a sampling:

Bruce Boyer, co-director of the Civilitas Child Law Center, co-authored a Chicago Tribune op-ed proposing solutions to Cook County’s juvenile detention practices.

Samuel D. Branson, Georgia Reithal Professor of Law, was quoted in ProPublica about some Texas churches making donations to political candidates.

Lisa Jacobs, associate director of the Legislation and Policy Clinic, was quoted in a ProPublica and Chicago Tribune article about a new bill could end police ticketing in Illinois schools.

Stephen Rubin, Judge Hubert Louis Will Professor of Law, was quoted in the Washington Post about police reform since the 2020 death of George Floyd.

Anita Weinberg, Curt and Linda Rodin Clinical Professor of Law and Social Justice, was quoted in a Block Club Chicago article on problems with lead paint and how inspections for lead繁华 only after a child becomes sick.

When Kevin Lichtenberg (JD ‘10, MA ‘11), attorney at HefterLichtenberg and vice president of the School of Law’s Board of Governors, attended law school, he was impressed with Faught’s character. “He came across as somebody who valued the highest morals and principles,” he says.

For example, Faught spoke with students about the Illinois Lawyers’ Assistance Program, a cause he’s passionate about (Faught served as president from 2009 to 2010). “It’s for lawyers struggling with substance abuse, addiction, and mental health issues,” says Lichtenberg. “He made it known that he cared about us and our well-being, and that would remain true after we graduated.”

“Dean Faught personified the culture of Loyola Law, which I see as serious but collaborative.”
As an alumnus and adjunct faculty member, Lichtenberg often ran into Faught at events and describes him as invariably kind and gracious. “He’s met thousands of students and alumni over the years, but he still knows my name,” Lichtenberg says. “Giving to the Faught endowment is a small thing I can do to be counted among all of us in line to support this really wonderful person.”

Leading with compassion

One of Faught’s proudest accomplishments at the School of Law is establishing the London Advocacy Program, which combines on-campus lectures with a whirlwind legal-focused tour of England’s capital. “It’s a special opportunity to be counted in a material way,” says Faught.

“You can be utterly successful while being supportive, genuine, and kind,” she says. “You can make a huge impact that way.” Those qualities also led Conway to ask Faught to officiate at her wedding. “My fiancé and I wanted an uplifting presence, and he was the obvious answer,” Conway says. When she approached Faught to ask him, Conway emphasized that she didn’t want to impose; she remembers saying, “You already do so much for so many people.” But Faught happily agreed.

For Conway and other donors, the endowment represents a special opportunity to celebrate Faught’s many years of selfless service to the Loyola community, while ensuring his dedication to students continues in a material way.

“You’re basically giving two great things for one,” Conway says. “You’re supporting the law school and also contributing to the legacy of a living legend.” Faught, ever modest, isn’t sure about the “living legend” designation. But he’s deeply appreciative of his tenure at Loyola and thrilled that the scholarship will make an impact on current and future law students. “I just want to thank everyone who has had anything to do with this endowment,” he says. “For students to go forth carrying my name on a scholarship is an incredible honor. I’m just so grateful for my time at Loyola. What a blessing it has been.”

—Kelsey Schagemann

To make a gift to the James J. Faught Endowed Scholarship, please visit LUC.edu/law/faughtscholarship.

ALUMNI UPDATE

2022 reunion weekend and alumni awards dinner

MORE THAN 150 ALUMNI and friends gathered for Reunion Weekend, September 29–October 1, 2022. Event highlights included class-specific reunion programming, a Town Hall with Dean Michele Alexandre, a Women in Law Conference, and the cornerstone event, the annual Alumni Awards celebration recognizing awardse for their outstanding commitment to Loyola University Chicago School of Law and the larger community.

1. Alumnus gather before the awards celebration dinner at the JW Marriott

2. Former Illinois Sen. Jacqueline Collins (JD ’20) and alumni chat with Dean Alexandre at the Town Hall

3. Lafesha Marsh (JD ’15) presented the keynote address at the Women in Law Conference, following remarks by the dean

4. Students and alumni gathered for a panel discussion on feminism and lawyering

5. Master of ceremonies Kevin Lichtenberg (JD ’72, MA ’71), left, presented awards to Christine Caldwell Smith, who received the Francis J. Rooney/St. Thomas More Award on behalf of her late sister, Laura Caldwell (JD ’92); St. Thomas More Award winner Robert Belhumeur; and Medal of Excellence recipient Joanne Gough (BA ’74, MA ’78, JD ’94); and the Honorable Brian McKillip (BA ’72, JD ’75), who received the Distinguished Jurist Award. They are pictured here with Dean Michele Alexandre.

