At Netflix, Tehmina Jaffer L’00 juggles a demanding job and her responsibilities as a single mother of four-year-old twins.

How They Made It to the Show
Welcome to Pennlandia, a province in Hollywood where writers furnish provocative scripts, bigwigs cut megadeals, and producers discover hot new talent.

Law for Non-Lawyers
The Master in Law program provides an in-depth course of study to graduate students from a wide range of disciplines and professionals from every corner of campus.

Death Row Defender
Christina Swarns L’93 saved scores of inmates from execution. Can she make a similar mark defending felons who can’t afford counsel?
FROM THE DEAN

RON LITMAN GL’18, an anesthesiologist at Children’s Hospital and a medical malpractice expert witness, was stunned to learn that there were no regulations governing the administration of anesthetic medicine.

With that knowledge, and a desire to advocate for change, Litman became an early enrollee in our Master in Law program, joining administrators, engineers, and financial analysts, among other professionals. Litman graduated last spring.

We started the program in 2014 around the principle that the study of law, which undergirds nearly every aspect of society, should be open to everyone, just as we have long encouraged students from other schools on campus to take individual courses at the Law School or pursue certificates in law.

The Master in Law program (see story on page 36), an extension of that approach, has been so successful that Penn graduate students, staff and University alumni are clamoring to get in. There is now fervent interest outside our community as well, so we are considering an expansion because, as I said, the law should be open to everyone.

From Master in Law to masters of the universe. That’s what it must feel like to strike it big in Hollywood. In this issue, we profile five alumni who hitched their wagons to a dream and worked tirelessly to break into the television and movie industries.

As many of our JD candidates head east from California to attend Penn Law, many of our alumni trek west to become script writers, agents, movie studio attorneys and studio heads. While they did not undergo harrowing covered wagon journeys across hostile terrain, the alumni featured in this issue sometimes traversed rocky paths to find success in the ultra-competitive precincts of show business. And maybe they wouldn’t have it any other way.

Finally, on a much more somber note, we feature the compelling story of Christina Swarns L’93, who while with the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, saved seven people from the death penalty.

Perhaps her proudest moment came when she stood on the steps of the Supreme Court after what would be a successful argument in which the justices would roundly reject a race-begets-violence theory in a murder case. Required reading.

Sincerely,

Theodore Ruger
Dean and Bernard G. Segal Professor of Law
Research from the @PennLaw @QuattroneCenter’s Exec. Director @johnfhollway could help identify the root cause of police shootings. tinyurl.com/ybwr9a2

@PennLaw Prof. Herbert Hovenkamp’s article cited against Lina Kahn’s “Amazon’s #Antitrust Paradox” saying that if companies like Amazon are targeted, we might “quickly drive the economy back into the Stone Age...” tinyurl.com/y7gj2h2c

Social media companies are going through “a high-tech rite of passage,” over questions about how to define and regulate hate speech, says @PennLaw’s Christopher Yoo. tinyurl.com/y7hotp2j

“...I think the Supreme Court will be a changed institution because of these politics and I don’t think it’s going to be for the better,” says @PennLaw Prof. Claire Finkelstein in wake of divisive Senate vote to confirm Justice #BrettKavanaugh. tinyurl.com/yc9ca4yb

#TBT In November of 1923, the women law students of Penn Law formed The John Marshall Law Club, organized to assist its members in the study of law through moot court arguments and quizzes. tinyurl.com/y7frepdm

@PennLaw Prof. Robinson’s new scholarship discusses “heat of passion” mitigation and if it should be expanded to all felonies, not just murder, and potentially include all emotions. tinyurl.com/ybabjze8

“...What you really want to do is make upstream changes that lead to never getting to the situation where the gun is pulled.”

JOHN HOLLWAY
Executive Director of the Quattrone Center for the Fair Administration of Justice
IN SESSION

Anita Hill on Inequality and Sexual Harassment

At Irvine Auditorium, in front of a sold-out crowd, legal scholar and professor Anita Hill spoke in conversation with leading critical race theorist Kimberlé Crenshaw and Penn Integrates Knowledge Professor Dorothy Roberts—not answering questions so much as challenging the audience to ask the right ones.

“What is the lesson plan that comes out of this teachable moment?” mused Crenshaw mid-conversation. She then added: ‘‘#MeToo’ is a moment. ’91 was a moment. The question is, ‘Can we draw a new baseline understanding out of these moments?’ [One] that everyone gets.”

The dialogue, sponsored by the Alice Paul Center and co-sponsored by 17 other departments and organizations at the University, including Penn Law School, lasted more than an hour and engaged Hill, a professor of social policy, law, and women’s studies at Brandeis University, and Crenshaw, a professor at UCLA Law School and Columbia Law School, with questions about progress made in women’s equality and sexual harassment since the Clarence Thomas Supreme Court
confirmation hearings in 1991. Hill commented on her own experience during the hearings, and, of course, what she makes of the bizarre irony that her appearance at Penn—originally arranged in January—would coincide with the swearing-in of another Supreme Court justice accused of sexual misconduct.

“What happened [in the Justice Brett Kavanaugh hearing] was not only a disservice to the principal witnesses, but was a disservice to the American public,” Hill remarked early in the conversation. “We were all disserved in 1991, because people wanted to understand sexual harassment; in 2018, they wanted to understand sexual assault. What it’s like going through that experience? How does a person come forward to respond when they have been assaulted? What is the appropriate way for us to evaluate, in the context of a confirmation hearing, the significance of the information that Professor Blasey Ford brought?”

She continued: “Those were all the things I experienced in 1991, and it was what I experienced in 2018: that failure to really help the public understand very significant interests, issues, and to understand that those issues and seeking truth in those issues aligns with the interests of having a Supreme Court that people have confidence in, faith in, believe in the impartiality and integrity of. And once again, there was this misalignment in those two interests, and understanding the experiences of victims of sexual assault, and the interest of a strong and independent court. [They] were pitted against each other. And that really frames what 1991 was like, and what it’s like today.”

With a sense of near-disbelief, she said the stunning failure of the recent hearings was the inability of lawmakers to develop a better process for it “when they had 27 years to figure it out.”

Still, Hill—not in an act of optimism, exactly, but rather assessing the modern lay of the land—was sure to note that there are differences between the 1991 and 2018 hearings. She mentioned that there are now four women on the Senate Judiciary Committee and four people of color—a difference she emphasized is one of “true substance.” Hill and Crenshaw—who advised Hill’s legal team in the 1991 hearings—also discussed differences in the optics, with Crenshaw observing that there was no “football field-sized” space between Christine Blasey Ford and lawmakers as there was with Hill, that Blasey Ford’s family could be seen supporting her immediately behind her in a more intimate setting, and, of course, Republican lawmakers barely uttered a word in their questioning Blasey Ford, opting instead for an outside, female prosecutor to conduct the line of questioning.

It’s also important to acknowledge the progress made since 1991, Hill said, pointing to legislative, policy, and larger educational differences.

“We are in a different place, in many ways: in a different place politically, in terms of our information and knowledge base of sexual harassment and sexual assault, and we are in a different place, I believe, socially,” she said.

Hill and Crenshaw described the Federalist Society’s influence on confirmation processes, and the structural systems that enable a culture of sexual harassment.

The challenge, Hill said, was not to just call out the people on this behavior, but “deal with the systems protecting them.”

And, too, recognizing the limitations lawmakers impose on what knowledge comes to light in hearings like hers and Blasey Ford’s.

“How do we correct that?” Hill asked. “That’s really the question. How do we not only make sure our representatives actually represent us and tell us the truth, but how do we change the way that they do business so that they will be responsible and accountable for making sure when any of these issues come, that the American public knows and is well-informed— informs enough to make their own decisions about how they should be voting in a confirmation process.”
Swiss President Berset Spotlights Threats to Democracy In the 21st Century

In a forum at Penn Law School this past fall, President Alain Berset, President of the Swiss Confederation, spoke about the functioning of direct democracy in Switzerland and how distrust, misinformation and fake news might endanger that democracy and others around the world.

The event, part of the Global Leadership and Public Policy Speaker Series, featured a keynote lecture by President Berset, followed by a conversation between President Berset and Nicholas Thome ’20, moderated by Professor William Burke-White, Richard Perry Professor and director of Perry World House, and professor of law.

Penn Law’s Rangita de Silva de Alwis, associate dean for International Programs and global advisor for the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Fund, introduced President Berset as “an extraordinary leader of our times, a voice of moral courage, a leader who fearlessly reminds us that by strengthening others, we also strengthen ourselves.” She praised President Berset’s powerful vision for promoting democracy through education, cultural diversity and inclusion.

During his lecture, President Berset presented Switzerland’s model for strong, direct democracy. He emphasized how in Switzerland, democracy extends beyond voting to the processes of negotiation and compromise. Switzerland has four national languages and 26 cantons (or member states), making mutual cooperation essential. In a direct democracy, he explained, everything is up for debate—including the question of international cooperation.

“Switzerland is a small and open country at the heart of Europe,” President Berset said. “But Switzerland’s openness to the world is by no means set in stone.”

Switzerland will soon vote on the Self-Determination Initiative (SDI), which aims to minimize the influence of international law on the country by ensuring Swiss law takes precedence. Switzerland’s seven-member government executive—over which President Berset presides—has firmly rejected the SDI and advised Parliament to do the same.

“We have to be able to show that we can rely on international law, and that its rules are stable and fair,” President Berset said.

After discussing Switzerland’s political system and its unique challenges, President Berset went on to identify fake news as a key threat to democracy. Describing the risk of the spread of fake news in Switzerland, he noted social media is an arena where unverified words can flourish. Given the dangers of misinformation, President Berset said that he views truthful and accurate journalism as instrumental to safeguarding democracy.

“We need to take the problem of fake news seriously,” he said.

Denying the existence of fake news will not make it go away, said President Berset, who argued that it is crucial for consumers of mass media to learn to absorb information with a critical eye.

The lecture expanded into a conversation with Thome and Professor Burke-White about the lessons the United States can learn from Switzerland’s model in the era of alternative facts and fake news. President Berset lent his perspective, crediting education as instrumental in the effort to sort through news to determine the truth. He called for more effective education of the youth and the public at large about fake news.

Solving the fake news problem will require journalists and writers to communicate more clearly, President Berset explained. “The quality of information ultimately depends on the media.”
Hayden Counsels Keeping Guard Up on Russia

Two years later, the question continues to loom over the country: Why did Russia meddle in the 2016 election?

General Michael Hayden, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency, addressed that conundrum in an appearance at Penn Law School in conjunction with the publication of his new book, The Assault on Intelligence: American National Security in an Age of Lies.

Now a national security analyst for CNN, Hayden said Russian President Vladimir Putin meddled for personal and national survival. He said Putin wanted to damage the United States and other Western countries to achieve parity for his country, whose economy has slipped in recent years, falling beneath the output of individual states such as California, New York and Texas.

Hayden continued that Putin also sought to punish Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, whom he blames for fostering anti-government sentiment in Russia in 2011.

Although he is sanguine about the efforts of intelligence agencies to protect the sanctity of upcoming elections, he said he is disappointed about the lack of urgency and a game plan on the part of the Trump Administration.

Hayden recalled the testimony of then-director of the NSA, Mike Rogers, who told members of the Armed Services Committee during a hearing that the United States “had not made the Russians pay a sufficient price” for their actions.

“That is nothing about defending the electoral system in the United States. That is nothing about stopping Russian interference inside social media. That’s all about making the Russians less interested in doing it,” said Hayden at the forum sponsored by the Center for Ethics & The Rule of Law and moderated by CERL founder and faculty director, Claire Finkelstein.

A member of the audience asked Hayden if the United States has an adequate plan in place to protect its grid from a cyberattack.

He said the country is just starting to really think the issue through, but he projected calm. “I am not in the camp who fears a catastrophic cyberattack. We’ve got a problem, but I don’t want to be apocalyptic about it.”

Earlier in the discussion, Hayden, who served under President Bush compared how presidents consume and evaluate intelligence. He said President Bush, a voracious reader, was briefed six days a week. Similarly, President Obama took his intelligence briefings seriously, but, reflective to a fault, got mired in endless study and had a hard time making decisions. Hayden described Trump as a visual learner.

Lamenting what he considers an unwelcome trend, Hayden said we are living in a post-truth world where decisions are based more on emotion, preference, tribe, loyalty and grievance than on evidence, data and fact.

Hayden said he held Congress responsible for abdicating its role and failing to exert a check on executive power.

“It has gotten worse under President Trump,” he said. “In this administration the Congress is being used by the President to beat up and threaten the organs of the executive branch under the President that will not bend to the President’s will.

“I have never seen anything like that in my life.”

General Michael Hayden’s new book, The Assault on Intelligence, is a blistering critique of the forces threatening the American intelligence community.
Natasha Sarin, newly appointed assistant professor of law with a secondary appointment in the Finance Department at the Wharton School, comes to Penn Law from Harvard University. Professor Sarin’s research interests lie at the intersection of law and finance, with a focus on financial regulation. Penn Law’s Office of Communications spoke with her about her upcoming plans at Penn and her latest research.

“MY BROAD ANIMATING QUESTION IS TO TRY AND UNDERSTAND WHEN FINANCIAL REGULATION IS LIKELY TO BE EFFECTIVE.”

Natasha Sarin
Assistant Professor of Law

https://scholarship.law.upenn.edu/plj/vol53/iss2/1
Two New Faculty Join Gittis Center for Clinical Legal Studies

Penn Law has added two new faculty to its clinical programs: Jennifer Fernandez and Michael Murphy are new supervisors and lecturers in the Civil Practice Clinic and the Entrepreneurship Legal Clinic, respectively.

Fernandez most recently served as a staff attorney at Queens Legal Services in New York, where she represented clients in family law and housing defense matters; and at Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem in the Civil Defense practice. Her areas of legal expertise include civil litigation, housing law, family law, matrimonial law, education law, and employment law.

Murphy was previously an in-house attorney at SEI Investments Company, where he was responsible for the negotiation of outsourcing agreements for the company’s technology platform. He was also general counsel of BrainDo Interactive, originating the legal role at a startup digital marketing agency and serving in a business role as a content strategist. In addition, Murphy was a litigation and employment law attorney at Blank Rome LLP.

The Gittis Center for Clinical Legal Studies now has 15 faculty members including adjunct professors, as well as nine clinics.

What kind of scholarship do you work on at the intersection of finance and law?

My interests at this moment are on financial regulatory questions. My broad animating question is to try and understand when financial regulation is likely to be effective.

I’m an empirical economist, and I use various data sets to try to tease out the extent to which pieces of [the] Dodd–Frank [Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act] worked the way they were supposed to, or didn’t work the way they were intended. I’m interested in regulatory questions from both a consumer finance perspective and a more macroprudential risk management perspective.

The reality is that the current system really doesn’t work well for people who are lower income in our society because we have banks that charge them exorbitant fees. Consumers then don’t want to go to banks because of those fees and instead turn to alternatives like payday lenders, which end up charging even higher fees.

As regulators, we don’t quite have a handle on how best to intervene in these markets to make them work better for people. And as interested academics in this space, we don’t yet know what kinds of institutions are going to be most effective at helping this particular class of consumers. I’m really interested in trying to participate in that discussion.

What projects are you currently working on?

