Voting rights warriors
Doug Poland (JD ’94) and Loyola lawyers fight for all voices to be heard

Meet the dean
Michèle Alexandre takes the helm

Super conductor
Amanda Walsh (MSW ’14, JD ’15, LLM ’16) champions mental health supports for kids and families
MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

I’m honored to serve as the 14th dean of Loyola University Chicago School of Law. This is an excellent law school with an outstanding reputation and a clear, distinctive mission that speaks to my personal and professional values. I’m thrilled to be here.

One of the things that most impresses me about our law school is its authenticity and its unshakable commitment to service. Over my months of meeting faculty, staff, students, alumni, and donors, what stands out is that everyone is dedicated to the collective goal of advancing our mission to prepare well-rounded, justice-minded graduates who will be ethical advocates and who will help dismantle racism and all forms of oppression.

The work we do as lawyers and advocates is crucial, and each person in our community is vital. I’m amazed at the depth of talent I’ve already seen. I look forward to working with all of you, our fantastic alumni. And I can’t wait to meet you in person over the next several months at our events, including the annual Reunion Weekend and Alumni Awards Celebration, which will take place September 29 through October 1. (Speaking of, check out the 2022 alumni award recipients on page 20.)

I’m so grateful for the warm welcome I’ve already received from many of you, and I’m especially indebted to the support and guidance of Zelda B. Harris, who served as the School of Law’s interim dean this past year. Zelda’s expertise and insights have been instrumental in providing a smooth transition. I’m excited to continue working with the entire School of Law team.

Thank you for everything you do. I look forward to seeing you soon.
School of Law welcomes new professors | Jeanine Bell and Blanche Bong Cook join the faculty

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO SCHOOL OF LAW welcomes Jeanine Bell and Blanche Bong Cook to the faculty as Curt and Linda Rodin Professors of Law and Social Justice.

Professor Jeanine Bell is a nationally recognized scholar in the areas of policing and hate crimes and has written extensively on criminal justice issues. Her research is broadly interdisciplinary, touching on both political science and law, and relies on her empirical expertise. Bell’s book Hate Thy Neighbor: Move-on Violence and the Persistence of Racial Segregation in American Housing (New York University Press, 2013) explores the contemporary phenomenon of hate crimes committed against racial minorities who are integrating predominantly white neighborhoods. Professor Bell’s other books include Policing Hatred: Law Enforcement, Civil Rights, and Hate Crime (2002), Police and Policing Law (2006), and (with Martha Feldman and Michele Berger) Gaining Access: A Practical and Theoretical Guide for Qualitative Researchers (2003).

Her scholarship has appeared in the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review, Law & Society Review, Law & Social Inquiry, the Boston University Law Review, the Journal of Legal Education, and many other publications. Professor Bell’s research and writings have received national media attention in ProPublica, the New York Times, and USA Today, among other outlets.

Professor Blanche Bong Cook is an expert in criminal law and procedure, evidence, appellate practice, federal courts, trial advocacy, employment discrimination, critical race theory, critical race feminist theory, and sex trafficking.

As a leading expert on sex trafficking and the commercialization and exploitation of women and girls, Professor Cook is actively involved in shaping the discourse on sex trafficking and victims’ rights as it relates to evidentiary issues, race-class-gender profiling, victim blaming, and sex-trafficking statutes. She writes in the areas of sex trafficking, victims’ rights, police violence, implicit bias, criminal procedure, critical race theory, human rights, race and gender discrimination, Black feminist legal theory, womanist thought, and the normative gaze of identity.

Before working in academia, Professor Cook served as an assistant U.S. attorney with the Department of Justice, where she specialized in large-scale drug and sex trafficking prosecutions. As a federal prosecutor, she briefed and/or argued more than 44 federal appeals.

Her years of practice in the public and private sectors inform her teaching philosophy and passion. Her mission is to deconstruct and make readily accessible and transparent the principles and practices of law in ways that are meaningful to students, not only for professional development, but also as a means of augmenting the role that advocacy plays within law and litigation.

Congratuations, Class of 2022

The School of Law celebrated more than 400 graduates during the 2022 commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 14. After two years of virtual ceremonies and celebrations, simply being together in person was powerful.
Faculty members retire

PROFESSOR DIANE GERAGHTY, a pioneer in child and family law, will retire from the School of Law in August 2022 after serving for 45 years. Among her many accomplishments: She founded the Cintas ChildLaw Center in 1995 to better respond to the legal needs of children and families and served as director of the nationally recognized center for nearly 30 years. In 2015, Geraghty cofounded Loyola University Chicago’s interdisciplinary Center for Criminal Justice Research, Policy, and Practice. She served as School of Law interim dean from 2004 to 2005 after Dean Nina Appel retired, overseeing the school’s move from 1 E. Pearson Street to its current home at Carsey Law Center.

Geraghty dedicated much of her career to serving youth involved in the justice system. Reducing the number of youth tried as adults and introducing restorative practices as alternatives to the formal justice system are progressive policies that resulted from the work of Geraghty and her colleagues. She was named the first A. Kathleen Beasley Chair in ChildLaw in 2008.

Geraghty consulted on legal education and children’s rights in Africa and Asia and received numerous awards for her contributions to children’s law. Beloved by the School of Law community, she was named Faculty Member of the Year in 2009 and was awarded the Medal of Excellence in 2019.

JOSIE M. GOUGH (BA ‘74, Midl ’78, JD ’84), a Cant and Linda Rodin Clinical Assistant Professor of Law and Social Justice and the law school’s first assistant dean of inclusion, diversity, and equity, retired from the School of Law in December 2021. Gough joined the law faculty in 2011 as director of experiential learning, and she developed and expanded real-world professional opportunities for students in Chicago, Washington, D.C., and beyond.

As the founding assistant dean for the Office of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity, Gough established multiple professional development programs; pipeline and first-generation programs; and the Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Awards and Fellowship Program. She also helped establish the law school’s Professional Identity Formation course, which has received national recognition for its approach to addressing systemic racism and inequity within the legal profession. In 2021, she helped launch the course Diversity and Inclusion: A Social and Professional Responsibility, which she will continue to teach.

Gough has received numerous awards for her service, including recognition from the Chicago Bar Foundation, the Chicago Bar Association, and the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois. For more about Gough, see page 21.

AWARDS

Students take top honors at competitions

Loyola’s strong advocacy tradition results in wins in most court, mock trial, dispute resolution, and transactional competitions. During the 2021-22 academic year, 115 students participated on 29 teams and in 39 competitions. Most competitions took place online because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The School of Law virtually hosted the All-Star Bracket Challenge Midwest Regional mock trial competition, the National Board of Trial Advocacy Tournament of Champions mock trial competition, and the Edward Bryant, Jr. National Health Law Transactional Competition.


2022 American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition
Regional First Place

2022 Health Law Regulatory & Compliance Competition
First Place

2022 National Black Law Students Association Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition
Regional First Place

2021–22 National Moot Court Competition Regional Best Respondent Brief Regional Best Overall Brief

2022 National Moot Court Competition in Child Welfare and Adoption Law
Best Brief

2022 National Moot Court Competition in Law and Religion Best Brief

2021 Professor Bernie L. Segal in Vino Veritas Mock Trial Competition
Best Overall Cross Examination Best Overall Direct Examination

2021 Thomas Tang National Moot Court Competition
National Best Brief Regional First Place

2022 Shanghai International Commercial Arbitration Pre-Moot Competition
First Place

MILESTONES

LEADERSHIP

New dean arrives

Tania Lumas leads the Office of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity

AFTER A NATIONAL SEARCH, Tania Lumas joined the School of Law as assistant dean for the Office of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity. In this role, she will partner with academic and administrative departments to promote inclusion, diversity, and equity both in and out of the classroom.

Prior to coming to Loyola, Lumas served as assistant dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law. At DePaul University, she taught Critical Thinking, Criminal Justice, and Homeland Security, and helped DePaul create assessments of student critical-thinking abilities and collaborated with colleagues to assess incoming students.

After earning her JD from UIC Law in 2009, Lumas practiced civil litigation in the Cook County Child Protection Division, representing children affected by abuse and neglect. She also managed legal teams and created jobs for Youth, an employment program for disadvantaged youth in Cook County foster care. •

ACCOLADES

U.S. News & World Report once again has ranked Loyola University Chicago among the top law schools in the country in several specialty areas. (Ranks are for 2023 and were published in March 2022.)

3. HEALTH CARE LAW GRADUATE PROGRAM
No. 03

2. PART-TIME JD PROGRAM
No. 06

21. TRIAL ADVOCACY GRADUATE PROGRAM
No. 21
Voting Rights Warriors

Loyola lawyers fight for all voices to be heard

BY ANDREW SANTELLA

DOUG POLAND (JD ‘94) IS A BATTLE-SCARRED VETERAN of the Map Wars. In those decennial courtroom battles over the shape of legislative districts redrawn in state capitals after each census, Poland, an attorney in Madison, Wisconsin, has won important victories. He successfully challenged legislative district maps produced by the Republican-controlled Wisconsin State Assembly as unconstitutional examples of partisan gerrymandering—the political dark art by which parties deftly carve their states into shapes designed to help elect their candidates. He was part of the team that won a ruling in federal court invalidating the legislature’s redistricting plan as politically biased.