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO SCHOOL OF LAW
MILESTONE

Alumni admitted to the Supreme Court Bar

SONIA ANTOLEC (JD ’07) and AARON T. TROY (JD ’09) were sworn into the Supreme Court of the United States on April 25, 2023. Judge Antolec and Judge Troy are graduates of Loyola Law School. Both are partners at McDermott Will & Emery.

Sonia Antolec and Aaron T. Troy

David P. Buckley, Jr. (JD ’95) was named to Crain’s 2022 Notable Gen X Leaders in Accounting, Consulting, and Law list. He is managing partner at Buckley Fine Law.

Meghan Harte (JD ’99) was named to Crain’s 2022 Notable Leaders in Community Development list.

John C. Kocoras (JD ’97) was recognized for service to the Supreme Court Bar.

The Honorable Lisette Milam (JFRC ’96) received the Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia, Inc.’s Honorable A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Award for 2022.

Tony Simpkins (BA ’94, JD ’96) was named to Crain’s Notable Leaders in Accounting, Consulting, and Law list. He is a shareholder at Greenberg Traurig.

Brian Speers (JD ’93) was named to the 2023 edition of The Best Lawyers in America.

Sanjay Tailor (JD ’91) was assigned to the First District Appellate Court by the Illinois Supreme Court.

Eric Tower (JD ’96) joined Blank Rome LLP as a partner in the corporate, M&A, and securities practice group in Chicago.

Sonia Antolec and Aaron T. Troy

Michael Baum (JD ’02) was named to Crain’s 2022 Notable Gen X Leaders in Accounting, Consulting, and Law list.

Brian J. Riordan (JD ’96) was named to Crain’s 2022 Notable Leaders in Community Development list.

Jennifer M. Sander (JD ’91) was named to Crain’s 2023 People on the Move list. She joined law firm Hughes Socol Pierson Resnick & Dym, Ltd., as a partner.

The Honorable Lisette Milam (JFRC ’96) received the Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia, Inc.’s Honorable A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Award for 2022.

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Health centered

Sofia Aragon (JD ’02) serves as mayor of Burien, Washington

SOFIA ARAGON immigrated from the Philippines to the U.S. with her family in 1975, shortly after President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law nationwide. Her family settled in Seattle. Although her mother had been a registered nurse and her father a physician, “since they got to the U.S., they realized there was no assistance for them to get their licenses,” Aragon says, making their career options more limited. Aragon became a registered nurse in 1997.

SOWING THE SEEDS: “I practiced in a health center that served a lot of immigrants, people who were transient, people who had a lot of needs,” Aragon says. When the state government passed legislation to test a new state-funded health insurance program (prior to the Affordable Care Act), many private insurers withdrew from the individual insurance market in Washington, leaving many people with no coverage at all.

“I turned our practice upside down, and I became convinced this happened because there weren’t enough people in the legislature with health care backgrounds,” she says. “That’s when I started thinking again about the law. Lawyers had tools to influence policies that mattered to them, and I wanted to have those tools too.”

LEARNING THE LAW: After earning her JD, Aragon spent the next 14 years working on issues that mattered to her, first as legislative and policy liaison for the Washington State Department of Health, then as senior governmental affairs advisor for the Washington State Nurses Association.

Still, Aragon believed she could have the most impact on health care through lawmaking. Although her 2018 run for the state senate was unsuccessful, the process positioned her for another role in Burien, a south suburb of Seattle, home to 52,000 residents.

“I got to know members of the Burien City Council and established relationships with voters,” she says. “I sort of won that race [in 2019] with the highest percentage of votes ever in the primary.” From there, she was elected mayor—the first woman of color to hold the position—and began her two-year term in January 2022.

USING THE TOOLS: As mayor, Aragon says her law degree helps her “to work faster,” which is important because it’s a part-time job. She maintains her full-time job as executive director of the nonprofit Washington Center for Nursing.

She notes that, because of Burien’s proximity to Sea-Tac Airport, environmental exposures and airport expansion are continual issues that require navigating the local laws of both Burien and the Port of Seattle, state laws, federal laws, and FAA regulations.