My Ph.D. dissertation is on an aspect of Dodd–Frank called the Durbin amendment, which was a restriction on debit swipe fees. The swipe fee is the fee a merchant pays for processing a particular transaction. Durbin capped that fee at 21 cents per transaction, no matter the dollar amount you spend. The idea behind Durbin was that it would reduce merchant fees, merchants would pass through their savings to consumers in the form of lower prices, and consumers would be overall better off.

The reality of Durbin, at least as far as my empirical analysis suggests, is that on the bank side, banks took this hit in the form of less revenue from these swipe fees, and they adjusted by charging other kinds of fees to consumers. It’s like regulatory whack-a-mole, which a lot of academics talk about in the context of finance and more broadly as well.

On the merchant side, merchants took the opportunity to just eat the profits and not really pass them through to consumers in any meaningful way. So, you have this regulatory intervention that may have been well-intentioned to help consumers, but overall consumers are actually being hurt.

On the macroprudential side, I’m working with Larry Summers—who was my advisor in graduate school—on trying to understand the extent to which stress tests are providing information that is accurate or feels right about the state of bank health, or if they’re painting an overly optimistic picture. If that’s the case, what kinds of modifications to the stress test do we envision that can help us get a more accurate picture about whether banks are going to be able to withstand the next crisis?
Sánchez Accepts “Awesome Responsibility” As First Latino Chief Judge in Eastern District of PA

The Hon. Juan Sánchez ’81 made history in August when he became the first Latino chief judge in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

“It’s an awesome responsibility,” Judge Sánchez said, adding that he is cognizant of the need to excel as the first Latino in his position who is also following a long line of venerable predecessors.

As chief judge, he oversees the budget and operations of the Court, including the Clerk’s Office, the Probation Office and the Pretrial Services Office. He also serves as a point of contact between the Court and outside groups, including law enforcement and other courts. Not to mention that Judge Sánchez—who teaches law courses at Villanova and Temple law schools as well another class for Temple undergraduates — has to maintain his own docket.

Judge Sánchez said he’d like to focus on making sure the Court operates efficiently and takes care to spend taxpayer dollars wisely. He’s also interested in increasing jury diversity and said he’d like to put together an educational program for communities in the district. “Our jury system is a big part of what we do,” Judge Sánchez said. “When people participate, it allows for better understanding and builds trust in our system.”

He’d also like to improve the Court’s pro se law clerk program, which often handles habeas corpus petitions and prisoner civil rights cases. “We need help reviewing the massive files that come along,” he said, adding the Court currently has at least 26 active capital habeas corpus cases.

Judge Sánchez, 62, is humble about his new role, saying he happens to be the most senior judge in the district under the age of 65, which is the standard for choosing a new chief.

After graduating from Penn Law, he served two years as a Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellow at Legal Aid of Chester County. The only Spanish-speaking lawyer in the office, he worked largely with migrant workers on housing, health and employment issues.

He remained in Chester County as an assistant public defender for 14 years while also working part-time at night in civil practice. In 1998, he became a state judge in Chester County’s Court of Common Pleas. President George W. Bush nominated him to the federal bench in 2003, and he was confirmed without opposition in 2004. In 2016, U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts appointed him a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States’ Committee on Defender Services.

Judge Sánchez said the key to his success, dating back to the time when he was 12 and moved from Puerto Rico to New York City, has been his constant pursuit of knowledge in preparation for his next big opportunity.

Baseball has also played an integral role in his life. As a teen, it was his social silver bullet. “The kids called me all kinds of names until they discovered I was a good athlete,” Judge Sánchez said. “It was sort of a pathway to become accepted and become part of a group and thrive.” “It gave me great discipline, and the understanding I had to work hard to win and distinguish myself and also belong and contribute to making the team successful,” he said. He now enjoys watching his grandchildren play organized baseball.

Judge Sánchez said he relishes his new role, despite the immense responsibilities: “The cases are significant and pretty interesting,” he said. “It keeps you on your toes.”

WHEN PEOPLE PARTICIPATE, IT ALLOWS FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND BUILDS TRUST IN OUR SYSTEM.”

THE HONORABLE JUAN SÁNCHEZ L’81

https://scholarship.law.upenn.edu/plj/vol53/iss2/1
How to Fashion a Class in Fashion Law

Even though it concerns fashion law, Lee Sporn’s course offers a window into what it’s like to serve as in-house counsel at companies who engage in creative endeavors.

A lecturer in law, Sporn is teaching the class again this fall. It covers labor and employment, intellectual property, advertising and marketing, commercial real estate, social media and ethics.

Sporn said what separates fashion law is its peculiar place in copyright law. “Apparel, and fashion law in general, is in some respects seen as under-protected by intellectual property laws in part because useful articles are not protected,” he said, explaining that there are gray areas when it comes to applied art on fashion, patterns, shapes and silhouettes. “Those parameters are something the courts have been struggling with a long time,” and even after the Supreme Court recently addressed the issue, the debate will continue.

Sporn is an industry veteran. After starting his law career at Proskauer Rose, he joined Polo Ralph Lauren in 1990. “I had no idea who Ralph Lauren was, I didn’t know anything about fashion,” he said. But he flourished there for 11 years and eventually served as the company’s vice president for intellectual property and associate general counsel, where he was responsible for worldwide intellectual property enforcement, licensing and a variety of commercial and compliance matters.

From there he joined Kasper A.S.L., Ltd., which owned Anne Klein and Kasper brands, as senior vice president and general counsel. In those roles, he helped turn the company around through bankruptcy filing. He went on in 2003 to work for Michael Kors at a time when the company had just one store and 40 employees.

“It was a very exhausting and exhilarating experience,” Sporn said, describing how he saw the Michael Kors company expand to 13,000 employees and open hundreds of stores globally. He retired last fall, when he began lecturing at Penn Law. In January, he joined Olshan Frome Wolosky as of counsel.

The Penn Law course wasn’t his first foray into teaching fashion law. A few years ago, Sporn was the co-creator and co-director of Cardozo Law School’s Fashion, Arts, Media and Entertainment Law Center (FAME). Upon moving to Devon, Pa., he wanted to continue teaching, which led him to sign on as a lecturer at Penn Law School and Villanova School of Law.

“I love it, and I think it’s fascinating,” Sporn said of his course subject. “My hope is that (students) develop an in-house counsel perspective on what it takes to advise a business on a whole bunch of substantive areas, because the skills are fundamentally the same.”
The use of mediation has grown exponentially since its origins in such relational settings as family, labor-relations and community-based conflicts. As the process has become a predominant mode of dispute resolution across all civil conflicts, law students with diverse professional interests and practitioners from widely varying fields of practice now seek to acquire knowledge of the role, skills and mindset of the mediator, as well as competence in navigating that process on behalf of a client. *The Practice of Mediation*, introduced in 2008 to meet the emerging demand for theoretical and practice-oriented instruction in this field, was the first book to combine all-original text with video.

Excerpts from three unscripted video case studies (based on real cases, conducted by professional neutrals with widely varying styles) are interspersed throughout the book. These clips are designed to illustrate differing mediator approaches and to stimulate critical student thinking about the role and skill choices and ethical challenges presented at key moments in the process.

Reflecting the burgeoning use of mediation in the commercial dispute context, the third edition of this comprehensive text introduces emerging trends in mediator practices stemming from growth in that sector. Given the body of social science findings that demonstrate the unconscious cognitive and partisan biases that can interfere with the objectivity of the judgment of disputants and their lawyers and impede or inflame negotiations, the new edition includes discussion of these phenomena and new text and video on the diagnostic and persuasive interventions by which a mediator might overcome them when they arise. Finally, the new edition builds on its interwoven text and video to provide practice-oriented problems that can be employed to enhance and assess student learning as the course of study and training progresses.
This first-of-its-kind volume sketches the extremely diverse legal landscape in the United States on a full range of criminal law doctrines, including substantive criminal law issues from every major part of state criminal codes, as well as important issues in punishment theory and criminal procedure. Readers will see that the states differ widely on their approaches to murder, attempt liability, the insanity defense, drug offenses, and many more issues. Beyond providing this mountain of research on the most important criminal law rules, this volume raises new awareness of the enormous diversity among the states and documents that diversity in an exciting way—through dozens of visually-coded maps that are sure to pique the interests of political scientists, criminologists, sociologists, legal scholars, policy advisors, legislators, judges, and lawyers. Each chapter is highly accessible to laypersons and includes an explanation of the subject matter of the chapter as well as explanations of the various approaches taken by the states.

Can a Crime Make Our World Safer?

Can crimes be the worst of humanity’s wrongs, but, oddly, they sometimes “trigger” improvement in our lives. Crimes That Changed Our World (now available in an audiobook) explores some of the most important trigger cases of the past century, revealing much about how change comes to our modern world.

The exact nature of the crime-outrage-reform dynamic can take many forms, and Paul and Sarah Robinson explore those differences in the cases they present. Each case is in some ways unique but there are repeating patterns that can offer important insights about what produces change and how in the future we might best manage it.

Sometimes reform comes as a society wrestles with a new and intolerable problem. Sometimes it comes because an old problem from which we have long suffered suddenly has an apparent solution provided by technology or some other social or economic advance. Or, sometimes the engine of reform kicks into gear simply because we decide as a society that we are no longer willing to tolerate a long-standing problem and are now willing to do something about it.

As the amazing and often touching stories that the Robinsons present make clear, the path of progress is not just a long series of course corrections; sometimes it is a quick turn or an unexpected lurch. In a flash we can suddenly feel different about present circumstances, seeing a need for change and can often, just as suddenly, do something about it.
Sole Survivor of Famous Reality Show Credits Legal Skills for his Victory

For the first time in 36 seasons, Survivor host Jeff Probst announced a tie vote for the reality show’s million-dollar winner.

For the live finale episode last spring, all eyes were glued to the weathered strip of parchment—a tie-breaking vote cast by the second-runner up—clutched in Probst’s hands. When he revealed the name of Wendell Holland L’11, underlined twice and adorned with hearts, the audience went wild. Holland, seated nearby, jumped out of his seat and gave the other finalist, Domenick Abbate, a hug as his family stormed the stage.

“It was just a great, great moment, and I felt like I was on top of the world,” Holland said. “It felt like I’d won a championship.”

In a way, he had. As sole Survivor, Holland had outwitted, outplayed and outlasted 19 other contestants over the course of 39 days in the wilds of Fiji. The reality show begins with two teams, or tribes, competing for immunity from having to vote someone off the tribe. Eventually, the tribes merge and with each episode, one player is voted out of the game until one of the final two is voted the winner. In this instance, the second-runner up cast the tie-breaking vote.

Though the show was physically demanding—Holland finished the game 26 pounds lighter—he said it was more of a psychological challenge. His initial strategy was maintaining a low profile. That meant keeping his Penn Law degree under wraps.

“I didn’t want to come off as super smart or anything more than just a cool guy that makes furniture,” Holland said. The furniture part was true: After a couple of judicial clerkships in Philadelphia, Holland discovered that his passion for crafting wooden furniture was a viable business. The Lower Merion, Pa.
Penn Law Signs Agreement with London School of Economics

Under an agreement with the London School of Economics and its Political Science Law department, Penn Law JD students will be able to spend the fall semester of their third year enrolled in LSE Law’s LLM (Master of Law) program.

The agreement accommodates up to three law students per year.

Courses offered will include arbitration, human rights, international law, corporate, commercial, and financial law.

“Students selected to study at LSE Law will have the opportunity to build global peer networks while studying at one of the most prestigious academic institutions in the UK, in the heart of London,” said Penn Law Dean Ted Ruger. “This agreement offers students a course of study in law from different perspectives, jurisdictions, and disciplines, while providing a unique opportunity for our students to engage with peers from all over the world and a faculty with a well-deserved global reputation for excellence.”

Apart from the partnership with LSE, Penn Law offers opportunities for study abroad at Hong Kong University, Waseda, Tsinghua, Sciences Po and ESADE, providing students who choose this path a deeper knowledge of foreign law.

Located in the heart of London, LSE Law’s LLM offers the highest quality of teaching in small group seminar settings provided by leading international and UK academics. Their approach to the teaching of law combines views and experiences from different disciplinary traditions and jurisdictions, ensuring that what students learn at LSE Law is relevant to legal study and practice in any jurisdiction.
The Regulatory Review Approaches Its Tenth Anniversary

Bitcoin...climate change...immigration...cost-benefit analysis. These are just a few issues that Penn Law students encounter each week as they publish The Regulatory Review, the Penn Program on Regulation's flagship publication.

For nearly ten years, the student writers and editors who run the publication have produced cutting-edge news, analysis, and commentary. And they do so every weekday of the year—including holidays, spring and summer breaks, and exam periods.

A globally recognized online source for incisive writing about all topics regulatory, The Regulatory Review has attracted among its contributing authors sitting U.S. legislators (for example, Senators Orrin Hatch, Mike Lee, Elizabeth Warren, and Sheldon Whitehouse), members of the federal judiciary, heads of administrative agencies, leading practicing lawyers, and the foremost legal scholars, economists, and other academic researchers at Penn Law and law schools and universities around the world.

The Regulatory Review started in 2009 under the name, RegBlog. About two years ago, the Penn Program on Regulation announced the publication's new name and launched a new website for readers at www.TheRegReview.org.

"The Regulatory Review" better reflects the caliber and quality of the long-form essays that we publish and the level of exacting effort that editing a daily publication entails," said Kim Kirschenbaum L'17, who, as the then-editor-in-chief of RegBlog—and subsequently, the inaugural editor-in-chief of The Regulatory Review—spearheaded the effort to rename the publication and rebuild its website.

"The new name fits perfectly," noted Cary Coglianese, the Edward B. Shils Professor of Law and Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania. Coglianese also serves as the director of the Penn Program on Regulation and the faculty advisor to The Regulatory Review.

"The reality is that RegBlog was never a blog per se — but rather a source of highly readable, very informative essays on a wide range of vital legal and policy issues," Coglianese said.

The Regulatory Review specializes in content addressing all facets of administrative law, legislation, and regulatory policy. It covers a broad range of regulatory subjects, including substantive issues ranging from "fintech" to the sharing economy, as well as cross-cutting issues such as administrative procedural reform.

"Regulation touches on some of the most vital issues facing society," observed Sarah Madigan L'19, who serves as current editor-in-chief. "The Regulatory Review performs an important public service by making these issues more accessible to both policy leaders and members of the public," she noted.

In addition, students involved in publishing The Regulatory Review participate in a year-long seminar taught by Coglianese, in which they learn about advanced issues in administrative law and regulation, hone their professional skills, and enjoy the opportunity to have their own writing considered for publication in The Regulatory Review.

Former participants say that they "find these writing skills useful long after they graduate," notes Jonathan Mincer L'12, the founding student editor-in-chief of The Regulatory Review's predecessor, RegBlog. Students also gain the satisfaction of producing a widely read publication that "provides the public with reliable, authoritative information on regulatory actions that can have a profound impact on people's lives," Mincer adds.

To read The Regulatory Review, visit www.TheRegReview.org, where you can also sign up for a weekly newsletter or social media feeds.
164.4 million

FY18 COMMITMENTS

$164.4 million

FY18 ENDOWMENT COMMITMENTS

$7.8 million

ANNUAL GIVING

$3 million

STUDENT SUPPORT

$4.7 million

CENTERS & INSTITUTES

$1.4 million

TOTAL NUMBER OF DONORS

4,081
Foster Homes for Fido

After 35 years of a successful law career in business, real estate, tax and corporate securities, Buzz Miller W’62, L’66 couldn’t ignore the feeling that something was missing in his life.