A courtroom setback demonstrated just how high the stakes were in such redistricting cases. In 2018, the United States Supreme Court vacated that win on a technical legal ground called “standing,” effectively undoing Poland’s earlier victory, and then in 2019, the Supreme Court ruled that federal courts are powerless to hear challenges to partisan gerrymandering, no matter how outrageous.

“It was clear that this was going to be a problem for Wisconsin,” Poland says. “Partisan gerrymandering allows one political party an intractable grip on the state.” What’s more, Poland says, the state’s historic status as a laboratory for political innovation means that events in Wisconsin are often predictive of what is to come across the nation.

In response to the ruling and the erosion of other guardrails of democracy, Poland and fellow attorney Jeff Mandell launched Law Forward, a donor-supported law firm to champion progressive causes in Wisconsin and combat the legal armies of the state’s political right.

“So often Wisconsin has been a test bed for radical change to the mechanisms of democracy. Ideas are tried out here and then move to other states,” Poland says. “For anyone who cares about democracy, to allow one party this much control over a state is a problem. And a problem this significant needs significant attention.”

Poland is just one of the Loyola law graduates working to secure the rights of voters and promote electoral processes that are more just. The work includes not only litigation but also public education and mobilization, and touches on not just gerrymandering and redistricting but also access to the polls and the fair administration of elections. In Chicago, Justin Sia (JD ’20) aims to strengthen the voting power of the city’s Asian Americans, its fastest-growing ethnic group, giving them a greater voice in city government. Arthur Mitchell (JD ’18) promotes more transparent redistricting processes in fiercely contested states like North Carolina and Ohio. Like Poland, they believe that the nation’s way of doing electoral business is eroding public trust in local, state, and federal governments and robbing some people of their full voting rights.

“There is enormous cost in people feeling like they don’t have a voice in their government,” Sia says. “It costs them and costs all of us.”

“For anyone who cares about democracy, to allow one party this much control over a state is a problem.” — DOUG POLAND

Doug Poland stands in front of the Wisconsin State Capitol in Madison.
Twin traditions
The fight for equal voting rights in America is as old as the American electoral tradition itself. The cause’s first heroes may have been the early 17th-century Polish artisans of Virginia’s Jamestown Colony. Skilled woodworkers (including “Robert, a Poleman” and “Matthew, a Poleman,” as they were identified in colony records) were recruited to Jamestown as early as 1608. The colony’s only real economic success in its first years came from exporting hemp, flax, tar, and pitch produced by workers from Poland.

Yet when Governor George Yeardley established Virginia’s House of Burgesses in 1619 to extend “free liberty to all men through freely elected representatives,” the franchise was extended only to Englishmen. The colony’s Poles were left without voting rights. Thus, two great American traditions—representative government and electoral injustice—were established at once. The Poles had to resort to a work stoppage to secure the right to vote.

As Grant M. Hayden writes in The Oxford Companion to American Law, “The history of voting in the United States has been characterized by a stubborn and inexcusable progress toward universal political participation. It has instead been much messier, littered with periods of both expansion and retraction of the franchise with respect to many groups of potential voters.”

Protecting voting rights now involves legislation to challenge unconstitutional barriers to voting, grassroots advocacy to promote more transparent legislative processes, and nonpartisan efforts to register historically underrepresented populations to vote.

Who gets a voice?
When Justin Sia (JD ’20) served as democracy, voting rights, and redistricting outreach at Asian Americans Advancing Justice Chicago, he saw his mission as amplifying the underrepresented political voice of Chicago’s Asian American community. Asian Americans make up 7 percent of Chicago’s population and are the city’s fastest-growing ethnic group. But the city’s Asian communities have long been splintered among different wards represented by different aldermen in the City Council, depriving the Asian American community of a seat on City Council.

With the Chinatown community, Chicago’s largest Asian American community, split among several wards, Sia advocated for a redrawing of the Chicago ward map to unify the community in one ward with an Asian American majority during the 2021–2022 redistricting cycle. In May 2022, Sia and advocates successfully pushed the City Council to approve a new citywide ward map that contains such a ward in Greater Chinatown, marking a historic moment for Asian American representation in Chicago. Earlier this year, Mayor Lori Lightfoot selected Nicole Lee to fill a vacant seat in the 11th Ward, making her the first Chinese American to represent part of Chinatown.

“When we talk about redrawing a map, it really means determining which communities have a voice and which don’t,” Sia says. “Having the Chinatown community split among several wards made it difficult for the community to advocate for itself.”

Asian Americans Advancing Justice and partner organizations last year produced a new 11th Ward map that demonstrated how a single, majority Asian American ward could be created on Chicago’s near southwest side. Sia reached out to all 30 of the city’s aldermen, was able to meet with about half, and secured pledges from the City Council’s Latino and Black caucuses, along with the vast majority of the City Council, in support of creating a single Asian American ward, the first in Chicago’s history.

“T’im Asian American and I grew up in a culture that taught us to keep our heads down and don’t raise our voices,” Sia says. “My work is about giving a voice to my community.”

As a School of Law student, Sia honed his skills in the Legislation and Policy Clinic, where he was first a member, then a fellow. He helped to represent foster youth seeking access to higher education as Illinois.

“It taught me to think like a lawyer and find ways to serve a marginalized community,” he says.

Sia says that the creation of a new Chinatown ward was only a first step. The area around Devon Avenue on Chicago’s North Side may be the neighborhood that could support a mostly Asian American ward. And he would like to see Chicago’s ward-drawing process reformed to be more transparent and encourage public input.

Some key milestones in U.S. voting rights

1870
The 15th Amendment is ratified, granting Black men the right to vote. However, laws, including poll taxes and literacy tests, are enacted in mostly Southern states, suppressing Black voting rights.

1920
The 19th Amendment is ratified, granting women the right to vote. But some states—most in the South—work to restrict minority women from voting through the passage of discriminatory laws.

1924
Congress enacts the Indian Citizenship Act, granting U.S.-born Native Americans the right to vote. Some states continue to suppress these rights.

1943
The Chinese Exclusion Act, which had barred Chinese people from becoming citizens since 1882, is repealed. Chinese immigrants and their American-born families become the first Asian Americans eligible to naturalize and gain citizenship—and vote.

1964
The 24th Amendment is ratified, prohibiting the use of poll taxes in federal elections.

1965
President Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act into law, banning barriers to political participation by racial and ethnic minorities, prohibiting election practices that deny the right to vote on account of race, and requiring jurisdictions with a history of discrimination in voting to obtain federal approval for changes in their election laws before they can take effect.

1971
President Nixon signs the 26th Amendment, granting the right to vote to U.S. citizens who are 18 or older.

President Johnson signs the Voting Rights Act into law, banning barriers to political participation by racial and ethnic minorities, prohibiting election practices that deny the right to vote on account of race, and requiring jurisdictions with a history of discrimination in voting to obtain federal approval for changes in their election laws before they can take effect.

Sources: History.com, AP, National Museum of African American History and Culture
VOTING RIGHTS WARRIORS

input for the next redistricting cycle in 2021. I was disappointed in the current redistricting process. The goals I set kept shifting on us.” Sin says. “So, as important as this redistricting cycle was, it’s only the beginning for our community.”

Lightning striking
Arthur Mitchell (JD ’18) had not heard of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee until a friend mentioned the group. A backyard gathering a few years ago The group, launched by former attorney general Eric Holder, backs litigation and reform to produce fair election maps, pushing back against aggressively partisan Republican gerrymandering. The friend told Mitchell that the group was hiring.

“That was like lightning striking for me,” says Mitchell, who was working at a large Chicago law firm at the time. “The more I looked into it, the clearer it was that I wanted to do this kind of work.”

Mitchell is a deputy director for litigation and policy at the NDRC and its nonprofit wing, the National Redistricting Action Foundation. The role, he says, places him “in the thick of things.” Whatever redistricting plans are being contested—and the conflicts are numerous—Mitchell works with state directors and local activists to help in his words, “make democracy more democratic.”

Mitchell likes to point to some of the unfairness of recent electoral maps. In the 2018 congressional election in North Carolina, for example, Republican candidates won 50 percent of the votes and Democrats 49 percent. But thanks to district maps that favored the GOP, Republicans made up 77 percent of the elected congressional delegation, and Democrats just 23 percent.

“No one is suggesting that the delegation should be exactly proportional, but this does seem awfully odd,” Mitchell says. “We have this self-perpetuating system by which politicians get to choose their voters, instead of the other way around.”

Mitchell says that independent commissions that encourage input from all sides and work transparently and in public view offer one hope for America electoral problems.

“We have to reinvent public trust,” he says. “The issue can seem so exotic and complicated, but in the end, it’s about: Will my vote count?”

By the numbers: Voter Suppression

Since the 2020 election, at least 19 states have passed voter suppression laws.

400+
Restrictive voting bills have been introduced since the 2020 election.

34
Voter suppression bills have been enacted.

49 States have introduced restrictive voting bills.

Mitchell says his work is partly inspired by the Jesuit social justice tradition he followed at Loyola.

