

LOYOLA LAW

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

2023 ISSUE

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LUC.edu/law

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

"I'm grateful to you for your continuing commitment to your law school."

advocates for justice and equity—and to shape and transform the communities we serve. I want to express my gratitude to our dedicated faculty and staff, who always strive for excellence and focus on our students' success.

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.

camaraderie. I look forward to many vigorous intellectual exchanges, in and out of the classroom, as we prepare students to be ethical



Michèle Alexandre

MICHÈLE ALEXANDRE
Dean and Professor of Law



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BEGINNINGS

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 Hoover Institution 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 Santa*, screened at numerous venues including the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian. In 2019, Crepelle

Adam Crepelle

Expert in federal Indian law and policy



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 Dorr 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. ■

Sheldon Bernard Lyke

Expert in critical race theory, property, and trusts and estates



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 outstanding listener who is deeply invested in students' success. In 1991, he was promoted to associate dean for student affairs, and in 2003, he was promoted again to associate dean for administration, 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 served as 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 Faught, 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 Bar Association (ISBA) Standing Committee on Legal Education, Admission and Competence; the ISBA Committee on Liaison with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission; and the Lawyers' 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). ■

LEGACY

New scholarship honors late professor Michael J. Zimmer

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, Mary Ann G. McMorrow Professor of Law and director of the International Law and Practice program.

In memory of her husband and in honor of his academic and personal passions, Moses has established the Michael J. Zimmer Scholarship. The scholarship will support first-generation college graduates with financial need, with preference going to DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) students.

"Mike was a first-generation college graduate, and he was very focused on issues of inequality," Moses says. "My children and I thought those [scholarship specifications] were appropriate."

Moses recognizes that it can be difficult for DACA students to secure funding for education, and she hopes this scholarship helps ease some of that financial burden.

To maximize support and make an immediate impact, 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 roles: editor in chief of the *Marquette Law Review*, clerk for the Honorable 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.



Michael J. Zimmer dedicated his career to legal and public policy questions about fairness, social justice, and closing the gap between law and justice.

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 University 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.

"I think this scholarship represents Mike's legacy," Moses says. "He worked so hard to try to make things more equal for more people." —Kelsey Schagemann

"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/zimmerscholarship](https://luc.edu/law/zimmerscholarship).

AWARDS

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 Intraschool Moot Court Competition.



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 Reyes, Alisha Shah, and Casey Callahan. All four were 2022–23 Corboy Fellows. **4.** The School of Law hosted its 47th Annual Intraschool 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 recognized as a top law school

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-
Among the Nation's Most Diverse Law Schools (Loyola was not graded the last time the publication ranked schools in 2020)

A
Tax Law

A-
International Law

Weekend JD Program
Among the Top 25 Leaders in Online Offerings

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.

MILESTONE

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.



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

John D. Mitchell and Jimmy L. Arce are assistant United States attorneys for the Northern District of Illinois.

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

BY GAIL MANSFIELD

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 gangs and narcotics section.

"I might have insider trading in the morning and gang 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; conferrals about ongoing investigations with agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; and appearances before grand juries to present evidence. "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 times a year, AUSAs prepare to try cases—an all-encompassing project that requires temporarily handing 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



1. Arce and Mitchell took different paths to the Northern Illinois United States Attorney's Office. **2.** This sign was posted in Hubbard Park to honor Wicked Town shooting victim Malcolm Willie. Wicked Town, which operated primarily in Chicago's Austin neighborhood, was responsible for at least 19 murders, 19 attempted murders, several armed robberies, and assaults. Photo: E. Jason Wambsgans/*Chicago Tribune/TCA*. **3.** Hubbard Park in the Austin neighborhood, where Malcolm Willie was shot and killed while playing basketball in July 2015. Photo: E. Jason Wambsgans/*Chicago Tribune/TCA*. **4.** A gun that police allegedly seized from a Wicked Town member in 2018. Photo: ATF. **5.** U.S. Attorney John R. Lausch Jr. leads a press conference, with Mitchell and Arce standing behind him. **6.** The Dirksen 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 Torance Benson on racketeering conspiracy and firearm charges, as well as drug charges for Lee.

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 another Loyola alum, Lynette Arce (née Barnett) (JD '13).

Jimmy Arce, who says he had to slowly reacclimate himself to normal life after months of nonstop work on the Wicked Town trial ended, says, "I felt grateful for the witnesses and the victims who also made sacrifices



to 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 including 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, mandates broad reform of the Chicago Police Department—including changes in 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 form 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 enjoy the work of advocating 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



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 Corboy training and calls his partner in prosecution "smart, kind, and thoughtful, with an incredible energy."

Says Arce, "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 dynamite 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).

"This is an industry where you have to be prepared to take risks."

Alissa Jubelirer is CEO of Dynamic Jack Cannabis Co.