He led a comfortable lifestyle with his wife, Judi Goldstein — they live on the Main Line in Gladwyne, Pa. “I said to her that the money’s good, but I just can’t see doing this another five or 10 years — I’m just getting paid and doing the same thing, and not making a difference in the world.”

So, a dozen years ago, Miller liquidated his law practice and began focusing on something he genuinely cared about: the special bond between humans and animals. “I’ve loved animals since I was a little kid, and I’ve been rescuing animals for over 30 years,” he said.

He wrote articles about it for two newspapers, lectured in animal law, started a chapter of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund at Penn Law and opened a pet store that he largely used as a platform for guest lectures about the Human-Animal Bond.

Then he kept hearing stories about young soldiers weeping on the floors of animal shelters after dropping off their pets, usually dogs, before leaving for a military deployment. “Once I did some research, I discovered no one was doing anything about it,” Miller said. “This is a national disgrace.”

In 2011, he founded the nonprofit PACT (People + Animals = Companions Together) with the goal of securing foster homes for pets of soldiers who can’t find temporary care during deployments, which last an average of eight months.

By the end of the year, PACT, whose services are free, will have fostered about 800 pets, as the organization’s reach has expanded from its Philadelphia roots to the whole country. The organization isn’t limited to helping the military, either. A couple of years ago, someone at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) heard about PACT and sought Miller’s help in a desperate situation: doctors couldn’t conduct major heart surgery on a child due to his distress after learning that his mom, staying at the area Ronald McDonald House, had to give away their dog.

Miller located the dog at a shelter and within 24 hours, placed it in a PACT foster home. The dog was later reunited with the mother and boy, who had successful surgery. Today, PACT finds pet foster homes for families with children at CHOP and every other children’s hospital in the Delaware Valley. PACT has also expanded its services to certain adult patients in critical hospital care.

Reunions between animal and owner — many of which PACT has on video — are generally filled with furiously wagging tails and tears of joy.

PACT is selective with its fosters: applicants must submit a seven-page, single-spaced application, and a PACT representative tours their homes before approving them. Foster providers, who are not paid for their services, are required to send pictures to the pet’s owner at least once a month, along with a report and videos. Currently, about 200 foster homes are available in the Delaware Valley, along with 200 more nationwide.

Miller said the need for pet fosters for military members and families with children in the hospital reaches into the tens of thousands, and that he hopes to continue expanding PACT’s efforts.

He wouldn’t trade his new career for his former life.

“I find what I do now is much more enjoyable and interesting,” Miller said. “When I leave this world, I can say we saved the lives of a couple thousand animals — and made a lot of kids and military members happy.”

All of Miller’s Human-Animal Bond services are pro bono. For more information, visit PACT’s website at pactforanimals.org.
Buzz Miller W’62, L’66 finds homes for animals whose owners can’t take care of them.
Legalized Betting Scrambling Sports

The U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling that effectively nationalized sports betting figures to change the way fans watch sports and the way officials regulate sports.

“The whole landscape is changing very dramatically and very quickly,” said Randall Boe ’87, the new commissioner of the Arena Football League (AFL), which has relocated its headquarters from Las Vegas to Philadelphia.

No rookie, Boe comes to the job with extensive experience in professional sports, serving as executive vice president and general counsel for Monumental Sports & Entertainment, a Washington, D.C., company that owns and operates, among other entities, the NBA’s Washington Wizards, the WNBA’s Washington Mystics, and the Washington Capitals.

Boe is counting on sports betting to increase AFL viewership. He’s been working with several partners to integrate, by next spring, sports betting with game viewing on phones and tablets.

“We think being able to sit at a game and place wagers, or sit at home and do the same thing, is going to drive the popularity of the league and engagement,” Boe said.

While it is easy to envision a proliferation of football pools, the Supreme Court’s ruling is sending shockwaves through all sports—even golf. At the PGA Tour, the ruling has been keeping Leonard Brown ’99, who is chief legal counsel and an executive leadership team member, traveling across the country and working on new integrity policies.

Brown has been with the PGA Tour for 13 years. In that role, he manages the legal department and oversees licensing.

The legal repercussions of sports betting, Brown said, have created virtually a new full-time job.

“I’ve been going state to state to those interested in passing the last thing any sport wants is a scandal. I think we’ll be dancing on the razor’s edge for quite some time.”

Leonard Brown ’99
Chief Legal Counsel, PGA Tour
To avoid that perception, Brown said, is his top priority. “We legislate with respect to sports betting,” Brown said. “We’re working very closely with the MLB and NBA and have a coalition about safe, responsible sports betting and maintaining integrity of our sport, including use of official data.”

The coalition, he said, is also seeking royalties. He said it’s often been referred to as an “integrity fee,” which is a misnomer. Leagues are requesting royalties, he said, partly to cover the expense of increased monitoring of sports integrity and partly to recover revenue from bets placed on their sports.

But maintaining golf’s integrity, Brown said, is his top priority. “We don’t want fans to (think)... that there’s been some illegal activity attached to our sports,” he said. To avoid that perception, Brown is working to ensure that both people closely associated with golf and minors cannot bet, that betting irregularities are monitored, that the tour is not contributing to gambling addiction and that gambling is done responsibly.

“The last thing any sport wants is a scandal,” Brown said. “I think we’ll be dancing on the razor’s edge for quite some time.”

As professional sports leagues balance the tightrope of legalized sports betting, they’re also racing to keep up with technology that has radically changed fans’ viewing habits.

As part of the PGA Tour’s executive leadership team, Brown is plugged into how social media platforms can reach fans and offer them content when and where they want it. Growth, it seems, is inextricably linked with social media, and Brown said the tour is using those platforms to diversify and broaden its fan base. “In order to grow and be relevant, we need to be interesting to a kid who’s watching the World Cup or who cares where LeBron (James) ended up,” he said.

At Monumental Sports, Boe is well-acquainted with the use of social media to draw fans. That’s because from its inception in 2009, the company hasn’t just been a team-owning conglomerate. “We looked at sports as a business, not just about selling tickets and hot dogs; we saw it as a media platform,” said Boe. “So we went and developed one of the first team-owned, over-the-top streaming platforms, launched in 2013.”

Over-the-top streaming is the term used for television content accessed through the Internet that bypasses a traditional cable subscription service. Monumental Sports offers a subscription service that streams AFL and Mystics games, exclusive content from the company’s professional teams, college and high school sports, and soon, NBA G League games.

He views his new role with the NFL as a start-up opportunity with potential for a new content platform. The professional indoor football league has four teams. Boe is actively working to expand to new cities, and he’s been experimenting with making AFL games more engaging and interactive by allowing viewers to choose camera angles on their tablet or phone. Viewing options include robo-cams above the field, cameras on referees’ and spectators’ hats, and helmet cameras.

“What we’ve found is millennials prefer to look from above and behind, because that’s the same view as in video games,” Boe said. Still, Boe understands that, at bottom, sports are about the connection between community and team — which he saw firsthand when Washingtonians united after the Capitals’ Stanley Cup victory last season. “Ultimately, we’re in the business of making memories,” he said. “That is part of the power of sports.”

Penn Law to Accept GRE, GMAT in Pilot Program

All applicants to the University of Pennsylvania Law School’s JD degree program will have the option to take the LSAT, GRE, or GMAT admissions tests as part of a pilot program launched by the school.

Penn Law is the first law school in the country to accept the GMAT. “Penn Law is the leader in cross-disciplinary curriculum and degree offerings, and this pilot program aims to build on those strengths,” said Ted Ruger, dean of Penn Law. “This new initiative allows applicants who plan to take the GMAT or GRE, particularly those interested in our joint degree programs such as our many partnerships with Wharton, including the Francis J. and Wm. Polk Carey JD/MBA program, or our Law and Technology joint degrees with Penn Engineering, to support their application to Penn Law with a single test.”

The hallmarks of the Penn Law experience are a cross-disciplinary, globally-focused legal education, and a vibrant intellectual community. Penn Law prepares graduates to navigate an increasingly complex world as leaders and influential decision-makers in the law and related fields.

Penn Law’s pilot program was announced as the American Bar Association is preparing to vote on whether to drop the requirement that law schools use the LSAT in admissions testing.

Opponents of the ABA measure say that eliminating the use of the LSAT would hurt both law schools and those applying to law schools. However, those in favor of eliminating the LSAT requirement say that those students who have taken other admissions tests, namely the GRE, have not fallen behind those students who got into law school by taking the LSAT.
Before high cholesterol, before lactose intolerance, before the rise of convenience stores, Wawa ran a dairy farm and distributed milk. The company processed 5,000 bottles an hour and, always the innovator, used those newfangled motorcars rather than horses or wagons to deliver its product to market. But alas, the home delivery business began to falter in the early 1960s, and by 1964, Wawa took on the persona we know today: Wawa Food Markets, of which there are more than 800 in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Florida and Washington, D.C. In the process it has become a cult destination on the East Coast. By the way, Wawa, led by Chairman Richard D. Wood Jr. L’64, still sells milk under its own label.
“WE WANT TO CREATE A PROGRAM WHERE THE END GOAL WILL BE LAWYERS ARE MENTORING US, WE ARE MENTORING THE UNDERGRADS, AND THE UNDERGRADS, IN TURN, ARE MENTORING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.”

AKBAR HOSSAIN
First Generation Professionals

New Group Connects First Generation Law Students

Three Penn Law School students are establishing a group called First Generation Professionals, which seeks to help students that come from similar backgrounds to connect and to mentor younger first-generation students.

The three law students, Chet Eckman, Akbar Hossain and Steven Miller, each a year apart, were connected by Penn Law Dean of Students Monica Monroe after each student separately approached her with a similar idea. Together they co-founded the First Generation Professionals affinity group at Penn Law.

The group held an event for first-generation, low-income undergraduates who are potentially interested in applying to law school. The group plans on holding similar events in the future to help fulfill the mentorship aspect of their mission.

“By the time you get to law school, or any professional school, there’s the assumption that the playing field is even,” Hossain said. “But I think what people forget is the experiences of a first-generation student — the experiences we come with, the stories that we bring — are completely different from the regular student that goes to law school.”

“When the Career Services’ office looked at that, they said, ‘What is this? This is not something we normally see on a resume. Maybe you want to take it off as you apply to law firms.’”

But Eckman maintained that the job was a reflection of who he is and of what connects him to his background.

“It was a job that was a really hard job for me, and it showed me I was going to be the type of person who would make sure that I can accomplish my goals,” he said.

Monroe has continued to work with the First Generation Professionals group after helping the students connect this past January. She discussed her upbringing and work experience as a first-generation professional during a panel discussion.

“I think that’s what led me to the work that I’m doing today,” she said. “As dean of students, the last thing I want for any student — regardless of background — is to not have information that would benefit them. I’ve been drawn to this work because I want to be able to share what I’ve learned with other students in an effort to help them reach their maximum potential.”

The goal of mentorship and advocacy is reflected in the goals of the new affinity group. Hossain said the First Generation Professionals group was founded with four purposes: networking, mentorship, a place for reflection and advocacy. His ultimate vision for the group is to span across all of Penn’s professional schools to create a bridge for mentorship.

“We want to create a program where the end goal will be lawyers are mentoring us, we are mentoring the undergrads, and the undergrads, in turn, are mentoring high school students,” he said. “We can create a bridge for students to understand what this process is like.”

By Wesley Sheker.
This article originally ran in the Daily Pennsylvanian.
How They Made It to the Show
Welcome to Pennlandia, a province in Hollywood where writers furnish provocative scripts, bigwigs cut megadeals, and producers discover hot new talent. This is the story of Penn Law alumni who struck it big in Tinseltown.

By Larry Teitelbaum

John Musero W’93, L’96 was working as a lawyer at Columbia Pictures. He negotiated talent agreements and production and development deals for movies. Nothing wrong with that. Good honest day’s work. But he longed to write for a living. He deconstructed movie scripts in his spare time. He wanted to produce art that touched a nerve in people. He just needed an in.

Musero kept at his workaday life as his sister Monica hopped on a hotel elevator in New York one day on her way to meet some friends for drinks. She struck up a conversation with a fellow passenger. Turned out he was visiting from Los Angeles. Curious, she asked him what he did there. He replied, rather modestly, some television and movies.

Sensing an opportunity, she told him her brother was an aspiring writer in Los Angeles. The man asked for samples of his work, then handed her a slip with his name and email. On it he wrote Aaron Sorkin. Yeah, Aaron Sorkin, creator of A Few Good Men and The West Wing and winner of five Emmys, two Golden Globes, and an Academy Award. That Aaron Sorkin.

A skeptical Musero sent an email, never quite believing that Sorkin would be on the receiving end. Several days later, he met with Sorkin. And then two months after that, he joined the writing team for the final season of The Newsroom — his first writing job, for God’s sake!

Call it serendipity, a dream come true, a for-real fairy tale. Whatever. Musero’s tale, however improbable, is but one of a tapestry of stories from alumni hellbent on finding success in Hollywood. At least 50
Penn Law alumni work in the entertainment industry in Los Angeles, whether as studio heads, writers, producers, talent agents or attorneys. Like Musreo, a former prosecutor and native of Cherry Hill, N.J, some of them chucked it all and moved to LA for a shot at fame and fortune — well, at least fortune. Herewith a few of their stories.

Bored with law, funny man hits the road with all his earthly possessions. Settles into makeshift apartment. “Discovered” by famous TV honcho. Success follows, as do 100-hour weeks.

The goal of baseball players is to make it to “The Show,” the term of art for the major leagues, used to such good effect in the film, Bull Durham.

Keith Eisner L’93 has made it to the big leagues in Hollywood. He’s traveled far from his first gig as a writer on a game show called Strip Poker to the bright lights of Designated Survivor, a short-lived but well-received political drama about a cabinet member who ascends to the presidency after the president and everyone else in the line of succession is killed in an explosion. During the second (and final) season, Eisner was the showrunner, a catch-all description for someone who oversees scripts, approves casting, and coordinates with the studio and network, among myriad other 24–7 responsibilities and headaches.

For Eisner, getting there has been half the fun.

Eisner was a Wall Street lawyer after law school. Not his thing. His car could have sported a bumper sticker, “I’d rather be a TV writer.” He had been the managing editor of his college newspaper at Cornell and wrote columns for the Daily Pennsylvanian while at Penn Law, where he was managing editor of the University of Pennsylvania Law Review. Hoping for a new career, he wrote and submitted a half-hour spec script for Seinfeld to an agent, got good feedback, so he loaded up his truck and moved to... West LA.

In 1998, the 30-year-old Eisner drove cross country in a U-Haul with his clothing, books, desk, futon, computer, pots and pans, arriving in Los Angeles with no place to stay. He didn’t know a soul. The North Jersey native had only been to Southern California once before, for a summer associate job interview. He settled temporarily in a furnished apartment, the housing equivalent of a studio lot.

For two-and-a-half years he did contract legal work while toiling on intermittent jobs, among other things writing jokes for Drew Carey as a consultant on Whose Line is it Anyway? Eisner said he would work at a law firm during the day and dream jokes at night, waking up numerous times over the course of the evening to leave himself voicemails; in the morning he would
play the recordings back and race to the studio to deliver six or seven jokes.