“I’m not a practicing Catholic,” he says, “but I’ve embraced the Jesuit mission of service to others as an important ideal in my work as an attorney.”

The battle continues

Securing voting rights through litigation is such a costly project that the usual model whereby clients pay for legal services simply is not practical. Poland of Law Forward says he did pro bono work worth $750,000 in the high-profile Gilleo v. Whidbee case.

“Practically speaking, who has the money to be able to do this?” Poland asks. “It’s not tenable.”

Nonprofit law firms have taken on some of the most imperious voting rights litigation, working on behalf of clients who would not otherwise be able to pursue their claims. Poland says that Law Forward, because it focuses its efforts on Wisconsin, can bring a uniquely useful knowledge of the local political landscape to its work. That local expertise can be critical, given the diverse local and state rules that govern how and where we vote.

In Wisconsin, the rules for absentee voters using drop boxes are the source of yet one more legal battle. A case before the state Supreme Court asks whether ballot drop boxes should be legal and whether voters should be allowed to drop off other voters’ ballots. Even the language employed by each side of the controversy illustrates the political divisions in the state.

Democrats talk about the need for “ballot return assistance,” especially for the elderly and people with disabilities. Republicans sometimes refer to these and other practices as “ballot harvesting.” In February, Law Forward filed a brief with the Supreme Court explaining why the ballot return measures are legal and necessary.

“Without ballot return assistance, a lot of people simply wouldn’t be able to vote,” Poland says. “I’m lucky; I have the means to exercise my rights. It’s not always the same for others.”

1975
President Ford signs an extension of the Voting Rights Act that includes provisions to make voting easier for the elderly and people with disabilities.

1982
President Reagan signs a 25-year extension of the Voting Rights Act that includes provisions to make voting easier for the elderly and people with disabilities.

1993
The National Voter Registration Act of 1993, known as the “motor voter law,” is signed into law by President Clinton. The law requires state motor vehicle agencies to offer voter registration opportunities. It also requires states to offer mail-in voter registration applications and voter registration opportunities at certain state and local offices.

2006
Congress extends Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act for an additional 25 years. Section 5 requires that changes in voting laws and procedures in certain states and jurisdictions be precleared by the federal government before implementation.

2011
State lawmakers nationwide introduce a record number of restrictions to voting, including photo ID requirements, cuts to early voting, and restrictions to voter registration. Many of these states have histories of voter discrimination and are covered under the VRA.

2013
The U.S. Supreme Court, in a 5-4 vote, rules that Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act is unconstitutional, holding that its constraints on voting law changes are outdated. After the ruling, which affected nine states and several counties and townships, a federal commission found at least 21 states had enacted “newly restrictive statewide voter laws” such as polling place closures, voter ID laws, limiting early voting, and more.

2016
14 states institute new voting restrictions for the first time in a presidential election.
Meet the dean

Michèle Alexandre takes the helm of the School of Law

BY KRISTI TURNBAUGH

ON JULY 15, MICHÈLE ALEXANDRE became the 14th dean of Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Alexandre is Haitian American. She was raised in Port-au-Prince and Brooklyn, New York.

From 2019 through June 2022, Alexandre served as dean of Stetson University College of Law, where she led efforts to expand the curriculum, increase alumni engagement, and establish new community partnerships. Under her leadership, Stetson raised more than $20 million for scholarships and capital projects, created a new business law concentration, and boasted the best pass rate for first-time takers of the Florida Bar exam since 2016. A first-generation lawyer, Alexandre has dedicated much of her career to issues of sustainability, race and gender equity, economic independence, and social justice for small farmers and poor populations. Her scholarship includes constitutional law, international law, civil rights law, disability law, critical race theory, human rights, and gender. School of Law Director of Communications Kristi Turnbaugh talked to Dean Alexandre about her leadership style, her advice for students, and why she loves Chicago.

What made you want to become a lawyer?

I wanted to make a difference and to be of service. The Catholic mission mandates that we think of others. When you’re young and you hear that, it is a serious thing. A young person doesn’t dismiss that.

My dad would talk to me about social inequalities and the fact that human dignity was important. He nurtured my intellectual life. He always made sure that I knew I was smart and capable and that no one should ever be superior to me.

When I was in college [at Colgate University], I was really passionate about learning, and I had so many great teachers. The decision to either continue in education or go to professional school—that’s what I had to decide, and it was driven by how much impact I would have with a law degree. I had a passion for being in connection with people, and I knew that law was flexible.

Why did you want to become dean of Loyola University Chicago School of Law?

It’s an excellent law school with a stellar reputation. The mission really reflects what I believe. It’s very rare to have a law school that is not ambivalent about service. That’s special. I had many conversations with the community [during the interview process], and what struck me is that the questions that they asked were different everywhere I went, community members at Loyola Law were seeking to have a dialogue and a connection.

How would you describe your leadership style?

Collaborative. I always take an approach of learning from people’s strengths and setting goals together. I’m a very straight shooter. I try to be as candid as possible and strive to be present. I want people to feel comfortable. The work we do is important, and it takes everybody. Each person is vital. At Loyola law school, there are immense opportunities. The faculty, staff, and students are very talented. I’m amazed at the depth of talent.

You enjoy fundraising, a key part of the dean position. Can you talk a little bit about your approach?

I really enjoy connecting with people, and the more unlikely the connection, the better—because it’s like solving a puzzle. We are here to have an experience, a human experience. We as people depend on one another to build things, to create new things, to get deeper with each other. We see that on the family level. We see that on a friendship level.

Fundraising is about connecting and finding commonality that helps us build something for our institutions. And it takes time. Just like you don’t build a friendship in one night, you have to invest in the human relationship. I like that. I love that opportunity.

“I feel like everything I do is a form of teaching, sharing knowledge, and communing for common progress.”

“I talk to my students about how flexible the law degree is,” says Michèle Alexandre. “I firmly believe that it’s a pathway to opening all types of opportunities.”

Loyola Law
Michel A. Alexandre: At a Glance

Michel Alexandre, the 11th dean of Loyola University Chicago School of Law, brings two decades of higher education experience and a professional background that includes serving as a civil rights attorney. A few facts:

- Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and moved to the U.S. in 1990.
- Earned a BA from Colgate University and a JD from Harvard Law School.
- Has devoted her career and scholarship to civil rights law, including issues of sustainability, economic independence, gender and racial equity, and social justice.
- Known for expertise in critical race theory, human rights, international law, and constitutional law.
- Served as dean at Stetson University College of Law for three years. There she created new scholarships—some especially for students of color and LGBTQ students—and led creation of a new business law concentration and planning to establish a new law clinic that focuses on intersecting issues of climate change and democracy. Among other development successes, Alexandre secured a $10 million gift, the largest in Stetson Law’s history; and fundraised for the construction of Stetson Law’s new Advocacy Institute, the construction of which kicked off in spring 2022.
- Previously held roles at the University of Mississippi School of Law, the American College of Law; the University of Baltimore School of Law, and the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, among others.
- Litigated discrimination cases in Selma, Alabama, including both iterations of the historic Black Farmers class action litigation.
- Named one of Ebony Magazine’s Top 100 Influential African Americans of 2013 and one of the 50 “Most Influential Minority Law Professors 50 Years of Age or Younger” by Lawyers of Color magazine.

What’s your best advice for students?

I tell my students to find a support system. I tell them that the first year on the first day, Law school is designed to be competitive, and it’s strict. My support group definitely helped me in law school, and that support group continues today. Those key people are still in my life. I tell students to be proud and never shrink away from having a law degree or becoming future lawyers. It’s the best degree there is. Then, I apologize to my colleagues who have other degrees!

What can students expect from you?

I hope that students will consider the dean’s office an open door. Students are our priority. I talk to my students about how flexible the law degree is, and I really do believe that it’s a pathway to opening all types of possibilities.

A law degree has been good to me. My world opened, and allowed me to have a career where I could be the global citizen I envisioned. A career where I could have a greater impact. I’m proud of the fact that we are in an industry that can open this type of access.

What do you think about the city of Chicago?

It’s a beautiful city. The shopping is great, but I don’t usually shop—I’m too busy eating! I’m usually hunting for the best vegan food. I’m a runner, and I ran the Chicago Marathon once ago. I love the fact that Chicago is a walking city. And I can’t wait to get to know the communities. It’s a city of neighborhoods, so I look forward to very quickly being integrated into a multicultural and diverse community. That’s exciting. •

A Few Facts

Friend of the Court

Sports agent Erik Kabe (JD ’14) helps NBA players maximize their potential

By Kelsey Schagmann

On one of Erik Kabe’s first dates with a woman he liked, he wore a gray suit. He took the call outside—and didn’t return for 30 minutes. Such is the life of a sports agent. (Thankfully, the woman was understanding, the couple is now engaged.)

Kabe (JD ’14), an agent with BDA Sports Management, represents NBA players Josh Richardson (San Antonio Spurs) and Grant Williams (Boston Celtics), among others. His career is rewarding but demanding, incorporating elements of being a coach, scout, publicist, mentor, parental figure, and friend.

A Los Angeles native, Kabe majored in political science at UC Irvine and graduated into the 2008 recession. He secured an internship at BDA, earning minimum wage while fetching coffee and fries and generally making himself useful.