“I will have an easier time than others teasing out the technologicalities of legal issues—working through thorny issues that can have a lot of conflict or confusion. Whether you’re a lawyer or a lawmaker, finding solutions is an essential part of the role. That’s what people depend on us to do,” she says. Note: As of press time, Aragon was running for a higher office, a seat on the King County Council. District 8. The primary will be held on August 1, 2023.

Drew L. Block (JD ’03) was promoted to shareholder at Plunkett Cooney, based in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

Jeremy C. Daniel (JD ’07) was nominated for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

Matthew Devine (JD ’04) was appointed as office executive partner of the Chicago office of White & Case.

Amy Doshring (JD ’09) was named to Crain’s 2023 Notable Litigators and Trial Attorneys list.

Megan Ferkel Earhart (JD ’10) was promoted to partner at Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP.

Ryan L. Eddings (JD ’06) was appointed as office managing shareholder at Littler in Fresno, California.

William T. Eveland (JD ’04) was named to Crain’s 2023 Notable Litigators and Trial Attorneys list.

Daniel Farris (JD ’07) was named to Crain’s 2023 Notable Litigators and Trial Attorneys list.

Tiffany Galbraith (JD ’09) was named president of the Intellectual Property Law Association of Chicago.

Brett M. Henne (JD ’02) was named to Crain’s 2023 Notable Litigators and Trial Attorneys list.

Michelle Kohut (BS ’94, JD ’02) was named to the 2023 edition of The Best Lawyers in America, to the 2023 Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America list, and to Crain’s 2022 Notable Women in Law list.

Elizabeth Lewis (JD ’04) was named to Crain’s Notable Leaders in Community Development list.

Lindsey Markus (JD ’06) was named to the third annual Salute! Top 50 Women in Law Award list by Law Bulletin Media and Chicago Lawyer magazine.

LaKisha C. March (JD ’05) was named to Crain’s 2022 Notable Gender Leaders in Accounting, Consulting, and Law list. She is partner and the chair of the government affairs and public policy practice group at Akerman LLP.

Courtney Mayster (JD ’01) was named managing partner of Much and becomes the firm’s first woman in this role.

Molly McGinley (JD ’05) was named managing partner of Much and becomes the firm’s first woman in this role.

Michelle McGinley (JD ’05) was named to Crain’s 2022 Notable Women in Accounting, Consulting, and Law list. She is partner and the chair of the government affairs and public policy practice group at Akerman LLP.

Kimberly Petrina (JD ’05) joined Cozen O’Connor as a member of the firm’s litigation practice.

Congratulations, class of 2023

ON SATURDAY, MAY 13, the School of Law celebrated its 2023 graduates during the commencement ceremony in Gentile Arena. The keynote speaker was Vincent Rougeau, president of the College of the Holy Cross and former School of Law professor, who also received an honorary degree from the university. There was a moment to recognize Aréanah Preston, who was scheduled to graduate as a Master of Jurisprudence in Children’s Law and Policy. Preston, a Chicago police officer, was killed in the line of duty on May 6. The School of Law and the University were honored to welcome Preston’s family, who walked across the stage to receive Preston’s degree.
Carly Chocov (JD ’16) was elected to Crain’s 2022 People on the Move list.

Torey Darin (BA ’14, JD ’18) joined Baker Storch Cowen & Rice LLC as an associate as part of the firm’s merger with Roland, Wickers, Roper, Hofer & Crawford, PC.

Michael Ditore (JD ’13) was named to the 2023 edition of The Best Lawyers in America and was selected as one of the 2023 Lazard 100 Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyers.

Suzanne Gainey (JD ’12) was elected to firm membership at Moore & Van Allen.

Jordan Hall (JD ’18, Med ’18) was appointed associate dean for student affairs at Western New England University School of Law.

Rory Hawkins (MSW ’99, JD ’12) was selected for the 2023 edition of Best Lawyer in America.

Nathan J. Horvath (JD ’15, MBA ’16) was named to Crain’s 2022 People on the Move list and joined Horgan LLP’s Chicago office as partner in the corporate department.

Katie Kelley (JD ’17) joined Chestnut Cambrense as an associate attorney.

Matthew J. Kelly (JD ’14) was elected a shareholder at Polsinelli in Chicago.