Eisner worked day and night to stay afloat until a one-hour drama spec he wrote found its way to Steven Bochco, the creator of several hit television shows including Hill Street Blues, L.A. Law, and NYPD Blue. Bochco was looking for writers for a new show called Philly about a female lawyer in the City of Brotherly Love. Perfect.

The show didn’t last but it launched Eisner, who went on to work on NYPD Blue, Gilmore Girls, Shark, Graves, Law and Order, and The Good Wife, for which he was executive producer.

That led to Eisner’s recent one-year run as showrunner for Designated Survivor—a job he described as a “battlefield commission.” He was hired to doctor the scripts and the concept, and ended up clocking 100-hour weeks, he said, working harder than he ever did at his law firm.

Today, Eisner is a consulting producer on the show, Madam Secretary. On the side he’s developing several projects that he hopes will see airtime.

“I’ve had kind of a weird career,” said Eisner. “I’ve written jokes and then I’ve written for Law and Order.”

Reflecting on his success, Eisner said, “Unrewarded talent is something that is quite common in Hollywood, and in writing. You need a little bit of fortune. When you get the fortune, you have to grab it.”

Musero grabbed his opportunity with both hands. Like Eisner, he left a stable career to gamble on Hollywood. He served as a prosecutor in the Philadelphia District Attorney’s office in the mid-1990s. He loved the drama of the courtroom, where he got to showcase his innate gift for storytelling. After a year at Pepper Hamilton, Musero could no longer ignore the gravitational pull of show business. So, 15 years ago, Musero scheduled a round of interviews in LA and silenced skeptics—who doubted he could make the jump to entertainment and from litigation to transactions—by landing an in-house job as a lawyer at Columbia Pictures.

For seven years he negotiated talent deals on movies such as Hitch and Big Fish. Meanwhile, he studied movie scripts and took screenwriting courses, analyzing what elicited an emotional reaction. And then, out of the blue, Sorkin came calling.

Right place, right time, right experience.

Musero said Sorkin, who comes from a family of lawyers, appreciated his background as a prosecutor. None of the other writers were lawyers. This gave him an advantage considering that the final season storyline of The Newsroom would feature a legal battle between the news network and the Justice Department over leaked documents.

“It was one of the thrills of my career,” Musero said. “There’s nothing like being in a writers’ room. It’s kind of like basketball. You’re playing with a team every day. There’s a dynamic, there’s a chemistry of people feeding off each other’s creativity. You discover things you otherwise wouldn’t have discovered on your own.”

Did Musero’s quicksilver experience with Aaron Sorkin punch his ticket? Not really. Musero learned rather quickly that, unless you’re a name brand, the hustle never ends. After teaming again with Sorkin as a consultant on Molly’s Game, Sorkin’s feature film directorial debut about a woman’s epic underground poker game, Musero is developing a West Wing-like series that will take viewers behind the scenes of the U.S. Attorney General’s office. He’s also working on a show called Propaganda, a conspiracy thriller about information warfare.

“It’s far from a stable path even when you’ve made it,” said Musero. “Yes, you have to be incredibly talented. Talent is necessary but it’s far from sufficient. The jobs in a writers’ room are so few and far between, and there’s so many people and so many gatekeepers, as well as other elements out of your control, that when things break your way, you feel incredibly fortunate.”

Roger Wolfson L’92 agrees with Musero: the industry is fiercely competitive. “There’s probably more talent per square foot in Los Angeles than any other city in the world,” Wolfson observed in a Los Angeles Times article in 2011.

The odds of making it are daunting. “It requires you to get over yourself,” he said. “You have to look hard at yourself in the mirror and ask what is holding me back, and you’re going to have to overcome it.”

As it turns out, Wolfson shares a show business lineage with John Musero. On a lark, Wolfson sent a 13-page, detail-rich memo on the U.S. Senate to Lawrence O’Donnell, whom he knew from the corridors of Congress. Both had worked for the U.S. Senate. O’Donnell, now a host on MSNBC, was, at the time, leaving his job as a writer for The West Wing, to helm a new NBC TV series starring Josh Brolin as a senator.

O’Donnell invited Wolfson, who was living in New York, to come to Los Angeles to talk. When Wolfson arrived, O’Donnell had Wolfson’s highlighted memo in hand. Wolfson assumed O’Donnell wanted him to write for the new show. By Wolfson’s account, O’Donnell laughed and told him he needed sample scripts and an agent. First step, he gave him an assignment to write a West Wing script.

Wolfson said he diagrammed Aaron Sorkin’s scripts like legal opinions, applying what he learned in law school. He examined how Sorkin reveals characters, how he drives story, and the number of subplots per episode. He sent the script to talent agencies and landed at Creative Artists Agency, the powerhouse company that represents Aaron Sorkin and Steven Spielberg.

But that’s where the similarities with Musero end. Wolfson forged his Hollywood career out of tragedy. A drama major at Vassar, Wolfson went to law school in response to his parents’ goading — his mother was...
If you're going to ask a million people to give you an hour of their time once a week you should have an idea that's worthy of their attention.

ROGER WOLFSON L'92

a lawyer, his father a doctor — that he could not earn a living in a creative profession.

After law school, Wolfson worked at several law firms, and then dipped his toe in politics. He was, variously, legislative assistant, counsel and speechwriter for four senators: Joe Lieberman, John Kerry, Ted Kennedy and Paul Wellstone. During this period, he also earned a master’s degree in creative writing from Johns Hopkins.

On October 25, 2002, the 58-year-old Wellstone was on his way to a funeral in his home state of Minnesota when his plane crashed, killing everyone on board. “It made me realize how short life is,” Wolfson reflected. “I knew people on that plane. That’s when I realized I had to try something different with my life.”

“I bought a sailboat and I sailed halfway around the world, and I ran a political consulting firm from the deck of the boat.”

In March 2003, Wolfson moved to Los Angeles. Within three months he was writing for a television show, Century City, a futuristic look at a law firm, that starred Viola Davis. Before that show even aired, Wolfson got an offer to join Law and Order: Special Victims Unit. He later worked on The Closer, Saving Grace, and Fairly Legal — all legal-themed shows.

Accounting for his rapid success, Wolfson said “luck favors the prepared. Law school helped. Law school gave me a work ethic.” Law school also taught him, along with politics, about the human condition, and gave him something to say.

“I don’t usually encourage people to come to Los Angeles just because they want to be successful or wealthy or famous,” Wolfson said. “If you’re going to ask a million people to give you an hour of their time once a week you should have an idea that’s worthy of their attention.”

Wolfson said the writer’s life is anything but glamorous. He said writers spend more time developing ideas and talking to networks and studios and to other writers than they do writing. He often pitches two different projects to two different networks on the same day. Right now, he’s developing two TV series, one with Dr. Drew Pinsky [aka Dr. Drew]; the second show, set in the US Embassy in Rome, revolves around international diplomacy.

President Obama’s message guru David Axelrod has said that political campaigns are like an MRI of the soul. Wolfson admitted that he had to do some soul searching himself after he arrived in Hollywood. Accustomed to the ways of Washington, which thrives on combat, Wolfson had to adapt to Hollywood, which runs on collaboration. There’s little you can do on your own, he said.

“You have to be much, much more gentle. Respecting every person’s process is a requirement. Nobody is against you. I didn’t get that right away. This town has made me a better person.”

For the first few years of his own odyssey, Keith Eisner was lonely, broke and at times filled with doubt. He’d go to coffee shops with his laptop and write, watching other young guys pound away on their keyboards. During hard times, he thought about his dream to write for television, and that sustained him.

Today, he’s reaching for the pinnacle of his profession, describing it in legal terms. He’s coming off a stint as a showrunner (law firm partner) and aiming to create a show (akin to starting his own law firm).

“It’s about effort and application as much as it is about anything else,” Eisner said. “A lot of people they have ambitions and they don’t pursue them, and their ambitions don’t bear fruit. I wasn’t guaranteed success and I didn’t think it was a sure thing. But I felt I was going to go out and give it a shot.”

Twenty years later, that’s what he’s still doing — giving it a shot.
HEATHER WASHINGTON L’06 faced several barriers when she set out to work in Hollywood as a woman and person of color. But she overcame those obstacles with a combination of elbow grease, faith and determination.

Unhappy with her job as a corporate attorney in Atlanta, Washington turned gumshoe. In addition to taking writing and production courses, workshops and networking at film festivals, she studied how another African-American woman — Debra Martin Chase, producer of *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* — made the transition from law to film.

Bingo!

She landed a spot in the Universal Pictures Leadership Program and was later hired to manage the studio’s Emerging Writers Fellowship, both of which were programs under the studio’s diversity initiatives. Programs like these seek to diversify an industry in which women and minorities are significantly underrepresented.

According to the annual Celluloid Ceiling report from San Diego State University, 88 percent of the top films in 2017 had no female director, 83 percent had no female writers, and 96 percent had no female cinematographers. Another study by the university examined multiple areas of the workforce and found that women only composed 17 percent of industry employees.

Washington is doing her best to address the disparity. Now a creative executive with Will Packer Productions, a film production company owned by an African-American producer, she keeps an eye out for potential directors, writers and actors for their films. Those lists, she said, always include women and people of color.

“I just feel that films are better when they reflect the world that we actually live in, where you see characters of all colors and all genders living a complete and full multifaceted life,” Washington said. “It makes it (the film) more accessible to audiences because they see a reflection of themselves on the screen.”

KALPANA KOTAGAL L’05 has put that view into action. Earlier this year, Kotagal, a partner at Cohen Milstein in Washington, D.C., co-authored the so-called inclusion rider, which provides a legal template to actors, directors or producers who want to negotiate for more diverse and inclusive hiring on the set. It was developed by Stacy Smith from the Annenberg Inclusion Initiative and drafted by Kotagal and Fanshen Cox DiGiavanni of Pearl Street Films.

The two-word equity clause made a splash at the Academy Awards when Oscar-winning actress Frances McDormand referred to it in her acceptance speech. Although she was asleep and missed the moment, the subject animates Kotagal.

“Woody Allen’s movies do not reflect the diversity, true ethnic and racial diversity, of New York and that’s...”
what we wanted to create,” said Kotagal, former articles editor of the University of Pennsylvania Law Review and James Wilson Fellow.

“It certainly came at a particular moment that was ready for it and I think Hidden Figures, Black Panther, there are all of a sudden a handful of these movies that really show us the power of other narratives... This is one piece of a broader puzzle about how we fix an industry that’s gone wrong in so many ways.”

That’s welcome news to TEHMINA JAFFER L’00.

“I do think there is some overt sexism. There are producers who feel ‘Oh, I don’t know if I want a woman for that,’” said Jaffer, Netflix’ director of original series.

That said, Jaffer finds Netflix a relatively relaxed and enlightened place to work, describing it as a hybrid between a start-up and a studio, still hard-charging but more collaborative and family-friendly than more traditional studios. At Netflix, she’s not tethered to the office all the time — perfect for a single mother of four-year-old twins.

The demands of a high-flying career with long hours and numerous responsibilities are not lost on Heather Washington, herself the mother of two children, 5 and 13, and wife of director/producer Delmar Washington.

“It’s a struggle. You want to be an amazing executive, but you also want to be an amazing spouse and mom. I’ve just learned to be really strategic with my time,” said Washington, who wakes up earlier than everyone else in her house, including on Saturdays and Sundays, so she can sneak some work in.

Washington needs that extra time. As a creative executive at Will Packer Productions, she reads dozens of scripts every week as well as books and newspaper articles looking for material that sings, that leaves a “distinct impression.”

Washington didn’t plan on being a movie midwife. She went to law school to prepare for a career as an entertainment lawyer. After graduation she returned home to Atlanta, which was not exactly a hub for entertainment lawyers. Forced to temporarily abandon her dream, Washington practiced corporate law for three years, but remained determined to realize her ambition.

In 2010, she took the plunge and moved to Los Angeles. It didn’t take long for her first big break: a slot in the Universal Pictures Leadership Program, a three-year studio executive training program.

While in the program, she received mentorship from senior executives and learned everything about
the business: publicity, marketing, production and development.

It laid a foundation for her next job at Universal as manager of the Emerging Writers Fellowship program, under which she hired five writers a year to write two or three scripts for the studio. During that time, Washington helped launch the careers of writers who are currently staffed on television series’ such as Bull (CBS), Colony (USA), Greendale (OWN), Manifest (NBC), and Salvation (CBS).

A year-and-a-half ago, Washington gained an even stronger creative foothold in the industry when she landed a creative executive position at Will Packer Productions. Packer—the house responsible for Ride Along with Kevin Hart and Girls Trip, a Time magazine top 10 film of 2017—gave her a platform to find new voices.

“I’m constantly reading scripts and novels and watching films, TV shows and reels… and saying, ‘Hey, this person has some talent. They have something new to say,’ ” Washington said.

Netflix, which Jaffer calls home, is a freewheeling television and movie streaming service cum network and studio where the cool kids play. This is the place that produces Orange is the New Black and Dear White People. And the place that oozes a Silicon Valley vibe, an anomaly in the more buttoned-up world of Mogulville.

As a closer for the company, Jaffer spends her days negotiating, cajoling and standing her ground with big-time agents and heavyweights like Neil Patrick Harris, Judd Apatow and Will Arnett.

There’s nothing cinematic about how she landed here. No going for broke. No covered wagon story of trekking West to start a new life. She simply returned home.

Truth is, she wanted to be in music. A disc jockey for Brown University’s radio station, Jaffer attended Penn Law School with the notion of being a lawyer for a record label or some subsidiary business. Then Napster, the pioneering online music sharing service, went down, in 1997. For Jaffer, it was The Day the Music Died.

She switched to Plan B after attending an on-campus panel discussion that featured media and entertainment executives. Following the discussion, Jaffer asked panelists how to break into the business. Their advice: work for a law firm first.

Which she did, spending five years in litigation at Latham & Watkins in Los Angeles. Not an ideal background for entertainment, Jaffer scuffled until she found a job in the Rights Group at NBC Universal, where she offered counsel, for example, on whether a TV series could be made from a movie or a theme park attraction based on a TV show could be built. She left for ABC then rejoined NBC.

Whether negotiating contracts at the alphabet networks or Netflix, one thing is unavoidable: you’re going to get into tangles. “I deal with some difficult personalities because I’m on the phone with agents all day long… I do think my litigation background has helped, because both talent agents and talent lawyers can be bulldogs at times, and you just have to remain calm and deal with it,” Jaffer said.

Jaffer said it is common to find women in the trenches on the business side. By her estimate, nearly half of the business workforce at Netflix are women. Not the case in leadership or in creative. Jaffer said as a woman of color, she’d have a hard time landing a high-profile executive position in Hollywood.

Could diverse movies be a harbinger of change? According to Heather Washington, Will Packer Productions is set to release a remake of What Women Want early next year. What Men Want is a distaff take on the original, which starred Mel Gibson as a cocky chauvinist who acquires the ability to hear what women are really thinking.

The new version follows a female sports agent—Taraji P. Henson, of Empire fame—who is regularly boxed out by the male sports agents in her profession, but gains an unexpected edge over them when she develops the ability to hear their thoughts. Art imitates life.