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 likely 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 *MJBizDaily* 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

TRAILBLAZER

Seeing green

Cole Eastman (JD '18) finds his niche in cannabis law



FRESH OUT OF LAW SCHOOL, Cole Eastman (JD '18) went to work as 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 is often the case with startups, I'm not 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 leasing freezers to placing 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." —Andrew Santella



1. Dynamic Jack operates a 140-acre cannabis farm in Estancia, New Mexico. **2.** Mike Silva, left, owner of Rude Boy Cookies, poses with Cole Eastman and Alissa Jubelirer. The Albuquerque bakery produces Dynamic Jack's line of cannabis-infused cookie dough under the name Rude Girl Goodies. **3.** Dynamic Jack CEO Alissa Jubelirer with Amy Dordek Dolinsky, who is a company partner, board member, and investor.

friends, including some fellow Loyola law alumni. Jubelirer entertained grand plans: a farm to start with, and then a consumption area with mountain views, and maybe lodging and food modeled after vineyard properties. Like any startup, the company needed a shot of capital to get it off the ground. Although the ascent of recreational cannabis to mainstream acceptance has been startlingly swift—with nearly two-

thirds of Americans supporting legalization, according to a 2022 Pew Research Center survey—Jubelirer knew that raising money in the industry is not that simple. Entrepreneurs hoping to start a new cannabis venture cannot do what most other small business owners can: walk into a bank and

secure a small business loan or a line of credit. Most banks avoid both banking for and lending to cannabis companies, Jubelirer says, perceiving them as too high a risk to their FDIC insurance when cannabis is still considered a Schedule I drug by the federal government, akin to heroin and

more dangerous than fentanyl. While raising capital is difficult for most businesses, it can 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 unforgiving financial picture.”

Knowing that they could not rely on institutional sources for

“We’re on the map now. People know us as a great new company.”

TRAILBLAZER

Uncharted territory

Irina Dashevsky (JD '09) makes a name for herself in the “cannabiz”

LAST YEAR, IRINA DASHEVSKY (JD '09) represented entertainment mogul Sean “Diddy” Combs and his company Combs Enterprises in his \$185 million purchase of licensed cannabis operations in New York, Massachusetts, and Illinois. Dashevsky, partner and co-chair of the cannabis group at Greenspoon Marder, provided regulatory counsel in the deal, which was hailed in the business press as a historic moment for the cannabis industry.

Dashevsky remembers a time—just a few years ago, in fact—when such high-profile celebrity acquisitions would have seemed unlikely.

“We have seen a remarkable normalization and acceptance of cannabis” in recent years, Dashevsky says. “Cannabiz” 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 \$72 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 multistate 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. Dashevsky’s team made an immediate and high-profile impact representing a group of Illinois recreational cannabis license applicants challenging the state’s licensing process in the courts. Dashevsky argued that the state’s competitive scoring system unconstitutionally favored applicant groups with majority ownership by military veterans at the expense of applications from social equity ownership groups—groups with majority ownership from the Black and Latino communities historically



Irina Dashevsky is a sought-after expert in cannabis law.

harmed by disproportionate enforcement of drug laws. The litigation eventually produced an overhaul of the state’s license application process that improved the chances for success of social equity group applications.

Dashevsky also lobbied on Capitol Hill to build support in Congress for SAFE Banking, an act that would protect banks from regulatory intervention if they provide financial services to state-licensed cannabis businesses in states where weed has been legalized. (The risk of sanction from federal regulators has made

most banks reluctant to work with cannabis businesses.) She calls her lobbying in Washington “the coolest professional experience of my life.”

Dashevsky’s work has made her a sought-after expert commentator on cannabis-related news and has earned her recognition from industry publications like Law360, which named her one of its Rising Stars; the *National Law Journal*, which named her as a Cannabis Law Trailblazer; and *Crain’s Chicago Business*, which named her among its Notable Women in Law.

Her swerve into the uncharted territory of cannabis law seems to have worked out for her, for her employers, and for her clients.

“It was a risky move that paid off,” says Dashevsky. —Andrew Santella

“I saw cannabis as a field that was not already totally carved up.”



Alissa Jubelirer was named a Who's Who in Cannabis 2023 in New Mexico. Her company's products include Moon Rocks and cannabis-infused cookie dough called Rude Girl Goodies.

capital, the Dynamic Jack team turned to nontraditional avenues. The company raised close to \$1 million from family and friends using a Silicon Valley–developed open-source investment instrument—a simple agreement for future equity or SAFE—designed for startups in the early stages of fundraising. The company attracted an additional \$126,000 in funding through a campaign on the online equity investment platform Mainvest.

If raising capital for a cannabis startup is daunting, navigating the maze of federal and state laws governing it can be downright bewildering. Eastman, who managed the application process for Dynamic Jack in New Mexico, says that applicants in most states are asked to provide detailed plans for security, record keeping, employee training, and dispersal. “These applications are lengthy documents,” Eastman says. “They can be incredibly complicated.”

New Mexico places no limit on the number of licenses it issues, but in so-called limited license states, including Florida and Illinois, the application process is often even more prolonged, costly, and complex.