Stephen W. Kienzle (JD ’13) was named to Crain’s 2023 People on the Move list. Kienzle joined the law firm Fox Seibel Levin & Carroll as a partner.

James Kea (LLM ’14) joined Bancroft Damore’s health and human services providers and health care controversies teams and corporate practice area as special counsel.

Dayna C. LaPlante (JD ’14) was elected a shareholder at Polsinelli in Chicago.

Lara Linkhalter (BA ’07, JD ’11) joined Wilson Elser as a partner in its transportation practice in the Chicago office.

Andrew Maratea (JFR ’08, JD ’11) joined Benesch as a partner in the corporate and securities practice group.

Peter Monson (JD ’19) joined Freeborn & Peters as an associate in the firm’s Chicago office.

Megan O’Connor (JD ’12) was promoted to partner at Levin & Perconti and was named a 40 Under Forty honoree by the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin.

Trenton Parks (JD ’15) was elected to partnership at Nelson Mullins.

Britney Pennycuick (JD ’18) was named to the 2023 edition of Best Lawyers: Ones toWatch.

Kimberly Sway (JD ’18) joined Akerman LLP as an associate in its real estate practice group.

Emily Shirkey (JD ’10) was named partner at Quarles & Brady LLP.

Michael Stierck (JD ’11) was named president and CEO of DuPage Foundation.

Jillian B. Sommers (JD ’14) was promoted to partner at Perkins Coie.

Ashley Strait (JD ’14) was named partner at Quarles & Brady LLP.

Ed Tyrell (JD ’18) was promoted to corporate counsel, privacy, digital, and e-commerce, at Caterpillar Inc.

Chloe Walker-Neal-Murray (JD ’13) was awarded the 2022 Young Lawyer of the Year Award from the Illinois State Bar Association.

Tonya Woods (JD ’13) received the 2023 Cook County Bar Association’s Harold Washington Award, which is given to a lawyer or layperson for distinguished service as head of a community organization.

Edward Young (JD ’12) was promoted to senior counsel in the labor and employment department at Proskauer.

Anabel Alaba (JD ’20) was appointed as 12th Ward Chicago alderman and served from December 2022 to May 2023.

Jackie Brown (JD ’22) joined Shook, Hardy & Bacon as an associate.

John P. “Jack” Slay (JD ’22) joined Perotti as a partner in its corporate and community organization.

Mary Egan (JD ’78) was promoted to partner at Levin & Perconti.

The Honorable William T. Hart (JD ’51) was named president of the 2023 edition of Best Lawyer in America.

Mary C. Haney (BS ’85, MBA ’71, JD ’74) was awarded the 2022 Young Lawyer of the Year Award from the Illinois State Bar Association.

The Honorable William T. Hart (JD ’51) was named president of the 2023 edition of Best Lawyer in America.

James K. Msall (JD ’92) was selected as one of the 2023 edition of Best Lawyer in America.