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The Master in Law program provides an in-depth course of study to graduate students from a wide range of disciplines and professionals from every corner of campus— who use this legal knowledge to inform their studies and their work, ultimately shaping their careers and their lives.

By Lindsay Podraza

Kendrick Davis GEN’14, GL’17, GR’18 had purchased the LSAT book. He’d just finished his master’s degree in engineering and was going full steam ahead in preparation for his law school applications. Law school, he said, had always been on his radar.

Then Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter’s administration created a position, through a STEM mentoring competition (US2020) launched at the 2013 White House Science Fair, to formulate a plan to increase STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education in Philadelphia. The initiatives would focus on traditionally underrepresented students, and they wanted Davis for the job.

“I really wasn’t interested at first,” Davis said. “But then I reconsidered. This is an opportunity that doesn’t just come around, and I could always go to law school.”

After working on strategies and launching stemcityphi.org, an online STEM resource center, Davis entered Penn’s Ph.D. program for higher education and again contemplated law school.

That’s when he heard about Penn Law’s new Master in Law degree. “The more I thought about it, I liked it,” Davis said. “I wasn’t going to leave and start practicing law, so I wouldn’t necessarily need a JD.”

The Master in Law (ML) degree is specially designed for professionals who want to expand their legal knowledge without becoming a lawyer. “It makes you a more complete professional by informing what you do with an understanding of the law that impacts your work,” said Catharine Restrepo L’93, the executive director of Penn Law’s Master in Law program.

That was certainly the case for Jenn Kistama GL’17, GNU’17, who was most recently a clinical project manager for the Weill–Cornell Medical Center at New York Presbyterian Hospital. She will soon start a new position as quality manager at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

Like Davis, Kistama had pictured herself going to law school someday, but her real passion led her to healthcare. While working full-time as a neonatal intensive care nurse, she earned her master’s in nursing at Penn, with a specialty in healthcare administration, and dove into the new Master in Law program, combining the two master’s degrees.
Anesthesiologist Ronald Litman GL'18, an early enrollee in the Master in Law program, emerged as an advocate for the regulation of anesthetic medications.
"I tell people all the time now that I don’t know how it happened, but I really found the perfect degree pairing for what I wanted to do," she said.

While she loved her work as a nurse, she also found herself questioning why things were done the way they were and if those were the best possible practices.

"I wanted to go into administration because I always wanted to be a change agent and make the healthcare system in this country better," she said.

Kistama served as a program manager for the Oncology Care Model, a federal alternative payment model that looks for new ways to reduce medical costs without compromising quality care.

Here, her long-term vision was to open an emergency unit specifically for cancer patients, with the goal of improving their care while also relieving overhead costs and high patient volume in the hospital’s emergency room.

“The law degree ties in nicely because I’m in a government division, and I’m able to know where regulations are coming from,” Kistama said. “And because I was able to take classes on healthcare reform, I was already familiar with the concept of alternative payment models before I had even heard about this job.”

Like Davis and Kistama, most students take the courses part-time in conjunction with their other graduate studies or full-time work. Since the start of the program in fall 2014, there have been 32 graduates, including 17 this past year.

“The Master in Law program is part of our core philosophy that not only is the law interconnected with many other fields and disciplines, but is also a reflection of our belief that the study of law is for everyone,” said Penn Law Dean Ted Ruger, one of the original architects of the program. “Our ML candidates reflect this—they are an incredibly diverse and accomplished group of professionals who will emerge from the program with vital legal knowledge that will help them in their jobs and careers and will benefit society.”

As the executive director of the Master in Law program, Catharine Restrepo L’93 leads the effort to educate professionals, academics and graduate students in the principles of law in their respective fields.

"The earliest idea for the program was to create a dual master’s degree for medical students at Penn to better prepare them for careers in the increasingly complex field of healthcare. But, Restrepo said, it became clear as the Law School developed the curriculum and the overall program that it could serve a much wider range of academics and professionals, benefiting Penn Law in the process by introducing experienced and informed voices to our law school classrooms and community.

Indeed, ML alumni and current students have come to the program from an incredibly diverse and sophisticated set of academic and professional backgrounds, according to Restrepo. These include graduate students from master’s to doctoral candidates and lettered professionals in fields such as healthcare, technology, business and finance, education, social work and public policy. Since the program uses rolling admissions, the composition of the students in the program fluctuates. At present, most of the ML students work or study in the health-related fields of medicine, research, healthcare leadership and privacy but also include a range of Penn faculty, engineers, compliance, audit and privacy analysts, grants professionals, administrators and financial analysts. Many candidates enter the program possessing advanced degrees or having taken significant graduate coursework in their fields.

What unites all of them is their desire to learn how the law informs their work, whether they’re reviewing contracts, treating patients, or, in the case of Pam Beatrice GR’97, G’11, G’14, GL’18, working with patents and commercializing Penn’s groundbreaking research and innovation.

In her role as director of the Engineering, Physical and Applied Sciences Licensing at Penn Center for Innovation, Beatrice secures and markets patents for Penn. With a Ph.D. in material science and engineering, Beatrice began exploring the law several years ago, taking a class on intellectual property taught by Penn Law professor David Abrams, and then another one
on patents by professor Polk Wagner. At that point she discovered the new Master in Law program, which allowed her to apply to her degree the law classes she had taken.

“It’s been extremely helpful,” she said. “I think understanding intellectual property in more detail has helped me talk to a broad range of people who are interested in learning about University technologies. It’s been very helpful to learn some basics about copyright and trademark because we do a limited number of copyright licenses and, in regards to trademarks, the University is not in the business of making things, so we don’t create trademarks.”

Beatrice, who graduated in May, said she appreciated the flexibility of the program — she took one class at a time over a period of five years. “The students and professors are very welcoming. They appreciate the different points of view and backgrounds that people bring to the classroom.”

Students begin the program by taking three foundational courses designed specifically for the degree: Introduction to U.S. Law and Legal Methods, Introduction to General Business Law, and Navigating the Regulatory State. Students then take a fourth course from the foundational curriculum focusing in their area of specialty, such as healthcare, technology, or compliance. Because students generally earn this degree part-time, while pursuing other degrees or working full-time, most foundational classes are offered at night. Potential degree candidates can also try a class or two before formally committing to the program.

“Students are integrated into the Law School at a comfortable pace with support from throughout the Law School,” Restrepo said.

Upon completion of the foundational courses, students then take courses from the standard JD offerings that correspond with their specific interests. He said he’s glad he completed the program because having greater knowledge about the law is helping him in his work in higher education and on education reform. “It’s such a complex legal framework in which education reform happens that most people, even educators, even leaders within the school districts, don’t understand it,” Davis said. “So I felt like in order for me to be an effective educator, policy maker, education advocate or even youth advocate, I needed to have a better understanding of the law and be able to have those conversations.”

Having graduated from the ML program in 2017 and receiving his Ph.D. in 2018, Davis has landed the prestigious American Educational Research Association (AERA) Congressional Fellowship in Washington, D.C. through the American Educational Research Association (AERA).

Earlier this fall, Davis scored a big job as a policy advisor to U.S. Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA). He’ll be a member of her health, education and labor team.

At this point, admissions are highly controlled as the applicant pool for the degree program is limited to current Penn graduate students and staff and recently University alumni. Restrepo said there is tremendous interest from professionals outside of the Penn community. As such, Penn Law is considering future expansion, possibly through targeted, industry-specific partnerships.

Restrepo is not the only one looking to the future. Ronald Litman, among the early enrollees in the degree program, is an anesthesiologist at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, a member of the faculty at Penn Medicine, and a longtime medical malpractice expert witness.

A medical malpractice case he learned about years ago caught his attention, prompting his interest in medical regulation. A child died on the operating table due to receiving the wrong medication. To Dr. Litman’s surprise, there were no regulations regarding administration of anesthetic medication.

A recent graduate of the Master in Law program, Dr. Litman envisions the degree giving him the credentials and intellectual ballast to advocate for needed change through strategic writing and speaking. And, to him, the ability to draw on his newfound legal knowledge in service to others, while also advancing his career, is a priceless benefit of his participation in the program. ♦

KISTAMA SAID JUMPING FROM hands-on work in labs to theoretical reading and discussions was initially a big adjustment. “It’d be lying if I said it was easy,” she said. “Like any 1L learning how to write like a lawyer and talk and read like a lawyer, it was a bit of a learning curve, but it was manageable.”

Davis recalled feeling intimidated when he walked into his first upper-level class with all other JD students. It was a local government and law course with Wendell Pritchett, whom he had previously come across at Mayor Nutter’s office. His anxiety was swiftly quelled: “He just told me straight up, ‘Don’t be afraid to speak up; the experiences you bring to the table are just as valuable to what the others bring from law classes,’” Davis said, adding that after that, he enjoyed participating in the class.
DEATH ROW DEFENDER
Major victory in Supreme Court case punctuates Christina Swarns’ herded career at NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund

By Rick Schmitt

WHEN Christina Swarns L’93 was asked to join a team of lawyers in Texas trying to save the life of convicted murderer Duane Buck, the prognosis was grim. After all, since the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated capital punishment in the 1970s, more than a third of the nation’s death sentences had been carried out in Texas. Death penalty lawyers and clients had grown accustomed to the trauma of losing despite a perception of widespread racism in the system. The forces arrayed against them seemed insurmountable.

“Christina understood that—but she was not about to let that defeat her,” recalls Kathryn Kase, former executive director of the Texas Defender Service, a nonprofit group that represents defendants in capital cases, including Buck. “I remember her saying very early on after joining Duane’s case [that] he was not going to be executed on her watch. That is the kind of determination that you need to have in a death penalty case.”

For six years, that determination would be sorely tested; ultimately Swarns was vindicated. In October 2016 she argued Buck’s case before the U.S. Supreme Court, and in February 2017, the justices threw out his death sentence in a decision punctuated by a majority opinion written by Chief Justice John G. Roberts denouncing how racism had infected this case.

For Swarns, a longtime lawyer at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., the result capped a life devoted to fighting discrimination in the justice system, particularly on behalf of those charged with capital crimes. Over the years, she has become one of the elite lawyers representing death row inmates.

She has worked on seven cases where clients condemned to die have been spared, including a Pennsylvania man who was exonerated based on DNA evidence after serving two decades in solitary. Until recently, Swarns was best known for helping defend Mumia Abu-Jamal, a journalist and activist, now serving a life sentence after being sentenced to death for the 1981 killing of a Philadelphia police officer.

Another client, black teenager Kenneth Reams, was on death row for the 1993 shooting death of a white man outside an ATM in Pine Bluff, Ark., even though he was not the trigger man. After Swarns uncovered a system of racism in the local courts and demonstrated that Reams’ trial counsel failed to present available evidence showing that Reams’ co-defendant—who received a life sentence before the Reams trial—was the shooter, Reams’ death sentence was declared unconstitutional. The case is on appeal.

Today, such high-stakes advocacy demands a set of skills that transcend the courtroom. The social impact litigation Swarns practices requires lawyers to look for new and novel ways to reach judges and prosecutors who like the rest of society are being bombarded with information from social media and the 24-hour news cycle. Swarns, colleagues say, fully embraces that holistic approach.
“As brilliant as she is in knowing every aspect of the law and being able to present it to a court, she is also quite brilliant about being able to find the levers that open up the doors for the kinds of conversations you need to have with prosecutors, with victims, with clergy, with community groups, and with the clients themselves,” says Sherrilyn Ifill, the president and director-counsel of the LDF.

“Christina exemplifies that quality we insist on for every LDF lawyer,” Ifill says. “They have to be an excellent advocate in the church basement, the community meeting, and the well of the Supreme Court.”

Indeed, even the justices have acknowledged being aware of those disparate new information sources, Swarns notes in an interview, meaning that decisions at the highest level of the justice system are being made not only on the contents of a particular brief, no matter how compelling, but also on other relevant information that comes their way, even if indirectly or subconsciously.

“In my mind, that means that it is an advocate’s responsibility to influence the dialogue in as many ways as possible, and necessary,” she says.

Last year, Swarns traded the bright lights of a national practice for the trenches of representing indigent defendants charged with everyday crimes, becoming the Attorney-in-Charge at the Office of Appellate Defender (OAD) in New York City, which handles appeals for scores of convicted felons every year who cannot afford a lawyer.

The New York position “offers the opportunity to make a deep and sustained commitment to criminal justice reform in a single jurisdiction,” Swarns writes in an email, adding “the clients and communities that OAD serves are the same as those I have worked with on my death cases; and the injustices I have seen in capital cases also affect those convicted of ‘lesser’ felonies.”

She now carries on OAD’s longstanding tradition of outstanding appellate advocacy and has begun leveraging the organization’s expertise to advocate for broader criminal justice reform.

Under Swarns’ leadership, OAD has spoken out against the sweeping residency restrictions New York City imposes on people convicted of sex offenses—which she argues are based on “fear, not facts”—and against a parole process that renders the underlying crime dispositive, regardless of any and all evidence of rehabilitation.

In law school, Swarns describes having a firm, if vaguely defined, desire to be a public interest lawyer. She studied mental health law and advanced criminal procedure, worked a year teaching street law at a community center in West Philadelphia, and another year drafting living wills at an AIDS law project.

But she left law school without a job in hand; after graduation, she took the bar and went home to Staten Island to figure out her next move. Her parents’ only request: “You are welcome to find yourself, but you are going to work while you find yourself.”

She called LDF, the vaunted civil rights law firm founded by former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, and offered her newly minted Penn Law-degreed self as a volunteer. She met with Elaine Jones, then director-counsel.

“I can remember her saying, ‘Which department would you like to work in?’ And I said, ‘Any of them,’” Swarns recalls. “She sent me to the one with the most need—the capital punishment project. And that was really the beginning of the story.”

After an internship, LDF told her to go get some experience, and keep in touch. She worked two years at the Legal Aid Society of New York, the nation’s oldest legal aid organization serving the indigent, and another seven years at the federal public defender’s office in Philadelphia, her first exposure to representing death row inmates.

In 2003, she was put in charge of the LDF criminal justice project, later becoming Director of Litigation

“Christina exemplifies that quality we insist on for every LDF lawyer. They have to be an excellent advocate in the church basement, the community meeting, and the well of the Supreme Court.”

SHERRILYN I'FILL
NAACP Legal Defense Fund
for the organization. Under her leadership, the organization continued its fight against restrictive voting laws and for school desegregation plans; it challenged discriminatory mortgage foreclosures in Detroit and police misconduct in New York.

“What she has been able to do...is to work both sides,” ensuring fair trials for criminal defendants while expanding minority citizens’ civil liberties and civil rights, says David Rudovsky, senior fellow at Penn Law. “That is very important. They are opposite sides of the same coin.”

Her own focus on the death penalty continued a legacy that dates to the founding of LDF in the 1940s, when the group charted a path towards abolition in the tradition of its work challenging public school segregation. Indeed, even before Brown v. Board of Education, Marshall was representing poor black men accused of rape and murder in the Deep South.

LDF became a hub for death penalty defense lawyers, and its efforts coalesced in the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1972 decision abolishing the death penalty, and have continued since the court reinstated the death penalty in 1976 with, among other things, a widely anticipated annual conference to share legal briefs and strategies and other information.