Eastman's introduction to cannabis law came when he worked, fresh out of law school, as assistant counsel to the speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives during the legislative session

that produced Illinois's Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, which legalized adult-use recreational cannabis.

“I found the process interesting, and cannabis law seemed like a better fit than more traditional paths,” he says. Eastman was part of the license application team at the multistate cannabis operator Justice Grown (now Justice Cannabis Co.) before joining Dynamic Jack. “The work is fast

paced, and you work with a diverse and open-minded group of people who really care about the business.”

After fundraising and the legal labyrinth of the license application process, the gritty work of growing and harvesting remains. There too the Dynamic Jack team learned some hard lessons. Building the outdoor grow turned out to be far more expensive than planned, and they faltered in initial attempts at cultivation. The company began planting in June 2022, not long after it had received its license to grow. One crop with an 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 misstep, 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 legal 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 an all-women-owned dispensary called La Tiendita de Motita earlier this year.

“We're on the map now. People know us as a great new company,” she says.

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

TRAILBLAZER

A clean slate

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



REGINA HERNANDEZ'S clients know how hard it can be to shake the consequences of 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 2020, grantees have opened more than 3,300 legal cases and expunged or sealed records of more than 680 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 has 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 teaches the popular School of Law course Abolition and Movement Lawyering, launched in 2021.

Abolition advocate

Aisha Cornelius Edwards (JD '05) works toward a world where society dismantles the oppressive systems that draw their power from the law

BY MEGAN KIRBY

WHEN AISHA CORNELIUS EDWARDS (JD '05) was in undergrad, her little brother was sent to juvenile detention for theft despite having no priors. She wasn't a lawyer yet, but she wrote a mitigation letter and release plan for him.

"It kind of became my first case," she says.

The judge granted her brother probation with services rather than keeping him detained, and Edwards began a career-launching fascination with the shortcomings of the criminal justice system.

Today, Edwards is executive director at Cabrini Green Legal Aid, which provides legal and social work services, as well as advocates for policy change, for low-income people negatively affected by the criminal justice system. She also teaches the popular Loyola University Chicago School of Law course Abolition and Movement Lawyering, launched in 2021. The abolition movement imagines a world where society dismantles systems and practices stemming from the persistent impacts of settler colonialism, enslavement, and other oppressive practices 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. The last half of the class is student led and student focused. Student groups pick the topic and facilitate the class. We talk about the immigration system, the school-to-prison pipeline, the military-industrial complex. We talk about housing law and housing justice. We've also gone deeper in exploring how colonialism, capitalism, and racism interplay into the systems that we have now.

Overall, we grapple with sensitive and challenging issues, and we do not always agree, but there is a sense of collective growth and power to the process.

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 injustice. 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."

Honoring extraordinary service

2023 School of Law awards honor Sonia Antolec, Aileen Flanagan, Matthew T. Glavin, and Terry Moritz

BY LIZ MILLER

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.)



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

“I wouldn’t be a lawyer if it weren’t for Loyola. They supported all of me, so I can give all of me back.”

Sonia Antolec (JD ’07)

FRANCIS J. ROONEY/ST. THOMAS MORE AWARD

The Francis J. Rooney/St. Thomas More Award recognizes continuous, 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.

“I don’t think any other law school would have done that for me,” Antolec says. “I wouldn’t be a lawyer if it weren’t for Loyola. They supported all of me, so I can give all of me back.”

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 Uvaldo 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 does all this in addition to working full time as chief legal officer for the 1937 Group, a social equity-focused cannabis company, and serving as a judge on the Illinois Court of Claims. 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 alumna 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 am where I am today by the grace of extraordinary people, including the deans at Loyola who were real people with real families of their own. They invested so much in me, always without judgment.” ■

Aileen Flanagan (MUND ’85, JD ’89)

PUBLIC SERVICE MERIT AWARD

The biannual 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.” That, says Aileen Flanagan, is at the root of her dedication to public service.

Flanagan is in her 11th year at the Law Center for Better Housing (LCBH), a nonprofit firm that offers free legal services to renters in Chicago. Now a supervisor, she joined LCBH as a staff attorney to do foreclosure-related outreach and eviction defense litigation.

“I really developed my passion to advocate for safe, stable housing at LCBH,” she says, but notes that her drive to work on social issues was instilled by her parents and her Loyola education. She particularly credits her experience at the legal clinic and the guidance and mentorship of Professor Henry Rose.

“That’s where 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 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 summary proceeding designed to quickly restore possession of the property to the landlord,” she says. “The ERP provides free legal aid consultation for



Flanagan is in her 11th year at the Law Center for Better Housing, a nonprofit firm that offers free legal services to renters in Chicago.

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 only 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.” ■

“Everything I was exposed to at Loyola encouraged a sense of obligation to be present for people in need.”



As a lobbyist, Glavin helps clients navigate the legislative and regulatory landscape in industries from sports to health care to energy and more.

“I feel like I’m doing my best work when I’m making other people shine.”