IN MEMORIAM

Melissa P. Amennall (JD ’98)
Stephen W. Baker (JD ’78)
Roger J. Baffa (JD ’54)
Donald F. Barrett (IIBA ’56, JD ’72)
Robert E. Best (JD ’77)
C. Joseph Bildner (JD ’64)
Robert J. Butler (IIBA ’56, JD ’70)
Thomas P. Carney, Jr. (JD ’72)
Clement J. Carroll (JD ’72)
Robert G. Clarke III (BA ’69, JD ’72)
Edward L. Cogan (JD ’54)
Robert W. Connors (JD ’08)
John D. Connolly (JD ’78)
Richard T. Cozzola (BA ’74, JD ’80)
Mary Birth Cyle (JD ’82)
Ronald R. Dietrich (JD ’82)
John W. Falvey (JD ’57)
Stanley J. Garber (JD ’72)
Brad S. Grayson (JD ’87)
Michael D. Greck (JD ’72)
Robert M. Guch (JD ’77)
Marian C. Haney (BS ’85, MBA ’71, JD ’74)
The Honorable William T. Hart (JD ’51)
David M. Hartigan (JD ’66)
Carol C. Hogan (JD ’86)
Marianne C. Holzhall (JD ’90)
William M. Keating (JD ’78)
Jack C. Krause (BA ’53, JD ’55)
James J. Lindeman (JD ’67)
Donald J. Lynch (JD ’56)
Thomas J. McCracken (JD ’54)
Mary M. McNally (BA ’75, JD ’79)
Richard A. Michael (BS ’55, JD ’58)
Laurence J. Muhl (JD ’92)
James C. O’Connell (JD ’74)
James H. O’Mara, Sr. (JD ’66)
The Honorable David W. Ott (JD ’75)
Arlanah Preston (NJ ’23)
Richard L. Price (JD ’71)
James J. Roche (BA ’72, JD ’75)
Eric R. Rimer (JD ’72)
Raymond F. Simon (BA ’53, JD ’56)
Gerry D. Smith (MJ ’15)
Gerald A. Swick (JD ’95)
Margaret Taylor (JD ’93)
Carla A. Tomino (MA ’79, JD ’80)
Adrianna V. Yahrkula (JD ’97)
Howard O. Wolfe (JD ’48)
IN APRIL, Loyola University Chicago announced a strategic agreement in partnership with Constellation, the nation’s leading producer of carbon-free energy. The collaboration aims to procure power from the upcoming Double Black Diamond solar project, developed by Swift Current Energy. This ambitious undertaking is set to become Illinois’s largest solar farm and one of the country’s most significant solar projects. Scheduled to commence renewable energy production in late 2024, the project will fully power Loyola’s Lake Shore, Water Tower, and Health Sciences campuses. By embracing renewable energy, Loyola reinforces its commitment to environmental justice and reducing its carbon footprint.

Loyola commits to clean power in Illinois

The Board of Trustees welcomes Omar Brown, Jennifer Carolan, Brian “Fitz” Fitzpatrick, Alicia Gonzalez, Antonio Ortiz, and Melody Spann Cooper.

New members join Board of Trustees

AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING, the board of Trustees of Loyola University Chicago elected new leadership and members. Beginning a two-year term, John G. Schreiber (BBA ’68) will serve as chair and Reverend Timothy P. Kesicki, S.J. (MA ’88), will serve another term as vice chair. President Mark C. Reed, EdD, extended his thanks to outgoing chair Susan S. Sher (JD ’74). “Loyola has benefitted in many ways from Susan’s service on the Board of Trustees and from her leadership as board chair. We are grateful to her and to John Schreiber for taking on a role that is critical to our continued mission vitality. I am thankful to the Trustees completing their terms and look forward to working with our newest board members.”

In addition to Sher, Barry C. McCabe, Cynthia Hank Stack (JP ’13), Melanie C. Derher, Sharon O’Keefe (MSN ’76), and Kim D. Blickenstaff (BA ’74, MBA ’76) are finishing their current tenure as Trustees. Loyola’s Board of Trustees also elected Omar Brown (MBA ’97), Jennifer Carolan (BA ’97), Brian “Fitz” Fitzpatrick (BA ’92), Alicia Gonzalez, Antonio Ortiz (MBA ’05), and Melody Spann Cooper (BA ’97) to initial three-year terms.

SUSTAINABILITY

LEADERSHIP

SCHOOL OF LAW REUNION WEEKEND AND ALUMNI AWARDS CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 26–28, 2023

We look forward to joining together as a School of Law community to celebrate classes ending in 3 and 8 and to toast our 2023 Alumni Award recipients.

Aileen Flanagan (MUND ’85, JD ’89)
Public Service Merit Award

Matthew T. Glavin (JD ’09)
St. Robert Bellarmine Award

Sonia Antolec (JD ’07)
Francis J. Rooney/St. Thomas More Award

Terry Moritz (BS ’66, JD ’70)
Medal of Excellence

For more information, visit LUC.edu/la w/ReunionA wards
Your support matters

Each year, hundreds of alumni and friends come together and give back to Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Supporting the School of Law Dean’s Discretionary Fund provides Dean Michèle Alexandre with the ability to meet the unique needs of our Loyola Law community, and ensures the school continues to be the destination for diverse, talented, and dedicated students who wish to pursue a legal education inspired by our unique Jesuit values and social justice mission.

When you join fellow Loyola Law alumni supporters with a gift, you make an immediate impact by supporting critical scholarship opportunities, cutting-edge faculty research, emergency hardship funding for students, and more.

Please consider making a gift to the School of Law and count yourself among your peers who make a meaningful difference every day in the lives of our students.

Give now by visiting LUC.edu/law/GiveBack