“The things that corrupt the death penalty corrupt it absolutely,” Swarns says, citing “astonishingly bad” lawyers, politically driven prosecutors, and the tortures of lethal injection.

“The truth of the matter is, the death penalty operates consistently,” she says. “It is consistently applied against the most troubled people in our society.”

Today, public support for the death penalty is at a 30-year low. Executions are way down and clustered in a handful of jurisdictions. Enthusiasm for the death penalty has been dampened in part by cases of people walking off death row conclusively innocent. Since 1973, more than 155 people have been released from death row with evidence of their innocence, according to the Death Penalty Information Center, a Washington-based, nonprofit research organization.

The death penalty remains an important tool of justice for a few jurisdictions, who see it as apt punishment for unspeakable crimes where guilt is unquestioned. At the same time, even the most factually troubling cases can raise profound issues of law and morality.

“Christina believed that racial discrimination in the criminal justice system often surfaced most clearly in those cases where innocence may not have been a
defense, and where the facts of the case complicated a client’s defense,” says Ryan Haygood, a former LDF colleague who now serves as the president and CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, an urban research and legal advocacy organization.

“It was in those cases, she found, that racial discrimination was most pervasive and intense, and where, even when a client’s life was on the line, the defense available was itself undermined by racial discrimination,” Haygood says. “This was especially true, for example, in Mr. Duane Buck’s case.”

Buck gunned down two people, including his former girlfriend, after breaking into her Houston apartment early one morning in July 1995. The woman’s three children watched their mother die in the street as she attempted to flee. Buck was said to be “upbeat and laughing” when he was arrested a few minutes later, allegedly telling one officer “the bitch got what she deserved.” He was convicted of capital murder in 1997 by a Harris County, Texas, jury.

To Buck’s supporters, as appalling as the crime, was the quality of his legal defense, which included a trial lawyer who had never won a capital murder case and who had seen 20 different clients end up on death row.

In Texas, death sentences are allowed only if prosecutors can show the defendant poses a future danger to society. When Buck was being sentenced, his lawyers called a psychologist who testified that, while there were mitigating factors, his race made him statistically more likely to be violent in the future. After two days of deliberations, Buck was sentenced to death.

For nearly two decades, the case wandered through a maze of state and federal proceedings. While it violates the constitution to punish someone solely on the basis of race, neither of Buck’s state appellate lawyers challenged the psychologist’s testimony during the critical first round of state court appeals. When they finally presented the claim, the federal courts declined to consider it, concluding that it was “procedurally defaulted” for not being raised in a timely manner under state court rules. Meanwhile, the state of Texas argued that, while prosecutors would have been prohibited from offering the controversial testimony, the sentence should stand, because it was offered by the defense.

His appeals exhausted, Buck was scheduled to be executed in September 2011. The U.S. Supreme Court granted a last-minute stay to consider arguments that the prosecution had unfairly capitalized on the psychologist’s testimony. When they finally presented the claim, the federal courts declined to consider it, concluding that it was “procedurally defaulted” for not being raised in a timely manner under state court rules. Meanwhile, the state of Texas argued that, while prosecutors would have been prohibited from offering the controversial testimony, the sentence should stand, because it was offered by the defense.

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His appeals exhausted, Buck was scheduled to be executed in September 2011. The U.S. Supreme Court granted a last-minute stay to consider arguments that the prosecution had unfairly capitalized on the psychologist’s testimony. Ultimately, the justices declined to intervene. With another possible execution date looming, Buck’s Texas lawyers called LDF and Swarns, who began crafting new legal arguments
and looking for ways to bring wider public attention to what was seen as a gross injustice.

A video was produced featuring interviews with sympathetic clergy, civil rights leaders, and defense lawyers. A step-sister wounded by Buck during the shooting declared her opposition to him being put to death. A prosecutor who helped win his conviction called for his sentence to be reviewed.

Legislation to prohibit the death penalty in cases where it was obtained “on the basis of race” was introduced in the Texas legislature. A study found Harris County juries more than twice as likely to sentence blacks to death than whites. There was widespread media coverage including an article in The New York Times headlined “Condemned to Die Because He’s Black.”

In court, a new line of attack focused on Buck’s lawyers, for introducing the psychologist’s race-begets-violence theories. Lower federal courts weren’t buying it. “Buck has not made out even a minimal showing that his case is exceptional,” an appeals court held.

“I spent six years litigating the case, and for six years, I was floored I was still litigating it,” Swarns says. Finally, in June 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the case, saying it raised the question of “whether and to what extent the criminal justice system tolerates racial bias and discrimination.” Argument was set for October 5, 2016; Swarns was designated to speak for the appellant.

She would acknowledge, months later, feeling enormous pressure. For one thing, she said, speaking at the annual LDF death penalty conference, a man’s life was at stake. For another, she felt the weight of history on her shoulders: the number of black women who have ever argued before the high court can be counted on two hands. At the argument, Swarns wore a bracelet given to her by a colleague with the inscription “She believed she could so she did.” Listening to a recording of the argument, Swarns gives a powerful performance, engaging the justices with a conversational style that exudes confidence and preparation.

“This is the kind of evidence that courts for over a hundred years have said once it is introduced, even just once, it’s impossible to un-ring the bell,” she declares. “This evidence put the thumb heavily on the death scale.”

At one point, Roberts appears to acknowledge the potential harm and how using the racist standard for finding Buck a future danger was problematic.

“Absolutely,” Swarns replied.

Around that time, seated at the counsel table while Swarns was addressing the court, Kase slipped Black a note. “Are we getting Roberts?!” Yes, they were, Black nodded in response. “At that point, I recognized that Christina had persuaded him, and that he was going to be voting for us,” Kase says.

The court’s ruling, 6–2, in Buck’s favor, was issued on February 22, 2017. Writing for the majority, Roberts said the psychologist’s testimony “appealed to a powerful racial stereotype — that of black men as ‘violence prone.’”

What he called “a particularly noxious strain of racial prejudice” coincided with the central question at sentencing and created “something of a perfect storm.” The result: “a decision on life or death on the basis of race.”

“This is a disturbing departure from a basic premise of our criminal justice system,” Roberts wrote. “Our law punishes people for what they do, not who they are. Dispensing punishment on the basis of an immutable characteristic flatly contravenes this guiding principle.”

The court remanded the case to Harris County, and in September 2017, Duane Buck was resentenced to life in prison.

After the oral argument, Ifill remembers standing on the steps of the Supreme Court building, with Swarns and Janai Nelson, the LDF’s associate director-counsel. The scene was captured in a photograph published the next day in The New York Times along with a story describing the argument as “decidedly lopsided” in favor of the defense. All three of the lawyers in the picture are African-American women, and all three, with Swarns as their leader, had worked tirelessly on the case.

“There are few prouder moments for lawyers than standing on the steps of the Supreme Court with your colleagues after an argument,” Ifill says. “We showed something very powerful and important to the world.”
Rep. Robert Livingston (R-LA) speaks to the media after he was nominated as House Speaker in November 1998. Less than a month later he would withdraw his name and resign from the House amid scandal.
Henry Moniz L’89 remembers the Democrats sitting in shock as the Republicans yelled, “No!”

“That was one of those moments—I remember it like it was yesterday,” said Moniz, who was sitting in the House Chamber when, on Dec. 19, 1998, Rep. Robert Livingston (R-LA) announced he was withdrawing as House Speaker candidate and vacating his congressional seat amid scandal, just days before hearings began for the impeachment of President Bill Clinton.

Moniz was there as temporary counsel for the House Judiciary Committee’s investigation. “A lot of it felt like I was in a movie,” recalled Moniz, who now serves as chief compliance officer, chief audit executive and head of strategic business practices at Viacom.

His first day on the job, he met with Monica Lewinsky’s lawyers, Jacob Stein and Plato Cacheris, to review evidence. A high point was meeting his personal hero, Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, who testified days before dying. Friends razzed him when he appeared to be sleeping on the front page of The New York Times. It was a snapshot of the first day of hearings, and Rep. Michael Forbes (R-NY) had just stepped on Moniz’s foot.
A self-described idealist, Ebenezer Gyasi 3L set out for Louisiana in 2013 to teach math and to change lives. He came away irrevocably changed himself.

During two years of service with Teach for America, Gyasi witnessed the corrosive impact of incarceration on families, and how the school to prison pipeline conditioned young people to think of prison as part of their destiny.

He called it “emotionally jarring to see how cavalier” his students were about the probability of ending up in jail.

Posted to Baton Rouge, Gyasi came to understand the achievement gaps in education and the stark inequality that cut along class and racial lines in the Deep South.

He came away chastened. Gyasi learned that idealism and a willingness to serve often run up against entrenched structural forces that require strategic government spending and a tireless commitment from advocates in order to combat systemic poverty, low academic achievement and high crime rates.

“It was a very humbling experience,” said Gyasi.

As was his acceptance to Penn Law, where he is the recipient of a Temares Family Endowed Scholarship. “It’s definitely been a boon,” Gyasi said. “I’m grateful to the Law School and particularly to the Temares family for their generosity.”

Born in Newark, New Jersey, Gyasi grew up in his parents’ native Ghana, living in Accra with his grandmother for about 10 years. His parents, recent immigrants to the United States in the early nineties, sent him there with his younger brother, Edmund, who is currently a first-year student at Penn Law School. Gyasi said his parents wanted to make...
sure that he and his sibling understood their cultural heritage as Ghanaian-Americans.

He said living in Ghana, a country steeped in Christianity, taught him valuable lessons about the importance of respect, diligence, patience and perseverance. One could not make a legitimate moral claim without a biblical foundation, and this infused his thinking.

Stateside, Gyasi studied history at Williams College and then went directly into public service. Following his work in Louisiana after graduation, Gyasi became an executive alumni counselor for the Noble Network of Charter Schools in Chicago. His mission: to connect with and assist alumni of the high school at risk of dropping out of college.

Gyasi said he decided to attend law school because as a history major, he has always been interested in the legal, moral and political underpinnings of America. He chose Penn Law due to its interdisciplinary approach, open dialogue, and small size.

Service-oriented, Gyasi interned in the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the District of New Jersey following his 1L year. Working as a U.S. Attorney someday appeals to him. Gyasi said he relishes the idea of being in position to mete out justice in an even-handed and fair manner.

For now, after graduation the 27-year-old has made an 8-year commitment to the Navy Judge Advocate General’s Corps. The JAG administers military law for the various branches of he armed services. Members of the JAG serve as legal advisors to their commanders.

Describing his reason for joining, Gyasi said: “The Corps provides young attorneys with tremendous leadership and trial experience as commissioned officers in the armed forces toward shared goals of liberty, justice and peace all over the world.”

“It is a humbling honor to have been selected to serve... I hope to bring the same level of passion, dedication, intelligence and integrity to my work as a lawyer and an officer in the United States Navy.”

Starting next fall, the Law School will welcome the first students accepted into the Penn Law First Generation Scholars Program, which is open to those who are among the first in their families to attend graduate or professional school. The program, a first for the Law School, will support six students over six years.

Under the guidance of a team of professional advisors, scholarship recipients will receive personal attention in law school and beyond. The scholars will have the opportunity to learn from prominent legal professionals and participate in an exclusive speaker series.

“Fellows will enjoy personally-tailored professional development supports that include executive communication coaching, professional technology training, interaction with a team of engaged mentors and one year of post-graduation executive coaching to smooth the transition to practice,” said Jennifer Leonard L’04, director of The Penn Law Center on Professionalism, which will administer the program.

David Silk L’88, who established the scholarship, said what sets the program apart is its extension through the first year of practice. “For first generation professionals the transition is as important as the formal learning that preceded it,” said Silk, partner at Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz and board member of Penn Law’s Institute for Law & Economics.

The expectation is that graduates of the program will mentor students who succeed them.

Explaining his motivation for the scholarship, Silk said: “I am very grateful for what Penn Law has done for me, and it is incumbent upon the University and the Law School to try to make this kind of education and opportunity available as broadly as they can to qualified students.”
Edmund Hauff L'60 joined Steckel and Stopp as of counsel at the firm’s Slatington, Schnecksville and Northampton, Pa., offices. He had been a solo practitioner for more than 50 years.

David Marion W'60, L'63 received The Philadelphia Inquirer’s Influencer of Law Award at a ceremony in the Wanamaker building’s Crystal Tea Room in Philadelphia. He was chosen by a panel of judges in recognition of
his litigation successes that changed the law in cases he argued in the U.S. Supreme Court, the 3rd Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, involving First Amendment, defamation law, ERISA, pension and retirement law and summary judgement/civil procedure, respectively.

**Gilbert Harrison W’62, L’65** was appointed to the board of directors for Inter Parfums, Inc. Harrison, the founder and chairman emeritus of the investment banking firm, Financo LLC, retired as chairman of the company in December 2017, after which he formed the Harrison Group, a firm that provides consulting and financial advisory services to merchandising and products companies.

**William Mogel L’66** gave a series of four lectures on a wide range of energy, regulatory, and legal issues at the Osher Learning Institute of Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. He is the founder of the Energy Law Journal and editor of two LexisNexis publications: Energy Law & Transactions (seven volumes), and Regulation of the Gas Industry (five volumes). Two of his writings on energy were cited by the U.S. Supreme Court.

**Norman Pearlstine L’67** was named the executive editor of the Los Angeles Times. He retired from his position as Time’s chief content officer last year. He previously held prominent positions at The Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg and Forbes magazine.

**Michael Sklaroff L’67** won The Legal Intelligencer’s 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award. He is a partner in Ballard Spahr’s real estate department, which he founded more than 25 years ago and built into what Chambers USA has called “a national powerhouse.” He served as department chair until 2013.

**Jane Leslie Dalton L’71** was recognized by Continental Who's Who for her high standards of ethics in the field of law in recognition of her role as of counsel at Duane Morris LLP. Dalton, who has been practicing more than 40 years, has extensive experience in the areas of ethics and public speaking and in mounting a defense in controversial and publicized legal battles. She was previously chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

**Joel Jacobson C’68, L’71** was a panelist for the Meritas session, “Calling All Member Contacts! Learn How to Capitalize on Your Meritas Membership” at the 2018 Meritas Annual Meeting in Miami Beach. He is a member of the law firm Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, PA, where he is chair of its Real Estate & Land Use practice group.

**Bella (Billie) Schnall CW’73, L’76** was presented with the “MVP of VIP” award by Philadelphia VIP, a legal pro bono organization. She was recognized for her volunteer work in family law. She is a partner at Greenblatt, Pierce, Funt and Flores, where she is director of the firm’s family law division.

**Alberto Ibarguen L’74** is president of the Knight Foundation, which in September jointly established a $20 million fund with the Lenfest Institute for Journalism for the advancement of local and national journalism.

**H. Ronald Klasko L’74**, a founding partner of Klasko Immigration Law Partners, was ranked a Band 1 leader in immigration law by the 2018 edition of Chambers USA. He was also named to the 2018 Who’s Who Legal Corporate Immigration Attorneys list, where, because he received the highest number of nominations from peers, corporate counsel and other market sources, was also recognized as a Thought Leader. Klasko was also named to The Best Lawyers in America 2019 list for immigration law.