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 what he is now: a lobbyist.

More accurately, he thought he'd like to 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 senior principal in the lobbying arm of Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies, 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 vacationing with his family at Disney World.

“My kids were spinning around in the teacups 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 leadership to establish the Bran Harvey Opportunity Scholarship at the School of Law with three of his classmates. Harvey, a classmate, died in 2020 at age 48.

“We were all close, even though Bran was at a different point in his life. He was a grinder, balancing law school and a busy family life,” says Glavin. “I think of him all the time. His zest for life still motivates me.” ■

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 commercial 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 Arrupe 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, to the extent 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 student and feel I still benefit from it today. I have been a very fortunate person.” ■



Moritz has spent his career as a litigator, mediator, and arbitrator.

“What I enjoy most is being involved in the education of young people and creating better opportunities for them.”

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Wartime scholars

Ukrainian students face down the challenges of conflict to earn their Loyola PROLAW degrees

BY GAIL MANSFIELD

DURING NATALIYA 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 shelling from 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'd come 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 connected, so you invited people over.”

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 would be at the hospital, gas stations, or McDonald's with my baby, downloading class resources as fast as I could,” she recalls. “I always tried to get the subtitles to a video saved in the few minutes I'd have internet.”

Another member of the PROLAW cohort, Nataliia Hrytsenko, says “it was impossible to plan anything” during last fall's shelling.

“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,” Hrytsenko 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,

“I truly believe my country will be developing according to rule of law standards.”

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.”

Forces for change

Based at Loyola's John Felice Rome Center in Italy, PROLAW offers LLM 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.

The Ukrainian students enrolled in the program bring impressive, diverse experience in the legal, human rights, public policy, and governmental spheres to their studies, which have taken on a profound urgency given the war.

Okhotnikova, a human rights lawyer in Ukraine, has helped litigate many winning cases in the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). Since the war began, she's worked with Human Rights Centre ZMINA, a nongovernmental organization (NGO), monitoring and documenting Russian activities such as the use of seized cell phone data to identify pro-Ukraine activists and the secret abductions of journalists and activists in Russian-occupied territories. “We're not naïve enough to think Ukraine can keep the world's interest if this war goes on too long,” she says. “For us, documenting everything and making sure the world knows it is a question of life, because many of us are well known in Russian intelligence and we'll be executed [if the war is lost].”

Voitenko is a judge of the Sviatoshynskiy District Court of Kyiv and former judge of the Bolgrad District Court of Odessa. She's 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, 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.

Hrytsenko 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 be developing according to rule of law standards,” 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



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1. Yuliya Voitenko is a judge of the Sviatoshynskiy 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 Hrytsenko began her career as a human rights lawyer and consultant and is now a project manager with a global digital solutions company.

convinced the rule of law is fundamental for Ukraine's sustainable development,” she says. About 90 percent of Verteba's 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 who have left the country with their children to return,” she says.

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 my previous experience, they'll impact electrical stations in five minutes. Could we reschedule?’ and she said, ‘Oh, my God, yes,

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Verteba, left, and Okhotnikova, bottom right, with other Loyola PROLAW students touring Rome, where the program is based. PROLAW's Rome study experience helps students from across the globe establish unique bonds with each other and expand their networks.

please forget about the Zoom and just be safe.”

The blended study format of PROLAW includes time spent at the Rome Center, a difficult proposition for students living in or refugeeed from a war-torn country. Still, the problem-solving Ukrainian students managed to get to the Eternal City.

“There are no flights to Ukraine, so I went to Poland, and flew to Rome from there,” recalls Hrytsenko. “Although I didn’t have the opportunity to spend the entire semester in Rome, it was a priceless opportunity to immerse myself in the life of the Rome campus, meeting the faculty members and students from different countries,

hearing their stories and establishing personal relationships.” She also was able to meet classmates from Ukraine in person.

What lies ahead

When the conflict ceases, the students want to be in Ukraine, helping their beloved country

recover, expanding the rule of law, and safeguarding human rights. Meanwhile, they’re meeting the moment.

Okhotnikova hopes to use her work with ZMINA as the basis for her PROLAW capstone project and share the information gathered with relevant organizations like the International Criminal Court, ECHR, and United Nations bodies. “I want the perpetrators to face justice,” she says. “Whatever I end up doing later, I believe this will be a big part of my professional career.”

Voitenko plans to use her time after completing PROLAW, and before she returns to work, to create a website or other resource that will help Ukrainians more effectively navigate the judicial system. With a heavy caseload and a shortage of judges, she says, normal life never allowed her time to take on this project.

Verteba’s work with the parliament’s Equal Opportunities Caucus has shifted during wartime. “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 need 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 trust—and glory to Ukraine.” ■

FACULTY EXCELLENCE

Research and scholarship

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



BLANCHE BONG COOK

Curt and Linda Rodin Professor of Law and Social Justice

“Jeffrey Epstein: Pedophiles, Prosecutors, and Power,” 26 *Journal of Gender, Race & Justice* 311, 2023

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 epicenter 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 (his 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 white 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.