It’s notoriously difficult to become an NBA agent; there are more agents than players. To keep his career options open, Kabe enrolled at Loyola University Chicago School of Law while continuing to work for BDA.

This gamble paid off. Here, Kabe offers a candid assessment of his career thus far.

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On being an agent

The primary point of an agent is to maximize your player’s earnings. If you think about the two overarching things that make up a professional athlete, it’s on-the-court performance and off-the-court marketing. But everything starts and stops on the court. If your player’s performance suffers, nothing else comes into play.

A lot of these guys are 18, 19. They’re coming out of college and entering this highly competitive realm. So we’re very focused on performance—professional level training, nutrition, sports psychologists. We try to get them to wear sleep trackers—if you don’t sleep well, you don’t perform well.

You have to negotiate contracts. By far, that’s the most important part of the job. There’s also networking with general managers, assistant GMs, scouts. You’re talking to your player’s parents all the time—at least as often as you talk to your player. They’re part of the journey, too.

On doing whatever it takes

After I graduated from Loyola, I wanted to give the sports agent thing a real try. I was watching basketball nonstop, going to NBA events, networking with scouts. Josh Richardson at Tennessee caught my eye. My network wasn’t very large then, so I sent a cold email. Josh’s dad called me about a month later.

The end of the college season, I was flying to Oklahoma City to see the Richmonds. The night before, every flight from Chicago to OKC was canceled because of tornadoes. I immediately booked a red-eye to Dallas. I got a rental car at 2 a.m. It’s lightning. It’s dark. I don’t know what I would have done without GPS. But I was determined to get there. I picked up my mentor, Bill Duffy, from the airport after getting maybe two hours of sleep. We drive to the Richmonds’ house, and Joshi’s dad says, “Man, you look horrible.” So I told him the story. And it clicked. A few days later, Josh signed.

On disappointment

During the recruiting process, you’re trying to build a relationship with the player and his family. Help them trust you, show them your value. Make it clear that you’re going to do a good job with their son’s career.

You can recruit a guy for two to three years, and most of the time, you don’t get him. I’ve gotten way more no than yeses. You put in hundreds of hours, and then one day in March, you get a no. It’s just part of the business. We say you get the guys you’re supposed to get. I’m not sure if that’s true, but it makes me feel better.

On the things no one tells you

This is a 24/7 job. I’ve missed more weddings than I can count. I’ve missed birthdays and other important life moments with family and friends. It’s a big sacrifice.

And it’s very stressful. Your entire livelihood is based on how well someone puts a ball into a basket? The margin of error is so small. For the first three years of Joshi’s career, I was living off my credit card and doing legal document reviews on the side to make ends meet.

But I’ve done so many cool things. I’ve met icons of the game and famous musicians. I’ve been on private jets with amazing people and eaten at the best restaurants.

Most of all, it’s very fulfilling. Being part of a player’s journey—just to know you’re part of something bigger than yourself. He’s out there creating generational wealth. People in his family whom he’ll never meet will be set. It’s pretty cool to see someone put in the hard work and then it pays off for everyone involved. The best part is knowing I played a small role in my player’s success.

Grant Williams of the Boston Celtics is one of Kalan’s clients.

“Amanda Walsh was 8 years old when she was removed from her parents’ custody. Both her mother and father suffered from mental illness that led to hospitalizations and even incarcerations at times, but young Amanda was certain that her parents loved her.

“I always knew on some level it was beyond their control,” Walsh says. “I couldn’t reconcile the love I felt from them with messages from the police or social services people that they were bad parents.” That perceptive and empathetic would become the foundation on which Walsh, now director of the Illinois Children’s Mental Health Partnership (ICMHP), would build a meaningful career at the intersection where the mental health of children and families meets the legal and social structures meant to support them.

Learning to lead

Walsh went to live with her grandmother, and while her home was stable, she attended under-resourced schools. She considers herself lucky that teachers recommended her for Upward Bound, a federally funded program for high-potential, low-income students who would be the first in their family to attend college. Her UB advisors
**SUPER CONDUCTOR**

ensured she was prepared for higher education.

Today, few people have more education than Walsh. She earned a BA from New York University and, in addition to her JD, has Master of Social Work and Master of Laws degrees from Loyola. All of her degrees are focused on mental health and policy that surrounds it.

Loyola, with its ever-sharpening focus on social justice issues, was the right fit for her.

“My experience at Loyola was so different from lawyers I’ve met who went to other law schools,” Walsh says. “At one point, my mom got really sick, near death, and my professors were like, don’t worry about exams, we’ll get you the notes, be with your family.” They see the whole person and care about the impact you’ll make, not a list of achievements.”

**The work at hand**

Impact is what drives Walsh as director of the ICMHP. Created by statute in 2003 and administered through Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital, the ICMHP functions as a task force to study the current state of mental health and well-being of Illinois children. By reviewing existing research, assessing programs already in place, commissioning its own studies, and talking to experts, the ICMHP produces a publicly available annual report that advises state government on policy that can improve lives. In its early years, the ICMHP provided evidence that prompted Illinois to include social-emotional learning—such as how to manage emotions and conflict, make responsible choices, and build positive relationships—unto educational standards. Illinois was the first state to take that step, now commonplace nationwide. Walsh has been at the helm since December 2018. She’s something of a conductor, prompting and overseeing strategic collaborations among the partnerships long list of members, including state legislators, representatives from every child-serving state agency, and two dozen experts from nonprofit organizations, hospitals, schools, and professional associations.

Before accepting the job, Walsh says, she thought hard about how she could make a positive impact on families in need from that office.

“The agencies providing direct services to children and families need reliable, evidence-based information to work from, they don’t have bandwidth to produce that themselves,” she concluded. “Also, having a single point of coordination among all those agencies with interconnected missions helps build efficiency.”

Unique insights broaden the outlook

Walsh’s work is focused on finalizing a new long-term Children’s Mental Health Plan for the partnership and for Illinois. The original plan, most recently revised in 2012, is insufficient to address what the ICMHP has assessed to be the most pressing concerns in 2022 (see sidebar). The ICMHP has deep insight into what should inform the plan, but this time around, Walsh insisted on incorporating another input: voices of people like herself—people with the lived experience of trauma and instability caused by mental illness in themselves or their families. The ICMHP held community forums to ask people what they needed most, and experts within the partnership used that feedback to design programmatic recommendations.

“It was very gratifying that when we took our ideas back to the community, people felt they really had been heard,” she says. Her personal history also inspires Walsh to ensure that, in all messaging, the ICMHP communicates that its work is consistently informed by the context of the mental health issues affecting any one family within the overall needs of that whole family.

“You can’t make real change without considering the context of family systems as well as the social determinants of health surrounding those families.”

**“You can’t make real change without considering the context of family systems as well as the social determinants of health surrounding those families.”**

**Addressing kids’ mental health**

**Amanda Walsh discusses top concerns**

From her position as director of the Illinois Children’s Mental Health Partnership, Amanda Walsh has a perspective on the state of children’s mental health that is unique and deep. What does she see as the greatest concerns affecting Illinois children’s mental health now?

1. **Workforce shortages**

Walsh says that there are simply not enough mental health professionals to handle the need. She wants to see more investment in workforce development. In the meantime, there’s an opportunity, she says, “to support kids through other professionals already interacting with children and families regularly, like pediatricians, teachers, daycare, or after-school programs”—but they too need specialized training on child development, trauma, and mental health.

2. **Rising rates of depression**

“Even before COVID, we saw this trend: increasing rates of depression and anxiety in youth,” says Walsh. Then the pandemic arrived, and it didn’t just hit those families with physical illness or worse, it disrupted many of the important studies, trusted relationships, and mental health treatment those children were accessing. “I worry about the children and families who experienced so much loss during COVID,” she says.

3. **Kids falling through the cracks**

“I worry about the children who aren’t coming to hospitals, whose struggles aren’t so obvious,” says Walsh. “There are so many ways to support kids who are keeping their struggles to themselves.”

**“The agencies providing direct services to children and families need reliable, evidence-based information to work from,” says Walsh.”**
LAURA CALDWELL (JD ’92)
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.

IT CAN ALMOST BE SAID that Laura Caldwell lived several lives in her 52 years: author, lawyer, professor, and founding director of the School of Law’s Life After Innocence program. Caldwell passed away in 2020 following a yearlong battle with breast cancer.

“Laura was able to make every idea she had for her life a reality, and she was successful and made an impact with all of them,” says Christine Smith, Caldwell’s sister. “She was very content with her life and very grateful.”

After earning her law degree in 1982, Caldwell became a trial lawyer specializing in medical malpractice, insurance defense, and entertainment law. She joined the School of Law faculty in 2001. The following year, she published her first novel, Burning the Map, which became a New York Times bestseller. She went on to write 13 more novels, which were published in more than 20 countries and translated into more than a dozen languages.