**Andrew Smulian L’74** concluded his decade-long tenure as chairman and CEO of Akerman LLP and is now chairman emeritus. Under his leadership, Smulian oversaw the expansion of the firm to more than 700 lawyers and business professionals across 24 offices nationwide. He launched the industry’s first research and development co-venture with clients, and he also started a partnership with the National Court-appointed Special Advocates Association to provide foster children with a voice. Because of his initiatives, the Financial Times recently honored Smulian as one of the top 10 legal innovators in North America, and it ranked Akerman as one of North America’s most forward-thinking and socially responsible law firms.

**John Rother L’75** was presented the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award by Marquis Who’s Who, a publisher of biographical profiles. He has been president and chief executive officer for the National Coalition on Health Care in Washington, D.C., since 2011. From 1984 to 2011, he served as executive vice president for policy, strategy and international affairs for the American Association of Retired Persons, and in his career, was involved with the passage of the 1983 Social Security amendments, the Affordable Care Act and the enactment of the Medicare prescription drug benefit program.

**Wendy White L’75** was elected a director to the boards of the U.S. exchanges operated by Nasdaq, Inc.
White is senior vice president and general counsel at the University of Pennsylvania.

Michael Malloy L’76 participated in a working session of the Real Estate Markets Advisory Group of the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), drafting a newly revised version of the U.N. Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets. Known internationally as an expert on financial services regulation, Malloy has been working with the UNECE since 2009, first as an expert on bank regulatory policy and now as a U.S. Representative to the advisory group.

Greg Ahlgren L’77, PAR’11 authored his fifth book, and second Civil War novel, Olustee: America’s Unfinished Civil War Battle. It was released in April by Canterbury House Publishing. The novel details the Civil War battle in Florida involving the murder of wounded African-American soldiers by Georgia infantry, and, through the lens of a modern-day Tampa area journalist, it examines the battle’s cultural and social ramifications that still linger.

Gilbert Casellas L’77 was named in the National Association of Corporate Directors’ 2018 NACD Directorship 100, a list of the most influential leaders in the boardroom and corporate governance community. Casellas is chair of the corporate governance and business ethics committee of Prudential Financial, Inc.’s board of directors.

Robert Lane, Jr. L’77 joined Greenberg Traurig, LLP’s Philadelphia office, where he will lead the real estate group. He handles all aspects of commercial real estate development, acquisitions and financing for an array of private and public entities. He had been at Stevens & Lee for the past decade.

Oliver Goodenough L’78 joined Gravel & Shea as special counsel in Burlington, Vermont. He specializes in corporate and financial matters, with a focus on the law of technological applications like blockchain, FinTech, RegTech and artificial intelligence. He also counsels on early stage business, entertainment law, intellectual property, nonprofits and social enterprise.

Patricia Igoe L’79 was named in Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business for her work in the Rhode Island Corporate/Commercial: Banking & Finance category. She is partner in charge of Robinson+Cole’s Providence office, where she focuses on commercial and corporate finance, asset-based lending, and other secured and unsecured lending transactions.

Francine Griesing L’81, founder and managing member of Griesing Law, was selected by The Philadelphia Inquirer for its 2018 Influencers of Law Lifetime Achievement Award. She was selected by Inquirer readers and evaluated by expert panel judges based on her accomplishments in specialized practice, business impact, and community service.

Gerard Hogan GL’82 was selected by the Irish government as an advocate general to the European Court of Justice. He had been serving as a court of appeal judge and was previously a law professor at Trinity College Dublin.

Thomas Eicher L’83 was named by New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal to lead a new unit called the Office of Public Integrity & Accountability.

The unit, composed of detectives and prosecutors, is part of the Office of the Attorney General and was formed to combat corruption and strengthen public confidence in government institutions. Eicher joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of New Jersey in 2003, and from 2010 to 2018, served as chief of its criminal division. From 2015 to 2018, he served on the Attorney General’s Advisory Committee, providing policy advice to the last four U.S. Attorneys General. Earlier this year, Eicher was elevated to Deputy U.S. Attorney, responsible for oversight of the Trenton and Camden offices. This year he also was recognized by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein with the Executive Achievement Award for leadership during his 30-year career in the U.S. Department of Justice.

Eric Fader L’83 joined Rivkin Radler LLP’s New York office as a partner. He is practicing in the firm’s health services, corporate and privacy, data and cyber practice groups. He was previously counsel at Day Pitney LLP in New York.

David Prager L’84 was included in The Best Lawyers in America 2019 for management in employment law. He is an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King, where he negotiates cost-effective labor contracts, avoids strikes and maintains positive employee relations.

Daniel Markind W’80, L’83 joined Flaster Greenberg as a partner. He represents large companies in sophisticated purchase, sale, financing, leasing, zoning and land use, work-out and development matters, and has helped form and grow smaller businesses. He also has a national aviation law practice, representing airports in litigation against the Transportation Security Administration, in business matters and in connection with energy assets.
John Summers L’84 was honored with the Pennsylvania Innocence Project’s Edward Ollbaum Volunteer Award for his work to exonerate Marshall Hale, who served 33 years in prison after a wrongful conviction. Summers is a shareholder with Hangley Aronchick in Philadelphia.

Amy De Shong L’86 was named to the 2018 and 2019 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers lists for her work in family law. She is an attorney at Wisler Pearlstine, LLP.

Mark Fawer C’83, L’86 joined Green-spoon Marder LLP’s New York office as a partner. He specializes in real estate finance, representing private and institutional funds on mezzanine and preferred equity investments and developers and investors in purchase, finance and development matters. He was previously a partner at Arent Fox LLP.

Ian Hammett L’87 was named of counsel to Mason, Griffin & Pierson in Princeton. He has more than 30 years of experience in estates and trusts, real estate law, business law, chancery practice, probate litigation and local government law. Hammett was previously with the firm of Kenny Chase & Costa in Hamilton, N.J.

Bruce Reinhart L’87 was appointed federal magistrate judge in the Southern District of Florida. He was selected from 64 applicants and will preside in the Paul G. Rogers U.S. Courthouse in West Palm Beach. His career includes more than a decade as a federal prosecutor and roles at the U.S. Treasury and Justice departments. Most recently, he ran his own white-collar criminal defense and complex litigation firm, Bruce E. Reinhart, PA, in West Palm Beach.

Leslie Kyman Cooper L’89, has become general counsel of the Maricopa Community Colleges, one of the nation’s largest community college systems. She had previously been the education unit chief counsel for the Arizona Attorney General’s Office.

Suzanne Glassburn L’90 was named senior vice president and secretary of the MIT Corporation. She had been an attorney in MIT’s Office of the General Counsel since 2008. Her new responsibilities include serving as chief of staff and coordinating the efforts of MIT’s senior leadership, the MIT Corporation, its executive committee and the overall administration.

Elizabeth King L’91 joined the board of directors as an exchange director for OCC, the world’s largest equity derivatives clearing organization. King is general counsel of NYSE Group, and in September, was named the chief regulatory officer of Intercontinental Exchange, Inc., where she oversees the company’s global regulatory and legal affairs initiatives.

Myron Rabij L’91 joined McCarter & English LLP’s corporate, securities and business transactions practice group in Newark, N.J., as a partner. He focuses on serving U.S.-based clients with business opportunities abroad and foreign clients with opportunities in the U.S. He also collaborates with energy lawyers at the firm who perform transactional and regulatory work. He was previously a longtime partner at Dentons and spent 22 years working in Ukraine before moving to New York in 2014.

A. Allison Amadia L’92 joined digital wealth management firm Personal Capital as general counsel. In her new role, she oversees the company’s legal and compliance functions and serves as corporate secretary. She was previously general counsel, chief compliance officer and corporate secretary at PayNearMe, a cloud-based financial technology provider.

Marc Jerome L’92 was appointed to the board of trustees of the Higher Education Services Corporation, which is New York State’s financial aid agency for college-bound students. New York Governor Andrew Cuomo had nominated him for the role, and in June, the New York State Senate confirmed him for a six-year term. Jerome is president of Monroe College.

Peter Jones L’92 was included in The Best Lawyers of America 2019 for management and litigation in employment and labor law. He is an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in Syracuse, N.Y., where he is deputy chair of the labor department and co-chair of the higher education practice group.

David Richter ENG’87, W’87, L’92 has embarked on two new roles: entrepreneur and student. He is the chairman and CEO of Richter Capital LLC, a multi-strategy asset management firm based in Princeton, N.J., which he recently founded. He is also working toward his Master of Public Administration degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Christopher Smith C’87, L’92, PAR’17, a partner at Smith Anderson in Raleigh, was recognized as a leading lawyer in North Carolina by Chambers USA’s 2018 edition for his work in general commercial litigation.
Mayes Leads Drive for More Women in Boardroom

There is a slow but inexorable increase in the number of women in the boardroom, thanks to the efforts of activists like Suzanne Serianni Mayes L’91.

“I think that folks in the C-suites are starting to feel pressure from investors—there’s a whole movement around investors wanting diverse boards,” said Mayes, a public finance attorney and co-chair of the Public and Project Finance Group at Cozen O’Connor who’s serving her two-year term as past-president of The Forum of Executive Women.

But the new appointments, Mayes said, don’t mean her work is finished. “We’re making headway, but it’s excruciatingly slow,” she said.

The percentage of women on the boards of the largest public companies in the Philadelphia region grew from 11 percent in 2002 to 16 percent in 2016, she said. The national average for women on Fortune 500 executive boards hovers around 20 percent, up from about 10 percent in 1996, according to Forbes.com.

Mayes attributed the slow progress to two major factors: limitless board terms and the fact that men tend to choose new members from among people they know, who, though undoubtedly talented, are generally other men.

Breaking glass ceilings has been Mayes’ passion ever since she recognized, as a student at an all-girls Catholic academy, how much women contributed to the intellectual life of society. She began her law career in 1991, when the time was ripe for public finance and Philadelphia firm SaulEwing sought a young lawyer willing to try the field for a few months.

Although she was the only woman in the group, Mayes wasn’t intimidated. She appreciated her male colleagues’ welcoming attitude and mentorship as she worked her way up to partner and was put in charge of hiring.

Aware of the gender gap in her line of work, she started a group called Ladies First, which brings together women in public finance. “It set me on fire in terms of young women,” Mayes said. “It’s a cause that’s near and dear to my heart, and The Forum has been an extension of that passion of mine.”

In 2005, she joined The Forum of Executive Women, a prestigious Philadelphia organization that aims to empower and place women in executive positions and boards. Ten years later, she became its president. During her tenure, she focused on fostering closer connections among The Forum’s 450 members. Knowing the value of personal relationships, Mayes began Forum Takes Flight, an annual trip to Canyon Ranch in Massachusetts; established programming to reenergize longtime members; and created an oral history program that features members’ inspirational success stories.

Mayes also created the Forum Ally program, where The Forum partners closely with a nonprofit organization for two years. In addition, on her watch the Forum continued to work with professional search firms to help place women on boards.

“We’re not just saying, ‘Look, we’ve got a problem,’ but actively trying to be a part of the solution since we have a really talented group of women who can serve as speakers, subject matter experts and board members,” Mayes said. “We’re getting the message out about the wealth of female talent here in the Philadelphia region.”
Roderick Devlin GL'93, GRL'06 joined Nixon Peabody LLP as a partner in its infrastructure practice. Previously, he was a partner at Squire Patton Boggs, also in New York.

Blair Duncan WG'85, L'94 was appointed president and CEO of Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, where he had been serving as executive vice president and chief operating officer. In his new role, he leads the independent, not-for-profit corporation’s efforts in economic development throughout Upper Manhattan in the neighborhoods of Central, West and East Harlem, Washington Heights and Inwood. He joined UMEZ in 2003 as general counsel.

Jeffrey Hellman W'90, L'94 taught Fashion Law & Finance as an adjunct professor during the Spring 2018 semester at Fordham Law School. He is vice president and assistant general counsel at PVH Corp., an apparel company (owner of the Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger, IZOD and Van Heusen brands), and serves as pro bono counsel to the YMA Fashion Scholarship Fund, a nonprofit organization that provides scholarships to college students planning to pursue careers in the fashion industry.

Chonda Jordan Nwamu L'95 was named vice president and deputy general counsel at Ameren Corporation, headquartered in St. Louis. Ameren is a Fortune 500 energy company that provides electric and gas service in Missouri and Illinois. In her new roles, Nwamu is responsible for the strategy, management and day-to-day operations of the legal department. She oversees a staff of attorneys, paralegals and legal assistants who provide legal advice and counsel to the business across a diverse set of practice areas including litigation, environmental, regulatory, labor and employment and transactional law. She also supports the general counsel and works with the senior leadership team on Ameren’s strategic business objectives.

Joshua Pollack L'95 joined Lathrop Gage LLP as of counsel after the previous firm he worked for, Scheidemantle Law Group, combined with Lathrop’s Los Angeles office. He focuses his practice on insurance recovery and counseling on behalf of policyholders and complex business litigation.

Jennifer Allen L'96 joined Triumph Group as senior vice president and general counsel. She also serves as secretary and oversees activities related to the board of directors. In her new role, she manages and coordinates all legal services for the company. She previously served in a similar capacity at CIRCOR International.

Marc Kesselman L'96 was appointed senior vice president and general counsel of Purdue Pharma LP. In his new role, he is responsible for the company’s overall legal strategy, ethics and compliance, government affairs and corporate governance. He was previously general counsel, corporate secretary and government affairs at Yum! Brands, Inc.

Sara Velazquez Ponessa L'96 was appointed general counsel for FMC Lithium. She is responsible for all legal affairs and oversees government relations for the company. She also serves as its corporate secretary and leads compliance, ethics, securities law and other legal matters. Ponessa was most recently senior business counsel for FMC Lithium.

Elizabeth Preate Havey L'97 was elected to a four-year term as chairwoman of the Montgomery County Republican Committee. She is the first woman elected to this position. Her priorities include fundraising, a listening tour with local county leaders to learn how the Committee can link local groups, building a stronger online presence and reaching young voters.

She is an attorney with Dilworth Paxson LLP, where she specializes in corporate and finance law.

Claudia Johnson L'97 was named to the Fastcase 50 list, which honors those who have made visionary contributions in the fields of law and technology. Johnson was recognized for her work with LawHelp Interactive, where she has as program manager helped millions access legal assistance online. She is also a staff member at Pro Bono Net. Additionally, she was named to the American Bar Association’s 2018 Legal Technology Resource Center’s Women of Legal Tech for her work with Pro Bono Net, LawHelp Interactive and popUPjustice.org.

Frank Scaturro L'97 married Kathleen McCann in February at St. Peter Catholic Church in Steubenville, Ohio. He is an attorney for the Judicial Crisis Network; she is a research editor at The Heritage Foundation. The newlyweds reside in Maryland.

Heather Weiss Frattone W'94, L'98 was appointed as executive director of the Children’s Scholarship Fund Philadelphia, a program that provides financial access for children from low-income Philadelphia families to attend K-8th grade tuition-based schools. She was previously associate dean for student and professional engagement at Penn Law School for more than a decade.
Michael Gold L’98 was appointed a representative member of the NASA Advisory Council, where he will chair the newly-formed regulatory and policy committee. He is vice president of regulatory and policy at Maxar Technologies. As a member of the council, he is part of a group that advises NASA’s leadership on critical issues.

Jason Klein L’98, WG’98 joined Alternative Investment Management LLC’s chief investment officer advisory council. He is senior vice president and chief investment officer of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, where he oversees more than $5 billion in long-term global investment assets and leads the asset allocation, manager selection and risk management efforts.