JORDAN PARADISE

Georgia Reithal Professor of Law

“The CRISPR Patent Ruling and Implications for Medicine,” 329 *JAMA* 6, 2023

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 groundbreaking 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.



NADIA N. SAWICKI

Georgia Reithal Professor of Law

“The Politics of Informed Consent and the Limits of the First Amendment,” 329 *JAMA* 19, 2023

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.

Faculty and staff appointments

Mahdis Azimi (JD '14) is associate director of student services.

Erin Baumann (JFRC '13, BA '14) is associate director, professional alumni engagement.

Jeannine Bell, Curt and Linda Rodin Clinical Professor of Law and Social Justice, is the American Bar Foundation's William H. Neukom Fellows Research Chair in Diversity and Law for the 2023–24 academic year.

Melanie Holland Bell is associate dean for administration.

John Breen, Georgia Reithal Professor of Law, will be a visiting fellow in the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions in Princeton University's Department of Politics.

Adam Crepelle is an assistant professor. See page 2.

Ellen Douglas is assistant dean of academic success and bar preparation.

Diane Geraghty, professor emerita, is interim director of Loyola's Rule of Law Institute.

Carmen G. Gonzalez, Morris I. Leibman Professor of Law, serves as senior editor of the *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment*.

Lisa Jacobs, associate director of the Legislation and Policy Clinic, was appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Juvenile Courts.

Breanna N. Kantor is director of externships.

Parker Lanigan (BASC '12) is director of professional and regional alumni engagement.

Kristina Lasker (JD '19) is assistant director of academic success and bar programs.

Patricia H. Lee, Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin Clinical Professor of Law

and executive director of the Center for Business Law, was appointed to the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section on Technology, Law & Legal Education as the conference co-chair for the 2023 AALS meeting in San Diego, California.

Tania Luma, assistant dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion, is an executive committee member of the AALS Section on Leadership.

Sheldon Bernard Lyke is an associate professor. See page 2.

Anita Maddali is assistant dean of student services and Weekend JD.

John Osterlund is managing director of advancement at the School of Law.

Stacey Platt, Curt and Linda Rodin Clinical Professor of Law and Social Justice and associate director of the Civitas ChildLaw Center, is president elect of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts, an interdisciplinary and international association of professionals dedicated to the resolution of family conflict.

Rochelle Robinson-Levant (MJ '01) is assistant dean for graduate and online education.

Karen Alicia Shaw (LLM '01, SJD '22) is senior director of strategic initiatives and accreditation.

Radhika Sutherland (JFRC '19, JD '21) is associate director of student services.

Joseph Tapp is director of development.

Charlotte A. Tschider was promoted to associate professor 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 Civitas ChildLaw Center, co-authored a *Chicago Tribune* op-ed proposing solutions to Cook County's juvenile detention practices.





Samuel D. Brunson, 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 how a new bill could end police ticketing in Illinois schools.

Stephen Rushin, 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 often happen only after a child becomes sick.

Follow the School of Law on social media:

-  @LUCLawAlumni
-  @LoyolaLaw
-  Loyola_law_chicago
-  Loyola University Chicago School of Law

GIFTS

LEGACY

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. Jake Maginn (JD '23) received the first award during the 2022–23 academic year.

"I'm honestly just so honored and grateful," says Faught. "It's been emotional for me and also for my wife, who has been by my side the entire time."

Anyone can contribute to the fund, and many people have already done so. The outpouring of generosity from alumni, faculty, staff, and former classmates—Faught's relationship with Loyola Law began 50 years ago when he was a first-year law student—is a reflection of the community's deep gratitude for his many decades of impact.

Stewarding a culture of collaboration

Doug Poland (JD '94), partner at Stafford Rosenbaum LLP, appreciates Faught for shaping the law school's overall culture. When Poland entered Loyola in the early 1990s, he expected that his classmates would be competitive and cold, which was the prevailing stereotype of law students in popular culture. Instead, Poland quickly realized that Faught set the tone for the entire school.

"Dean Faught personified the culture of Loyola Law, which I see as serious but collaborative."

"He is one of the most humble, unassuming, friendly, inviting, comforting people," says Poland. "Dean Faught personified the culture of Loyola Law, which I see as serious but collaborative."

Poland remembers that Faught emphasized an open-door policy and went above and beyond to make sure students knew he was available. He could often be found outside his office, roaming the halls, talking with students and checking in.

When Poland heard about the endowed scholarship, he was eager to contribute. As someone who received scholarship support, Poland is particularly attuned to the difference a scholarship can make.

"I think it's incredibly important that we make sure money is not a barrier to people being able to pursue the kind of work that their heart calls them to do," he says.

The right support—whether a financial award or a dean who

cares deeply about his students—can change someone's life.

"I wanted to recognize Dean Faught for all the students he's helped and for what he's done for the law school," Poland says. "And it's critical that we continue to build on the culture he created."