Caldwell suspended her legal practice as she became busier with writing and teaching. That changed in 2005 when she learned about the criminal case of Susan Mosley who had been charged with murder and was sitting in a Cook County jail cell for more than five years awaiting trial. Caldwell joined her friend and criminal defense attorney Catherine O’Daniel to defend her, and together, they helped Mosley walk free with a not-guilty verdict. The experience became the basis of Caldwell’s first nonfiction book, Long Way Home. A young Man Lost in the System and the Two Women Who Found Him. It highlighted the fact that, while many support services existed to help convicted offenders after their release, most states provided no such programs for the wrongly accused.

In 2009, Caldwell established the School of Law’s Life After Innocence program, a nonprofit initiative that helped exonerates to begin their lives again and reclaim their citizenship. Perhaps Caldwell’s greatest achievement was receiving the Fulbright and bestselling author Scott Turrow said it best in his Chicago Reader for its dictionary of Caldwell: “Laura was such a spirited fighter of the things that deserve to be fought.”

As for her notoriety, she’s earned it, people want to know her, want to hire her, want to talk to her, wants to talk about her: “Anything that I’ve done to support students is my effort to give back in the same way that he and others gave to me.”

Countless people who call her professor; colleague; mentor; would say that “Dean, as she is known, has given back in exponential measure. For students and recent alums especially, she was a most essential part of their educational and professional success, and more important, of their personal journeys in the years they attended the School of Law.”

“Try to build their confidence— to keep them going. She’d say, ‘When I see how successful and proud her graduates are, I think I was able to do that to some extent. The proof is in the pudding.’”

2022 School of Law awards honor Laura Caldwell, Josie Gough, Brian R. McKillop, and Katie Vannucci

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 2022 Loyola University Chicago School of Law alumni awards, which will be presented at the Reunion and Alumni Awards Dinner on Saturday, October 1 (Your LIC/ads/ Law/ReunionAwards to learn more about the event)

JOEY GOUGH

JOSIE GOUGH (BA ’74, MEd ’78, JD ’84)
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.

“Laura was — a gifted author, a dedicated teacher, an exceptional attorney, a devoted public servant, a loyal alum, a fierce advocate for criminal justice, a warm friend, and a wonderful human being,” said the School of Law’s then-dean Michael Kaufman at the time of Caldwell’s death. “She was, and always will be, a vital part of the fabric of our Loyola law school community.”

When Smith reflects on her sister’s life, she emphasizes Caldwell’s authenticity. “I think Laura would be wickedly excited about this award, and probably a little (shocked),” says Smith. “All her life, she was just being herself, doing what she wanted to do. She would never expect to be honored for that.”

Does Josie Gough have an answer, or at least a tentative one, to the question of how to help these students? Indeed, though Gough retired from the School of Law in December 2021, after 10 years on the faculty, she will return in the fall to co-teach a course on diversity and inclusion that she helped launch last fall. She will also serve on the Dean’s Diversity Council.

“Josie’s touch and words of encouragement were just the thing that many of us needed to make it through times of monumental change and challenges,” says Gough’s student, senior and her law school’s first assistant dean for inclusion, diversity, and equity.

As for her notoriety, that’s not a surprise — people are longing to be in her presence, to be inspired by her, to learn about the School of Law, to pick up the pieces of her life story. “You have to make sure you don’t lose her,” Gough says. “She was talking about a class; he was talking about life. Anything that I’ve done to support students is my effort to give back in the same way that he and others gave to me.”

“Try to build their confidence— to keep them going. She’d say, ‘When I see how successful and proud her graduates are, I think I was able to do that to some extent. The proof is in the pudding.’”

“Our students know that we have chosen them, and they have chosen us—and I think we’re very lucky when they do.”

Honoring exemplary alumni

Caldwell joined the School of Law faculty in 2001 and later founded the School of Law’s Life After Innocence program. Gough says she was inspired by her own mentor from her time as a student: Norman Amaker, renowned civil rights attorney and Loyola law professor from 1976 to 2000.

“He told me he would not let me go to a particular civil rights case,” Gough says. “You have to make sure you don’t lose her,” Gough says. “She was talking about a class; he was talking about life. Anything that I’ve done to support students is my effort to give back in the same way that he and others gave to me.”

“Try to build their confidence— to keep them going. She’d say, ‘When I see how successful and proud her graduates are, I think I was able to do that to some extent. The proof is in the pudding.’”

In addition to teaching, Gough served as the law school’s first assistant dean for inclusion, diversity, and equity.
“My parents and my Jesuit education taught me to make a difference—to do things the best that I can, and make the biggest impact I can.”

BRIAN R. McKILLIP
(BA ’68, JD ’72)

DISTINGUISHED JURIST AWARD

The Distinguished Jurist Award recognizes a graduate for outstanding service on the bench. Many of the School of Law’s graduates have contributed to the promotion of justice in our society by serving with distinction on federal and state courts. This award is presented every two years.

McKillip, who was appointed to the bench in 1999 and retired in 2015, says the road to becoming a compassionate judge was not always smooth. After a physical struggle with the deputy, the woman ‘had some kind of health event and had to be taken out of the courthouse on a stretcher,’ he says. At her next hearing, McKillip addressed the woman in a very different manner. "I did my best to explain why I had to deny her request," he says. "Afterward, she thanked me, and I realized the situation got out of control the first time because of the way I treated her. This was proof to me of the difference it makes when you treat people with understanding, and talk to them, rather than at them."

Examples of McKillip’s efforts to improve the experience of individuals in the justice system are abundant. In 1995, he worked with a group of judges and lawyers, including John W. Dennis (’81, JD ’85), to establish the DuPage County Bar Association’s (D.C.B.A) Keith E. Roberts, Sr. Trail Advocacy Program. The program offers inexperienced lawyers the chance to break down every aspect of a trial, from voir dire to closing arguments, all under the tutelage of expert trial attorneys and judges.

"Effective advocacy by lawyers in the courtroom makes the whole system work better for the litigants who are caught up in it," says McKillip.

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HONORING EXEMPLARY ALUMNI

KATIE VANNUCCI (JD ’07)
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.

WHEN KATIE VANNUCCI GRADUATED summa cum laude from Loyola University Maryland, it would have been an easy choice for the Connecticut native to stay in Baltimore for law school. “All my friends were there. Going to the University of Maryland’s law school would have been like a continuation of college,” she says. “But the Jesuit value of ‘men and women for others’ spoke to me, and I wanted to be surrounded by students and professors who felt the same way.”

Vannucci has gone on to prove her commitment to that value, not only in her work but also in her service. Most notably, since 2009, she has volunteered as coach of the School of Law’s four-person team in the National Child Welfare and Adoption Law Most Court Competition. (The law school named her Coach of the Year in 2011.)

“I absolutely love getting to work with students in that capacity,” she says. “They come in very green, we spend a huge amount of time working together very intensely, and it’s all worth it when they get to the competition and I see how far they’ve come.”

Vannucci also is preparing to return to the School of Law for the second consecutive fall semester as an adjunct professor teaching immigration law, her area of practice. She has a long record of service to the profession, including being immediate past chair of the American Immigration Lawyers Association-Chicago Chapter and the 2020-2021 co-chair of the Immigration Section of the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois.

She was exposed to immigration policy while completing a volunteer project on the U.S. Mexico border as an undergraduate. Ultimately, immigration law appealed to her as an area in which she could both directly help people and families and also put her Spanish fluency to work.

“I was prepared by a lot of other areas of the law that I also really loved, like family law and criminal law,” she says, and “it just worked out that immigration law was a perfect blend of all those things.”

Vannucci says being a lawyer “for others” continues to be her guiding principle. As a reminder, she keeps a photo of the Geneva family, a story she represented when she was a brand-new attorney. One day, she got an emergency phone call: U.S. immigration officers had arrested Mrs. Geneva and he, at that moment, sitting on a plane waiting to be deported. She flew into action.

“I was able to get him pulled off the plane, was eventually able to secure his release, and later filed for not only his permanent residency, but also his wife’s,” she says. “Fast forward five years, and I was able to do both of their citizenship applications.”

Serving others is what matters to Vannucci. “My parents and my Jesuit education taught me to make a difference — to do things the best that I can, and make the biggest impact I can,” she says. “And that’s what I’ve always strived to do.”
Guiding stars

As Castillo Scholars, Loyola students mentor underrepresented applicants to law school

Launched in 2020 by then-students Fernando Hernandez Parado (JD ’21) and Elizabeth Flores (JD ’21), the Castillo Scholars program helps underrepresented students nationwide apply to law school—any law school, not only Loyola—by pairing them with current Loyola students as mentors.

Mentors advise mentees on every part of the process: studying for the LSAT, writing personal statements, deliberating part-versus full-time enrollment, choosing a school, finding financing, and exploring different areas of practice. When mentors don’t have an answer, they strive to connect mentees with someone who does.

“The ideal is for us to work with mentees who are a full year from applying, so we can give them all the information with plenty of time to prepare to apply the next fall,” says Acves, adding, “But we’re here to help anybody at any stage of the process.”

Acves’s backstory is unlike that of her co-directors. She was born and raised in Chicago, the daughter of a Loyola law alumnus. Her father, Luis Acves (JD ’89), was able to advise her throughout the application process, but, she says, “I knew there were so many times that I would have had no idea what to do if it weren’t for my dad.”

Also, after Acves arrived at law school, she felt discouraged that “people were always surprised to hear that I was a second-generation law school student.”