Caring for the whole person

When Kevin Lichtenberg (JD '10, MA '11), attorney at HeflerLichtenberg 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 exuded 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."



“For students to go forth carrying my name on a scholarship is an incredible honor.”

– JAMES J. FAUGHT

Jake Maginn (JD '23), left, received the first James J. Faught Endowed Scholarship during the 2022–23 academic year.

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 Comparative Advocacy Program, which combines on-campus lectures with a whirlwind legal-focused tour of England’s capital

over December break. Faught has led the program since its inception in 1988.

“I really can’t put into words what the experience was like,” says past participant Kathryn “Kate” L. Conway (JD ’11), attorney at Power Rogers LLP and president of the Board of Governors. “It’s made all the more tremendous because Dean Faught is the one creating, fostering, and delivering the program. He is just a fountain of fascinating knowledge, not only on legal topics, but also cultural and historical issues.”

In Faught, Conway discovered a model for how to carry herself in the legal profession. As an aspiring litigator, she believed she needed to be tough and cutthroat. But Faught showed her another path.

“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 getting 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.”

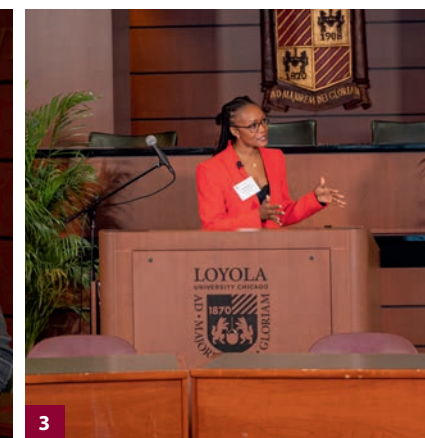
–Kelsey Schagemann

To make a gift to the James J. Faught Endowed Scholarship, please visit [LUC.edu/law/faughtscholarship](https://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 Michèle Alexandre, a Women in Law Conference, and the cornerstone event, the annual Alumni Awards celebration recognizing awardees for their outstanding commitment to Loyola University Chicago School of Law and the larger community.



1. Alumni 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. LaKeisha Marsh (JD '05) 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 feminist lawyering.
5. Master of ceremonies Kevin Lichtenberg (JD '10, MA '11), left, presented awards to Christine Caldwell Smith, who accepted the Francis J. Rooney/St. Thomas More Award on behalf of her late sister, Laura Caldwell (JD '92); St. Robert Bellarmine Award winner Kathleen Vannucci (JD '07); Medal of Excellence recipient Josie Gough (BA '74, MEd '78, JD '84); and the Honorable Brian McKillip (BA '68, JD '72), who received the Distinguished Jurist Award. They are pictured here with Dean Michèle Alexandre.

CLASS NOTES

Share your news by contacting Alumni Relations at LawAlumni@LUC.edu. Be sure to include your full name, class year, and contact information. We look forward to hearing from you!

1970s

Steven M. Levin (JD '76) was named to Crain's 2023 Notable Litigators and Trial Attorneys list.

Daniel J. Walsh (JD '74) was named to Crain's 2023 Who's Who in Chicago Business list.

Matthew Walsh (JD '72) was named to Crain's 2023 Who's Who in Chicago Business list.

Dan K. Webb (JD '70) was named to Crain's 2023 Notable Litigators and Trial Attorneys list.

1980s

Bennett Applegate (JD '85) was named to Crain's Notable Leaders in Community Development list.

David Carlins (JD '88) was named to Crain's 2023 Who's Who in Chicago Business list.

Daniel P. Felix (JD '84) was recognized for service to the Independent Trustee Alliance as co-founder and secretary.

Philip J. Fowler (JD '86) was appointed as a circuit judge in the 4th Subcircuit of Cook County by the Illinois Supreme Court.

Linda Kuczma (JD '81) joined Barnes & Thornburg LLP's intellectual property group in Chicago as of counsel.

Alan Lev (JD '85) was named to Crain's 2022 People on the Move list. He was appointed to

First Bank Chicago's Directors Loan Committee.

Andrew Majeske (JD '86) was the editor in chief for volume 73 of the *New American Studies Journal: A Forum*, which was published on December 22, 2022, with the issue title "Law, Literature, and the Idea of Justice."

Laura G. Mandel (JD '84) was named to Crain's 2023 People on the Move list and joined the Richard H. Driehaus Museum's Board of Trustees.

Ellen Napleton Roche (MUND '72, JD '83) was inducted into the McAuley Hall of Honor at Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School.

Susan K. Spurgeon (JD '82) joined Shutts & Bowen as a partner in the Tampa office, where she works in the business litigation practice group.

1990s

Matt D. Basil (JD '97) was named to Crain's 2023 Notable Litigators and Trial Attorneys list.

Tim Brandhorst (JD '92) was elected to serve on the Board of Education of District 200, the high school district of Oak Park and River Forest, Illinois.