Over the last two years, the Castillo Scholars program has served 124 mentees. It’s an impressive total given that the program relies almost exclusively on word of mouth to reach prospective mentees. The three co-directors and their fellow mentors reach out through Loyola alumni, faculty, and admissions staff, as well as through academic advisors and minority student groups at their own undergraduate universities.

This program, conceived to help Latina/o students succeed, is named in honor of Rubén Castillo (BA ’76), the first Latina/o to be named a judge, and later chief judge, of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Under the leadership of Acves, Cortes, and Ortega Castillo, the program is expanding to accommodate needs of students from backgrounds that are underrepresented in the legal field.

“Loyola is a very inclusive community, but the legal field is still failing in so many ways: with women, with people of color, with people with disabilities, people who are LGBTQ+, all types of marginalized groups,” says Cortes. “The law serves communities that are not well represented. We need to look like the people we’re serving.”

The three co-directors have set a goal to recruit as their successors three students who represent minority groups other than Latina/o.

“People have another year before they retire. All three will remain directors during their third year, even Ortega Castro, who will be then the first Latina editor-in-chief of the Loyola Law Journal.”

“I come from a family of immigrants,” says Cortes. “For so much of my life, ignorance of the law made me afraid of it. Applying to law school was awful because I didn’t know where to get help. No one was stunning me, I just didn’t know. So sharing my knowledge with others like me—even if it’s a lot of work and stressful at times—is so fulfilling.”

—Liz Miller

Clockwise from left: Vanessa Acves, Maria Ortega Castro, and Katia Cortes lead the Castillo Scholars program, which helps underrepresented students nationwide apply to law school by pairing them with current Loyola student mentors.

The law serves communities that are not well represented. We need to look like the people we’re serving.”

—KATIA CORTES

IN HER FIRST SEMESTER at Loyola law school, Katia Cortes told all her fellow first-years dad registered for torts class. She said to a classmate—one of the only other Latinas in her section—they don’t know what a tort is, but I’m here.”

That classmate was Maria Ortega Castro (BS ’19), an immigrant and first-generation college student, just like Cortes. The fact that both were “here” enrolled in law school, was no small feat.

Many lawyers recall the complexity of applying to law school—the nerve-racking throughout required. Neither Cortes nor Ortega Castro had family who had been through graduate or professional school. Neither knew a single lawyer before starting the application process.

“I even had to Google how to get into community college,” says Ortega Castro. “I found one Latina lawyer [Nubia Willman] [JD ’10] on Instagram and basically stalked her—asked her all my questions. She really helped guide me, and now my mission is to do the same for those who come after me.”

Ortega Castro, Cortes, and Vanessa Acves are doing just that as co-directors of the School of Law’s Castillo Scholars Mentorship Program.

“The law serves communities that are not well represented. We need to look like the people we’re serving.”

—KATIA CORTES

Charlene Echeverria Burcagua

I wanted to go to a school that wanted me,” says Charlene Echeverria Burcagua.

Charlene Echeverria Burcagua was 9 years old the first time she saw her father cry. The family was in danger of losing their house, and her dad had hired an attorney to help prevent it. The attorney’s charges became larger than the family could afford, and they lost the house anyway.

“[My father] felt cheated,” Echeverria Burcagua says. “He said to me, ‘If you ever become a lawyer, be an honest one.’”

Finding the right law school

Becoming a lawyer seemed like a logical path. Echeverria Burcagua had acted as a translator, navigator, and advocate for her family. Her immigrant parents and grandparents never had the opportunity to finish high school.

“I wanted to go to a school that wanted me—that would have resources for my professors who understood me, and people who cared about my community,” she says.

Assisting her community

Echeverria Burcagua joined Loyola’s Health Justice Project in 2021. The medical-legal partnership is with Erie Family Health Centers, a prominent health care practice for her family and neighbors.

“I did immigration cases, asylum cases, Medicare cases, guardianship cases—it was so fulfilling to be able to literally speak my client’s language and directly help my community.”

Helping the next first generation

Echeverria Burcagua is co-president of First Generation Law Students. She helps ensure that first-generation students find each other, learn from each other, and share their struggles, resources, and advice. “We [host] events for accepted [first-generation] students so they know there’s a path for them here,” says Echeverria Burcagua. –Liz Miller
FACULTY EXCELLENCE

Research and scholarship

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

SACHA M. COUPET
Morris I. Leibman Professor of Law


In Child Welfare Law and Practice, also known as “The Red Book,” experienced practitioners and child welfare advocates offer a comprehensive guide on child welfare advocacy. This chapter, focused on the process of disposition and reunification, is a new addition to the standard material covered in the prior versions and explores the varied decision-making that occurs after adjudication and before permanency planning. The chapter reviews factors that influence the court’s decision-making as to whether the child should be removed or stay in the home and, if removed, where the child should be placed. Disposition also requires the court to make orders concerning care planning and case plan goals as well as contact between the child and parent and/or family members. The chapter reviews these primary areas of focus at disposition—case planning, placement, and violation—and frames all in terms of the relevant legal requirements as well as research-informed practice advice.

STEPHEN RUSHIN
Judge Hubert Louis Will Professor of Law


These chapters consider the unique challenges that prosecutors face in investigating and charging police officers suspected of criminal misconduct. Modern prosecutors often face intense public pressure to hold police officers accountable for wrongdoing. Despite this pressure, a number of recent studies have revealed that prosecutors rarely pursue criminal charges against police officers. When they do pursue criminal charges, prosecutors are less successful in securing convictions against police officers relative to other similarly situated criminal defendants. This chapter examines the causes and solutions to this problem. It also summarizes some of the most compelling narrative recommendations made by prior scholars to improve the investigation and prosecution of criminal conduct by police officers.

CARMEN G. GONZALEZ
Morris I. Leibman Professor of Law

The Cambridge Handbook of Environmental Justice and Sustainable Development (Samuels Akaputh, Carmen G. Gonzalez, and Sara L. Sick, eds.) (Cambridge University Press, 2021)

These chapters are not isolated inquiries, but symptoms of interfacing forms of oppression that privilege the few while inflicting misery on the many and threatening ecological collapse. This handbook offers critical perspectives on the multidimensional, intersectional nature of environmental injustice and the cross-cutting forms of oppression that unite and divide these struggles, including gender, race, poverty, and indigenous. The work sheds new light on the often neglected social dimension of sus- tainability and its relationship to human rights and environmental justice. Using a variety of legal frameworks and case studies from around the world, this volume illustrates the importance of overcoming the fragmentation of these legal frameworks and social movements in order to develop holistic solutions that promote justice and protect the planet’s ecosystems at a time of intensifying economic and ecological crisis.

Faculty and staff appointments

Michèle Alexandre is dean of the School of Law. See page 12.
Jeaninne Bell is a Court and Linda Rodin Professor of Law and Social Justice. See page 2.
Samuel D. Bronson, Georgia Ruthal Professor of Law, is associate dean for faculty research and development.
Gabriela Caruth is digital communications specialist.
Blanche Bong Cook is a Court and Linda Rodin Professor of Law and Social Justice. See page 2.
Sacha M. Coupet, Morris I. Leibman Professor of Law, is the inaugural associate dean of mission innovation. She also was nominated to the board of directors of the Juvenile Law Center.
Kelly Gaines is senior enrollment advisor, online programs.
James Tho Guthi was elected a vice president of the American Society of International Law.
Imani Hollie (JD ’20) is associate director of the Professional Identity Formation course.
Kathleen Hoth is instructional designer, online programs.
Corey James was promoted from instructional designer to senior instructional designer.
Miranda B. Johnson, clinical professor of law and director of the Education Law and Policy Institute, is chair-elect of the Section on Education Law for the Association of American Law Schools.
Tania Luna is assistant dean of the Office of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity. See page 4.
Kimberly Mills (LLM ’15) is director of the Professional Identity Formation (PIF) program.
Stephen Rushin, Judge Hubert Louis Will Professor of Law, is associate dean of academic affairs.
Patrick Rybarszczak was promoted from student services coordinator to assistant director, online programs.
Elizabeth Tripp is program coordinator, online programs.
Spencer Weber Wallace, Justice John Paul Stevens Chair in Competition Law and director of the Institute for Consumer Antitrust Studies, is serving as senior adviser to the chair of the Federal Trade Commission.
Kirk Walter was promoted to assistant dean for the Weekend JD program.

In the news

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

Christine Keesal Chabot, assistant director for regulation for the Institute for Consumer Antitrust Studies and Distinguished Scholar in Residence, appeared on CNN to discuss possible replacements for Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer.
Zelda B. Harris, Mary Ann G. McMorow Professor of Law, authored a Quanta Chicago Business op-ed about how the School of Law is strengthening inclusivity to build a better foundation for equity and social justice.
Jackie Ross, adjunct professor and staff attorney of the Civils Child Law Clinic, and other School of Law experts were involved in numerous articles about how Black and other students of color are far more likely to be ticketed by police for school behavior. Reuters, NPR, the Chicago Tribune, and ProPublica provided coverage.

Dean A. Strong, Distinguished Professor in Residence, coauthored an op-ed in the Boston Globe about Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson and the role of public defenders specifically and indigent defense more broadly.