Kerrin Brennan-Slattery (JFRC '89, MBA '96, JD '96) was named to Crain's 2022 Notable Gen X Leaders in Accounting, Consulting, and Law list. She is a partner at McDermott Will & Emery.

MILESTONE

Alumni admitted to the Supreme Court Bar



Sonia Antolec and Aaron T. Troy

SONIA ANTOLEC (JD '07) and **AARON T. TROY (JD '09)** were sworn into the Supreme Court of the United States Bar by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., on April 25, 2023. To qualify for admission to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, an applicant must have been admitted to practice in the highest court of a state, commonwealth, territory, or possession or the District of Columbia for a period of at least three years; have no adverse disciplinary action during that three-year period; and appear to the Court to be of good moral and professional character. To learn more, visit [LUC.edu/LAWSCOTUS](https://www.luc.edu/LAWSCOTUS).

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 named to Crain's 2022 People on the Move list.

Jayne Levin-Muriel (JD '93) and the Spain, Spain & Varnet P.C. team joined Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP.

Jeremy B. Lewin (JD '99) rejoined Barnes & Thornburg LLP's Chicago office as a partner in the corporate practice.

Joseph Morford (JD '91) was named to the 2023 edition of The Best Lawyers in America in the area of mass tort litigation/class actions—defendants.

Thomas Mulroy III (JD '98) was named to the 2023 edition of The Best Lawyers in America and was also named an Illinois Super Lawyer for 2023.

Lucy C. Murfitt (JD '97) is continuing in her role as chief counsel for U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski's senior staff that will lead the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in the 118th Congress, after serving as interim staff director in 2022.

Rob Muriel (JD '93) joined the Board of Directors of United Policyholders.

Nancy Olson (JD '96) was named to Crain's 2022 Notable Gen X Leaders in Accounting, Consulting, and Law list. She is

a partner at Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom.

Brian J. Riordan (JD '96) was named to Crain's 2023 Notable Litigators and Trial Attorneys list.

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

The Honorable Lisette Shirdan-Harris (JD '90) received the Barristers' Association of Philadelphia, Inc.'s Honorable A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Award for 2022.

Anthony Simpkins (MA '94, JD '94) was named to Crain's Notable Leaders in Community Development list.

Brian Speers (JD '93) was named to the 2023 Barron's Top 1,200 Financial Advisors list.

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.

2000s

Michael Baum (JD '02) was named to Crain's 2022 Notable Gen X Leaders in Accounting, Consulting, and Law list. He is a shareholder at Greenberg Traurig.

Matthew Bills (JD '09) was named to Crain's 2023 Notable Litigators and Trial Attorneys list.



Kristin Bagull (JD '03) joined Dykema in the taxation and estates practice group.



Brooke Benzio (JD '08) joined Quarles & Brady LLP's Naples office as a partner in the estate, trust, and wealth preservation practice group.



Mindi Richter (JD '04) was named to the 2023 edition of The Best Lawyers in America.

LEADERSHIP

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, “once 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.

“It 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. “So I 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 feel I have an easier time than others teasing out the technicalities 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.” —Liz Miller

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 Doehring (JD '00) 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 2022 Notable Gen X Leaders in Accounting, Consulting, and Law list. He is partner-in-charge at the Chicago office of Norton Rose Fulbright.

Richard Frye (JD '06) was named to the 2023 edition of The Best Lawyers in America.

Tiffany Gehrke (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 '96, 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 '06) 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.

LaKeisha C. Marsh (JD '05) was named to Crain’s 2022 Notable Gen X 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) joined Honigman LLP as a partner in the firm’s litigation department and was named to Crain’s 2022 People on the Move list.

Elizabeth McKillip (JD '04) was admitted to Levin Schreder & Carey’s equity partnership.

Kimberly Petrina (JD '05) joined Cozen O’Connor as a member of the global insurance department.

Romeo S. Quinto Jr. (JD '00) joined Holland & Knight LLP as a partner in its litigation practice in Chicago.

COMMENCEMENT

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 **Aréannah Preston**, who was scheduled to graduate with 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.





David Gower (JD '06) joined Lillig & Thorsness as partner focusing on estate planning, estate and trust administration, and estate and trust-related litigation.



Erik A. Martin (LLM '14) was elected a shareholder at Polsinelli in Chicago.



Christian L. Mitchell (JD '19) was named vice president for civic engagement at the University of Chicago.

Peter Rosenbaum (JD '05) was named to Crain's 2022 Notable Gen X Leaders in Accounting, Consulting, and Law list. He is a partner at Jenner & Block.

Erika Stallworth (JD '08) was sworn in as a Circuit Court juvenile magistrate, becoming the first African American judge in La Porte County, Indiana.

Christie Tate (JD '03), a *New York Times* best-selling author, released a new book, *B.F.F.: A Memoir of Friendship Lost and Found*.

Janet Wagner (MUND '93, JD '00, LLM '14) was named to Crain's 2022 People on the Move list and joined Chuhak & Tecson as a principal in the banking group.

J. Patrick White (JD '07) joined the Chicago office of Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP as of counsel in the firm's litigation practice area.

2010s

Eso Akunne (JD '17) joined Lavelle Law as an associate in the firm's business and real estate practice groups in the Chicago office.

Christine A. Barone (JD '12) joined Chuhak & Tecson in the estate planning and asset protection and estate and trust administration and litigation practice groups.

Tracy A. Brammeier (JFRC '08, BA '10, BASC '10, JD '14) was named partner at Clifford Law Offices.

Colleen Burns (JD '10) was elected to the Board of Education for District 97, the elementary school district of Oak Park, Illinois.

Carly Chocron (JD '16) was named to Crain's 2022 People on the Move list.

Torey Darin (BA '14, JD '18) joined Baker Sterchi Cowden & Rice LLC as an associate as part of the firm's merger with Foland, Wickens, Roper, Hofer & Crawford, P.C.

Michael Ditore (JD '13) was named to the 2023 edition of The Best Lawyers in America and was selected as one of the 2023 Lawdragon 500 Leading Plaintiff Consumer Lawyers.

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

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

Rory Hoskins (MSW '99, JD '12) was reelected mayor of Forest Park, Illinois.

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

Katie Kelley (JD '17) joined Chestnut Cambronne 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 Swibel Levin & Carroll as a partner.

James Ko (LLM '18) joined Barclay Damon'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 Lickhalter (BA '07, JD '11) joined Wilson Elser as a partner in its transportation practice in the Chicago office.

Andrew Maratea (JFRC '09, JD '11) joined Benesch as a partner in the corporate and securities practice group.

Peter Monzon (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 Pennycook (JD '18) was named to the 2023 edition of Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch.

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

Emily Shircel (JD '10) was named partner at Quarles & Brady LLP.

Michael Sitrick (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 Tyrrell (JD '18) was promoted to corporate counsel, privacy, digital, and e-commerce, at Caterpillar Inc.

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

Tanya 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.

2020s

Anabel Abarca (JD '20) was appointed as 12th Ward Chicago alderperson and served from December 2022 to May 2023.

Jackie Brown (JD '22) joined Foran Glennon as an associate.

Mehgan Keeley (JD '20) joined Shook, Hardy & Bacon as an associate.

John P. "Jack" Slay (JD '22) joined Hall Estill's Oklahoma City office as an associate in transactional practice.

Joseph Tennial (JFRC '18, JD '20) joined Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP, as an associate.

IN MEMORIAM

- Melissa P. Ammarell (JD '88)
- Stephen W. Baker (JD '78)
- Roger J. Balla (JD '64)
- Donald F. Barrett (BBA '63, JD '72)
- Robert E. Best (JD '77)
- C. Joseph Bilder (JD '64)
- Robert J. Butler (BBA '60, 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 '64)
- Robert W. Connors (JD '00)
- John D. Cooney (JD '79)
- Richard T. Cozzola (BA '74, JD '80)
- Mary Beth Cyze (JD '85)
- Ronald R. Dietrich (JD '82)
- John W. Falvey (JD '67)
- Stanley J. Garber (JD '72)
- Brad S. Grayson (JD '87)
- Michael D. Groark (JD '72)
- Robert M. Guch (JD '77)
- Marian C. Haney (BS '66, MBA '71, JD '74)
- The Honorable William T. Hart (JD '51)
- David M. Hartigan (JD '66)
- Carol C. Hogan (JD '86)
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- Jack C. Krause (BA '53, JD '55)
- James J. Lindeman (JD '67)
- Donald J. Lynch (JD '56)
- Thomas J. McCracken (JD '54)
- Mary M. McInerney (BA '75, JD '79)
- Richard A. Michael (BS '55, JD '58)
- Laurence J. Msall (JD '92)
- James C. O'Connell (JD '74)
- James H. Omvig, Sr. (JD '66)
- The Honorable David W. Ott (JD '75)
- Aréanah Preston (MJ '23)
- Richard L. Price (JD '71)
- James J. Roche (BA '72, JD '75)
- Eric R. Romer (JD '72)
- Raymond F. Simon (BA '53, JD '56)
- Gerry D. Smith (MJ '15)
- Gerald A. Swick (JD '65)
- Margaret Taylor (JD '93)
- Carla A. Tomino (MA '75, JD '80)
- Adrienne N. Varhula (JD '97)
- Howard O. Wolfe (JD '48)

SUSTAINABILITY



By embracing renewable energy, Loyola reinforces its commitment to environmental justice and reducing its carbon footprint.

Loyola commits to clean power in Illinois

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. ■

LEADERSHIP



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 Stark (P '13), Melanie C. Dreher, 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 '07), Jennifer Carolan (BA '97), Brian "Fitz" Fitzpatrick (BA '92), Alicia Gonzalez, Antonio Ortiz (MBA '05), and Melody Spann Cooper (BA '87) to initial three-year terms. ■



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/law/ReunionAwards



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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](https://luc.edu/law/GiveBack)