FOLLOW THE SCHOOL OF LAW ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

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@LoyolaLaw
@Loyola_law_chicago
@LoyolaUniversityChicagoSchoolOfLaw
Opportunity scholarships provide immediate and long-lasting support

Donors and students benefit from gift that blends financial support with mentorship

ANU DAIRKIE HAD A PLAN, and she followed it perfectly: pre-med, medical school, internship, residency. But something didn’t feel right. “I quickly realized that to effectively advocate for better and more equitable health care, a law degree would be immense help,” Dairkie says. Loyola University Chicago School of Law, with its renowned health law program, seemed like the next step.

However, there were serious considerations to weigh. “Making the choice to go back to school was a late stage in life with two children was a challenging one,” Dairkie says, “because of the time commitment and the financial commitment.”

A key factor in her decision to enroll at the School of Law: Receiving an opportunity scholarship. This unique scholarship model couples long-term support with mentorship. Donors commit to provide a gift of $10,000 for three years and also assist their recipients in other ways, such as by offering career guidance or making introductions to their professional networks.

Dairkie is the second recipient of the Ed and Bobbi Walsh Opportunity Scholarship. The Walshes were among the first to establish a scholarship when the program launched five years ago. “What appealed to us most was simply helping a law student in need,” says Ed Walsh (JD ’73). “The law school was extremely generous to us when I was a student. I consider it almost a moral imperative to give back to Loyola.”

A tool for recruitment

Like the Walshes, Freddi Greenberg (JD ’75) gives back to the law school on a consistent and generous basis. In 2015, she established an endowed scholarship. And when she learned about the opportunity scholarship, Greenberg saw a way to make a different kind of impact.

“I love the idea of making the School of Law available to a very fine student who could not afford it otherwise,” Greenberg says. “This scholarship encourages talented people to attend Loyola.”

Greenberg also was impressed with the scholarships three-year duration. “I like the certainty it provides, as well as the possibility that a student can take time that might have been spent working and instead spend it in an internship or extracurricular activities.”

Kathleen Kiviraks, the current recipient of Greenberg’s opportunity scholarship, agrees with this assessment. As a child of parents who arrived in the U.S. as refugees, Kiviraks grew up watching her parents struggle to find an economic foothold. For Kiviraks, scholarships represent more than reduced tuition. “(They’ve) granted me a sense of financial security, a feeling I have rarely felt,” she says.

While every scholarship at the School of Law opens doors, not all scholarships operate in the same way. For example, Greenberg appreciates the permanence and longevity of her endowed scholarship—it will last in perpetuity—but as a function of that setup, she won’t meet every recipient of her generosity. With the opportunity scholarship, she will.

“Since it’s initially given when a child is in grade school, you can develop an ongoing rapport,” Greenberg says. “You can be a resource, offer connections and advice, hear how it’s going right from the beginning. You can see how you’re making an immediate difference in someone’s life.”

Meaningful mentoring

The mentoring relationship at the heart of each opportunity scholarship makes it distinctly different from a traditional scholarship gift. While close to the donors and their recipients to determine the nature of the mentorship, many donors say that getting to know their scholar is one of the best parts of the experience.

“What I’ve done with each of my students is set them up with various lawyers and judges whom I know, who might be able to give their perspectives and their thoughts on the practice and the profession,” Walsh says. “It’s a way for the student to gain insight and direction from longstanding practitioners.”

Walsh follows his students’ cues when offering networking assistance; he knows his scholars are juggling many demands. One of the Walsh scholarships stipulations is that the recipient be a parent of a young child or children, as Walsh was when he attended the School of Law. “I understand how extremely difficult and demanding law school is, and it becomes qualitatively more difficult when you have a family,” he says. “We take great comfort in knowing that we’re making that challenge just a little bit easier for our students.”

Starting this fall, the Walshes will be the first donors to financially and professionally support two students simultaneously.

“We have not forgotten how Loyola was there for us when we needed help,” Walsh says. “We want to stand up and give back as we are making us like we’re surely doing the right thing.”

Reverberating impact

Amanda Wayne, the inaugural recipient of the Brann Harvey Opportunity Scholarship, has four donors on standby to provide encouragement and professional support. Ryan Bush (JD ’10), Donald Cole (JD ’99), Matt Clavin (JD ’99), and Chip Leun (JD ’99) established their opportunity scholarship in memory of a dear friend and classmate, Brann Harvey (JD ’99).

“We are very grateful that Brann’s name and memory will be associated with helping other people because that’s what Brann did for all of us,” Clavin says. “He was like an older brother. He was the kind of person who was always making life easier for others.”

The friends decided that the mentoring aspect made the opportunity scholarship a fitting memorial for Harvey. “They knew that Harvey would have been the first to volunteer him his time, wisdom, and connections. It also was important to the group that the recipient be a ‘mirror’—someone who may have didn’t have the easiest path to law school but never gave up. Wayne fit this description.”

“Becoming a lawyer was something that never seemed attainable, given my family’s poverty and lack of education,” Wayne says. “The Brann Harvey Opportunity Scholarship was an amazing and unexpected gift.”

The four friends look forward to future get-togethers with Wayne, Harvey’s wife, Lisa, and their two children.

“Amanda is working really hard to make law school a reality, just like Brann did,” Clavin says. “We plan on using our relationships to network on her behalf and help foster her career. We’re proud of our gift, but we want this to be more than just writing a check.”

While this opportunity scholarship is the first established by a group of people, Clavin hopes it won’t be the last. “We’d love to see annual donors join together to give back in this way.”

An endowed scholarship requires a larger financial commitment, this option matched the level of what we were,” he says. “It was a more accessible way to have an impact.”

As with all opportunity scholarships, there’s no guarantee the impact it can make.

“I hope alumni understand how much good these scholarships can do and how much they mean to the recipients,” Wayne says. “I grew up in the foster care system, and I am planning to my law degree to make positive changes for future generations of vulnerable children. This scholarship has helped make that opportunity possible.” – Kelsey Schumann

To learn more about opportunity scholarships, visit LUC.edu/law/GiveBack.

In addition to the Ed and Bobbi Walsh, Freddi Greenberg, and Brann Harvey opportunity scholarships, the School of Law offers:

Steven Lisker (JD ’80) Opportunity Scholarship
Koll Moll (JD ’93) Opportunity Scholarship
Carol and Terry Moritz (BS ’66, JD ’70) Opportunity Scholarship
Anne Pollard (JD ’93) Opportunity Scholarship
Morton Sennett Memorial Opportunity Scholarship

GIFTS

GENEROSITY

OCCUPATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

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ALUMNI UPDATE

2021 Reunion Weeken and Alumni Awards Dinner

MORE THAN 350 ALUMNI and friends gathered over the course of Reunion Weekend, October 21–23, 2021, Events, which took place both virtually and in person, included the annual Alumni Awards celebration at the Palmer House Hilton, where we had the honor of recognizing our 2020 and 2021 Alumni Awards recipients for their outstanding contributions to the School of Law and to our community. Because the pandemic disrupted plans for our in-person reunion in 2020, this event was a double reunion, celebrating classes ending in 0, 1, 5, and 6. We look forward to another wonderful celebration honoring the classes ending in 2 and 7 this fall.

1. Alumni celebrate at the 50th- and 100th-year class receptions held at Berens.
2. Graduates of the classes of 2020 and 2021 met at Jake Heinrick’s to celebrate their graduations after in-person commencement ceremonies were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Ginger Marcus (JD ’80, Michael J. Kaufman, and Zelika B. Harris.
5. The Rule of Law Institute’s Paul Kantwell welcomed Professor Paul Gooden of Northwestern Preparatory School of Law to present during the institute’s inaugural lecture.

CLASS NOTES

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

1970s

Laurel G. Belloso (JD ’74) was named to the Salute: Top 50 Women in Law Award list by the publishers of the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin and Chicago Lawyer magazine.

Kevin J. Conway (BA ‘73, JD ’76) was named among the honorees and featured as a speaker at this year’s Younger Lawyers for the Creative Arts Benefit Luncheon.

Laird M. Osmon (JD ’79) was named to the 2021 Top 40 Under 40 list by the Association of America’s Top Lawyers.

Theda C. Snyder (JD ’77) created the Lawyer’s Marketing Journal, recently acquired by Attorney at Work, which helps lawyers turn plans into action while improving mental well-being by expressing gratitude and reducing stress.

1980s

Roger H. Bickel (JD ’89) was named the 2021 Chicago Lawyer of the Year for Government Relations by Best Lawyers.

David T. Brown (JD ’89) was awarded the American Jewish Committee’s Human Rights Medallion Award for his efforts to build a more enlightened and compassionate society.

The Honorable Thomas M. Demmery (JD ’84) was appointed as an at-large circuit court judge in Cook County.

Gregg M. Dormain (JD ’84) joined Nixon Peabody as a partner and was named to Crain’s 2021 People on the Move list.

Kathryn D. Farmer (BA ’88, JD ’93) was named to the 2021 Top 40 Under 40 list by the Association of America’s Top Lawyers.

Linda A. Ruzma (JD ’81) was added to the current roster of administrative trademark judges at the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board.

Stephen C. Marquardt (JD ’84) was named CEO of Blue Earth Capital.

Jennifer A. Nabor (JD ’88) was elected as a member of Laner Muchin’s Executive Committee and co-chair of the firm’s litigation group.

Alfred Spitzak (JD ’85) was featured in an article in The Portagegram: “Pick the inescapable journey of a simple Freed” which shares his life’s journey, career path, and lessons learned along the way.

Daniel G. Watts (JD ’84) was selected as one of the two directors for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago (FHLBank Chicago) and will serve a four-year term.

1990s

Tracy R. Anderson (JD ’91) was named to Crain’s 2022 Notable Residential Real Estate Brokers list.

John G. Anes (JD ’97) was named to Crain’s 2021 Notable Nonprofit Board Leaders list.

Tracy A. Chadwell (JD ’92) was chosen for the Forbes 30 Under 50 list.

Michael H. Cho (JD ’93) was named director of compliance and controls at Google in its extended workforce solutions group.

Linsey Cohen (JD ’98) was named to Crain’s 2021 Notable Gen X Leaders in Accounting, Consulting, and Law list.

Jesse A. Cris (JD ’98) was named to Crain’s 2021 Notable Gen X Leaders in Accounting, Consulting, and Law list.

Aimee E. Delaney (JD ’98) was named to the Salute: Top 50 Women in Law Award list by the publishers of the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin and Chicago Lawyer magazine.

Elizabeth F. Fegan (JD ’95) was named to the Salute: Top 50 Women in Law Award list by the publishers of the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin and Chicago Lawyer magazine.

Brian E. Filtet (JD ’99) was selected to receive the Illinois State Bar Association Standing Committee on Government Lawyers 2020-21 Bar Kaplan Government Service Award.

Daniel J. Caren (JD ’98, LL.M. ’99) was named chief ethics and compliance officer for Vivint Smart Home, Inc.

Evelyn T. Hopkins (JD ’98) was the recipient of the 2021 Athena Leadership Award.

Camille N. Khaddad (JD ’91) was named vice chair of Much Shrier’s labor and employment group.

Karina McGuire (JD ’96) was named managing partner of Thompson Coburn’s Chicago office.

Thomas Mulhern III (JD ’98) was named an Illinois Super Lawyer for 2023 and was named to the 2022 Edition of Best Lawyers.

Nancy Paridy (LL.M. ’94) was promoted in October to be co-president of the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab.

Jonathan D. Schultz (JD ’93) was elected president and chief executive officer of Concordia Publishing House in St. Louis.

Tara R. Shewshuk (LL.M. ’94) was promoted to vice president, global chief ethics and compliance officer for the medical technology company Medtronic’s POC.

Rosa M. Tumialan (JD ’94) joined Tressler LLP as a partner in its Chicago office.

Anneliese Wermuth (JD ’95) was appointed to a three-year term on the Rules Advisory Committee of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois and was named to the Top 50 Women in Law Award list by the publishers of the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin and Chicago Lawyer magazine.

2000s

David M. Alt (JD ’01) was named to Crain’s 2021 Notable Gen X Leaders in Accounting, Consulting, and Law list.

Sofia A. Aragon (JD ’02) was elected mayor of Burien, Washington.

Colleen M. Boraca (JD ’02) was the recipient of the 2021 Chicago Bar Foundation’s Jay Leonard Schnager Award of Excellence.

Erin B. Hines (JD ’96) of Shoek, Hardy & Bacon was promoted to partner.
History maker

Illinois State Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershkwitz (JD '06) sponsored the first state bill mandating the teaching of Asian American history in public schools

Jenner and Block

Catherine A. Basque Weiler (JD '90) was named to the Saluki Top 10 Women in Law Award list by the publishers of the Chicago Daily Law Bulletin and Chicago Lawyer magazine.

Kevin M. Coffey (JD '16) was named to Chicago's Notable Rising Stars in Law list.

Kaila M. Coleman (JD '10) was named to Crain's 2021 People on the Move list and was welcomed by Illinois State Representative Jennifer Gong-Gershkwitz at the 2021 Notable Rising Stars in Law event.

Sophie M. Jacob-Paris (JD '03) joined Barak Rome & P.S.'s nationally recognized matrimonial and family law practice group in its New York office.

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Man about town

Jamell Johnson (MJ ’22) serves his city as its youngest-ever council member

Jamell Johnson remembers the moment he wanted to serve in local government.

As an undergraduate at Ball State University studying criminal justice, Johnson went to Ferguson, Missouri, in the aftermath of Michael Brown’s shooting in 2014. There he had the chance to speak with town council members about the communi-
ty’s most pressing issues. Through another program, he met with local agencies in Indiana to better understand what it takes to run a municipality.

“I started looking at how much control the town council had on people’s day-to-day lives (like the hiring of a police chief and a fire chief) and started paying more attention to state and national politics,” Johnson says. “Local government is the most responsive government. It’s what I wanted to be involved in.”

Johnson enrolled in his Texas town’s Citizens Government Academy, a program that teaches participants about the city’s history and governance. There he befriended Curtis Cornelius, a councilman at-large. When Cornelius became Little Elm’s mayor, Johnson ran for the vacant council member seat in December 2021. At age 36, Johnson is the youngest town council member in the history of Little Elm—population 46,455—near Dallas-Ft. Worth.

He says earning his MJ in compliance and ethics is a management role that will serve him well in his roles in government and as a senior compliance advisor for Fidelity Investments.

“Professors” say that the things that we would be learning in the program could be applied to work and life, and I tell you that, hasn’t failed me,” says Johnson. “Everything that I’ve learned, I’ve used somewhere in my career along the way”—Stephanie Mitchell King and Kimi Tambourgh
A new era

FOLLOWING THE SIX-YEAR TENURE of President Jo Ann Rooney, Mark C. Reed, EdD, MBA, will serve as the University’s 25th president. A lifelong proponent of Jesuit, Catholic education, Dr. Reed joins the Loyola community from Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia. At Saint Joe’s, Dr. Reed served for seven years as its first non-Jesuit president and prior to that held senior leadership roles at Fairfield University—another Jesuit institution—for 15 years.

“The more I have learned about Loyola and this community, the more I feel called to the mission in this place, in this city, and at this time,” Dr. Reed said at his first official visit to campus on May 3. Dr. Reed earned his BS in mathematics and MBA from Fairfield University. He also holds an MEd in secondary educational administration from Boston College and an EdD in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania. He will officially assume his role at Loyola on October 1. •

University announces largest individual gift in its history

IN JUNE, Loyola University Chicago announced a $100 million gift—the largest individual gift in the University’s history—from John and Kathy Schreiber to fund full scholarships, room and board, and an array of comprehensive support services for aspiring Black, Latino, first-generation, and other ethnically and racially diverse students who are historically underrepresented in higher education.

Together, the University and the Schreibers aspire to create a new, $50 million restricted portion of the University’s endowment that would make these resources permanent—empowering students to attend and successfully graduate from Loyola for generations to come. The Schreibers’ gift is the foundational investment in this planned program, which aims to fund hundreds of students a year when fully funded.

“Students with talent, grit, and promising leadership potential are, far too often, left out of life-changing scholarship opportunities and services due to circumstances beyond their control,” says Dr. Jo Ann Rooney, president of Loyola University Chicago. “This leadership gift creates opportunity, renews hope, and begins to holistically address and remove systemic barriers to student success and opportunity while inspiring others to take action.” •

For more information, go to LUC.edu/schreibergift.

A $100 million gift—the largest individual gift in the University’s history—from John and Kathy Schreiber will support students who are historically underrepresented in higher education.

SCHOOL OF LAW REUNION WEEKEND AND ALUMNI AWARDS CELEBRATION

SEPTEMBER 29 – OCTOBER 1, 2022

The 2022 Law Reunion will honor classes ending in 2 and 7. Please save the date to join us! Celebrate your reunion milestone and toast our 2022 Alumni Awards recipients:

Josie Gough (BA ’74, MEd ’78, JD ’84) 
Medal of Excellence

Laura Caldwell (JD ’92) 
Francis J. Rooney/St. Thomas More Award
This award is presented posthumously

Kathleen Vannucci (JD ’07) 
St. Robert Bellarmine Award

The Honorable Brian McKillip (BA ’68, JD ’72) 
Distinguished Jurist Award

For more information, visit LUC.edu/law/reunionawards
Your Support Matters

For more than 110 years, Loyola University Chicago School of Law has provided a top-notch legal education with our unique Jesuit values at the core. We have grown, expanded, and welcomed thousands of talented students who have become the ethical advocates and leaders for social justice that our world needs.

It's the people who make our institution great, and one of the critical ways of supporting the future of the School of Law is through an annual gift. By making a gift to the Dean's Discretionary Fund this year, you too can help the School of Law further its mission. This fund will allow Dean Michèle Alexandre to address the immediate needs of our students and law school community. Past support has been realized as additional scholarships for students; hardship funds for students impacted by the pandemic; and supplemental funding for student activities, organizations, and student publications in academic legal journals.

Make your gift today: LUC.edu/law/GiveBack

Pictured: Andy Vanden Busch, Weekend JD student, scholarship recipient