Lisa Banatoski Mehta L’98 is the lead attorney handling an investigation by law firm Shipman & Goodwin into Central Connecticut State University’s alleged mishandling of numerous sexual misconduct complaints made by faculty and students against an associate theater professor. She is a partner at the firm who specializes in labor employment and school law.

Lisa Jurinka L’99 was named chief legal officer of Vacasa, the largest U.S. vacation rental management company. In her new role, she oversees the company’s global legal affairs and is helping it scale to its next phase of growth. She was previously general counsel at Innovari, Inc.


Allen Kachalia L’99 has become the senior vice president of patient safety and quality for Johns Hopkins Medicine and director of the Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality. As senior vice president, Kachalia will oversee patient safety and quality initiatives across Johns Hopkins Medicine aimed at ending preventable harm, improving clinical outcomes and patient experience, and reducing waste in health care delivery. As the director of the Johns Hopkins Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality, Kachalia will direct academic and scholarly efforts of the institute. Most recently, he was chief quality officer and vice president for quality and safety at Brigham Health in Boston, which includes an 800-bed academic medical center, a 160-bed community hospital and a 1,600-member-physician organization. As a member of the hospital’s senior leadership team, Kachalia provides oversight for inpatient and ambulatory quality, safety, patient experience, risk management, clinical compliance and biomedical engineering. In this role, Kachalia built a provider-based electronic mortality review system that other health care systems are modeling, and has led several initiatives to further ambulatory safety and transparency in medicine. He has also helped establish a board quality committee that regularly reports on and drives quality performance. Kachalia is a general internist and is clinically active as an academic hospitalist at Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

Duane Holloway L’00 joined United States Steel Corporation as senior vice president, general counsel, chief compliance officer and corporate secretary. He has executive responsibility for all of the company’s legal and compliance matters. Holloway was previously executive vice president and general counsel for Ascena Retail Group, where he integrated multiple legal teams into one group and led the company’s litigation management process and integrated transformation program.

Daniel Lee W’98, L’00 has joined the board of Penn Law’s Institute for Law & Economics. He is a managing director at investment bank Moelis & Company, where he provides strategic and financial advice to clients on M&A transactions across a range of industries, with a focus on public company and special committee transactions. He also chairs Moelis & Company’s Fairness and Valuation Committee. Prior to joining Moelis & Company, he was a managing director in the M&A Group at Macquarie Capital, co-head of UBS Investment Bank’s Exclusive Sales Group and head of West Coast M&A and in the investment banking division at Bear, Stearns & Co.

Lawrence Pearson L’00 was named in The Best Lawyers in America 2019 for his work in labor and employment litigation. He is a partner at Wigdor LLP, where he focuses on litigation of discrimination, sexual harassment and retaliation claims, in addition to severance negotiations and contract law, having successfully negotiated scores of seven- and six-figure severance agreements on behalf of senior-level executives.
Gera Peoples L’00 joined Akerman LLP as a partner in its fraud and recovery practice group in Fort Lauderdale. He had previously served as an assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida since 2010. For the last year and a half, he was special counsel to the U.S. Attorney, which is a management role that oversees hiring, promotions and community outreach. He was also responsible for coordinating the office’s civil rights efforts on the criminal and civil sides. In his new role as a civil prosecutor, he represents fraud victims, particularly fighting against Ponzi schemers and individuals and companies who have committed insurance fraud. He also volunteers with the Southern District of Florida’s CARE Court, a program that offers additional judicial oversight and supervision to offenders in an effort to reduce recidivism.

Joie Siegel C’98, L’01 was named general counsel for NeonTherapeutics, Inc., a clinical-stage immuno-oncology company that develops neoantigen-based therapeutics. In her new role, she leads the legal, intellectual property, compliance and corporate governance functions for the company. She was previously senior vice president, deputy general counsel and assistant secretary at Intralinks, Inc.

Nicole Argentieri L’02 joined O’Melveny’s New York office as a partner in the white collar defense and corporate investigations practice. She had previously served as assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York and chief of the public integrity section. In her new role, she advises on government and regulatory actions, internal investigations, corporate compliance matters and criminal defense. During her decade-long tenure at the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Argentieri led numerous complex investigations involving official corruption, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, the Patriot Act, mail and wire fraud, securities fraud, money laundering and bribery offenses. As chief of the Office’s Public Integrity Section, she held several supervisory positions, leading both the General Crimes and the Organized Crime & Gangs Sections. In 2017, the New York City Bar Association awarded her the Henry L. Stimson medal for outstanding prosecution.

Jonathan Pyle L’02 was named to the Fastcase 50 list, which honors those who have made visionary contributions in the fields of law and technology. Pyle was recognized for creating DocAssemble, an open-source document assembly tool that enables clients and legal service providers to sign documents without a printer and includes read-aloud directions. Pyle is a contract performance officer at Philadelphia Legal Assistance.

Maria Gonzalez Calvet C’97, L’03 joined Ropes & Gray’s anti-corruption and international risk practice as a partner at the firm’s Washington, D.C., office. She focuses on conducting internal investigations, counseling companies on disclosures to and negotiations with regulators, and helping clients build, improve and implement effective compliance programs. She previously served as executive counsel for global investigations at General Electric, where she helped protect and defend the company in Latin America.

Tara Elliott L’03 joined Latham & Watkins LLP’s Washington, D.C., office as a partner in the firm’s litigation and trial department. She is also as a member of the intellectual property litigation practice. She focuses her practice on high-profile intellectual property proceedings and litigation. Elliott was previously a partner at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr.

Eric Johnson L’03 defeated his opponent in the Democratic Primary to represent the 100th District in the Texas House of Representatives. He faces no opposition in the general election and therefore will return to the Texas Legislature for his sixth term in January 2019. He is also running to become the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives. If elected, he will be the first person of color to serve in that role.

Jackie Taylor Meier C’99, L’03 started her own law firm in Washington, D.C. She practices in the areas of civil litigation, insurance coverage, consumer law and business law, representing both individuals and businesses with legal needs in D.C., Pennsylvania and New York.

Kevin Prindiville L’03 was honored with the Los Angeles Aging and Advocacy Coalition’s annual Champion Award for his commitment and contributions to advocacy for seniors and their caregivers. Prindiville has been executive director of Justice in Aging since 2013 and is a nationally recognized expert on Medicare and Medicaid policy. He has served as special counsel in several class action lawsuits brought to protect seniors’ access to healthcare and economic security benefits. He was one of Next Avenue’s 50 Influencers in Aging in 2017 and serves on the board of the American Society on Aging.

Grace Koh L’04 joined DLA Piper’s telecommunications practice group as a partner. She had previously served on the White House’s National Economic Council, where she advised President Donald Trump on telecom policy ranging from media regulation to cybersecurity to artificial intelligence.
Michael Lisko L’05 has joined The Sultzer Law Group as a partner. Lisko has extensive experience litigating complex class actions on behalf of plaintiffs in consumer fraud, data breach, antitrust, wage and hour, securities and housing matters. Liskow has been recognized as a Rising Star by NY Super Lawyers (2013–2018) and has served as lead counsel on numerous class action cases.

Gayatri Rao GR’05, L’05 was appointed vice president, regulatory policy and patient advocacy for Rocket Pharmaceuticals, Inc., which is a U.S.-based multi-platform gene therapy company. In her new role, she provides direction to global regulatory policies and strategies for Rocket programs to bring multiple therapies to patients with rare and devastating diseases. She was previously director of the Office of Orphan Products Development within the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, where she implemented statutory programs that promoted the development of medical products for rare diseases.

Meredith Slawe L’05 joined Akin Gump as a partner at the firm’s Philadelphia office, where she defends companies in class actions and commercial litigation matters in courts and arbitration proceedings across the country. Slawe was previously a partner at Drinker Biddle & Reath. She is considered an emerging leader in the national class action bar and has been recognized as a Rising Star by the national class action bar and has served as lead counsel on numerous class action cases.

Stephanie Srouwowitz L’05 was named one of Law360’s Rising Stars for asset management in honor of her work advising clients on several high-profile deals and fund closings. She is a private funds partner at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP in New York.

Luis Alves GL’06 was hired as a partner at Spinelli Advogados, a boutique law firm based in São Paulo specializing in special situations, distressed transactions, public company mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance and corporate litigation.

Andrea Wang Lucan L’06 rejoined Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP as a partner in the firm’s Los Angeles office. Between her time at Akin Gump, she had been at K&L Gates LLP for the past three years. She is a project development and finance attorney and handles renewable energy projects from early-stage development to construction and asset disposition.

Raj Parekh L’06 joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Virginia as an assistant United States attorney. He previously served as a trial attorney in the Counterterrorism Section, National Security Division, of the U.S. Department of Justice and as assistant general counsel at the Central Intelligence Agency. As a federal prosecutor, he has investigated and prosecuted matters involving national security/international terrorism, violent crime, hostage taking, narcotics trafficking and white collar/fraud-related offenses.

Allison Sheedy L’06 was promoted to partner in the Washington, D.C., office of Constantine Cannon LLP. She focuses her practice on antitrust litigation and counseling.

Brian Walsh L’06, a partner at Wiley Rein LLP’s Washington, D.C., office, was named a Law360 Rising Star for his work in government contracts. He focuses on government contractor bid disputes in a range of industries, including a multibillion-dollar defense transportation contract case that won at the Court of Federal Claims.

Morgan Zurn GR’06, L’06 was confirmed to serve as a vice chancellor on the Delaware Court of Chancery. She joined the Chancery Court as a master in 2016 and handled disputes involving guardianships, trust and estates.

Dean Krishna L’07 joined Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young’s Philadelphia office as counsel at the firm’s tax practice group. He was previously an attorney at Dechert. He advises on matters including U.S. and international mergers and acquisitions, acquisition financing, syndicated lending arrangements, securities offerings, structured finance transactions, business restructurings, and general domestic and cross-border tax planning.

Issa Moe L’07 joined Minneapolis-based ACA International as vice president and general counsel. He was previously general counsel and chief compliance officer for First National Collection Bureau, Inc., which is an ACA member company in Reno, Nev.

Michael Nonaka L’07 was one of five banking attorneys under age 40 honored by Law 360 as Rising Stars. He is partner and financial institutions co-chair at Covington & Burling LLP in Washington, D.C., where he focuses on helping firms navigate the legal and regulatory hurdles of the financial technology field.

Jonathan Phillips C’02 L’07 was named a Law360 Rising Star for his work in government contracts. He is a partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP’s Washington, D.C., office.

Clare Putnam Pozos L’07 was named senior advisor to U.S. Attorney Bill McSwain at the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. She had previously served as an assistant U.S. attorney in both

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At IMF, DeLong Advises Countries in Distress

Ukraine’s economy spiraled in 2014 when violence erupted in Kiev and its president was overthrown. That’s when the International Monetary Fund (IMF) stepped in with a financial plan to help steady the country.

A year later, as senior counsel at the IMF, Chanda DeLong L’07 began working with the new Ukrainian government on insolvency code reform. Over three years, she traveled to Ukraine to meet with government officials, and the legal and business community on the design of the new law. In October, the Ukrainian parliament approved a new insolvency law for businesses and individuals, which attempts to address what DeLong describes as rampant abuse of the system, including in the courts.

“The law is designed to be more transparent,” she said. “I’m hoping it will bring real reform. But what I loved most about the work was the relationships with my Ukrainian counterparts—we learned a lot from each other.”

The IMF is an organization with 189 countries whose goal is to ensure global financial stability. The IMF advises countries on economic policy reforms, and also lends money to countries to rebuild international reserves, stabilize currencies, continue paying for imports, and restore conditions for strong economic growth. The Fund has its own legal framework and policies; DeLong is a member of a team that advises both the IMF and participating governments about their legal obligations.

She works extensively on sovereign debt—a problem that is on the rise, in part because of a cyclical tendency to over-borrow, purge the debt and over-borrow again. As a lawyer, DeLong helps shape IMF policy in the area. She’s also contributing to a textbook on the subject.

DeLong joined the IMF from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in 2012 at the height of the Euro area crisis. Shortly after joining, she spent time in Spain as the country dealt with a collapse in real estate prices. People could no longer service their mortgages, she said, and the government was seeking tools to help citizens and banks agree on how to finance housing.

“The IMF team gave advice on personal insolvency law and a legal framework to restructure debts and mortgages,” DeLong said. “We’re advisors essentially.”

Her work has taken her all over the world, from Bosnia to Sudan to Greece. She recently organized a seminar on sovereign bond contracts in Mauritius, where she worked with debt management officers from developing countries. She taught another course in Vienna on the law of international financial institutions.

“One of the amazing things about working at the IMF is this intersection between law and economics,” she said, “which is where I think all the action is.”
Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. In her new role, she advises the U.S. Attorney on new office initiatives and focuses on strengthening Office relationships with law enforcement and community partners. Pozos will also assist McSwain in his communications with the public and the media. In addition to her strategic role, she prosecutes cases for the Criminal Division.

Kirsten White L’07 joined Schwartz Hannum PC’s labor and employment and education practice groups in Andover, Mass. She represents employers and educators in all aspects of labor and employment law and advises them with respect to collective bargaining and matters arising under the National Labor Relations Act and the Railway Labor Act. White was previously an associate at Morgan Lewis in its Boston and Washington, D.C., offices.

Mira Baylson L’08 joined Akin Gump’s Philadelphia office as counsel in its litigation practice. She was previously an attorney at Drinker Biddle & Reath. Baylson focuses on the defense of white collar criminal and other government enforcement actions and investigations. She has extensive experience litigating in both federal and state court and has tried more than 100 cases to verdict, including several successful jury trials.

David Cameron G’08, WG’08, L’08 has joined the Corporate Group of Dorsey & Whitney LLP as a partner. Cameron’s practice focuses on international capital markets work. He specializes in representing and advising corporate and investment banking clients on debt and equity offerings pursuant to Rule 144A and Regulation S under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, including high-yield, investment grade, private placements, block trades and medium-term note programs for issuers across Asia. Cameron also has extensive experience with green bonds and Masala bonds. His recent work before joining Dorsey has included advising on the State Bank of India’s Section 4(a)(2) equity offering of US$2.3 billion, the largest-ever Qualified Institutions Placement out of India to date, JSW Steel’s US$500 million high-yield bond offering, CK Hutchison Holdings’ US$1.8 billion dual tranche Rule 144A senior note offering and Sri Lanka’s sovereign US$1.5 billion Rule 144A senior note offering. He joins Dorsey from Allen & Overy, where he was counsel in that firm’s Capital Markets practice in Hong Kong. Before joining Allen & Overy in 2016, he was an associate for over seven years in the Capital Markets practice in the Hong Kong office of Linklaters.

Juan Garcia L’08 was named in a book called 40 Under 40 International Arbitration for his related work in client matters, speaking engagements and writing. In the publication, he wrote a chapter titled, “The Use of Document Production as a Strategic Tool in International Commercial Arbitration,” which focused on using discovery in international arbitration as a tool to efficiently and successfully resolve arbitral disputes. He was honored for his inclusion in the book at a ceremony in London in May. Garcia, who serves as counsel at Hogan Lovells’ Miami office, focuses on natural resources and foreign legal systems, including arbitrations administered under the rules of the International Chamber of Commerce, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes.

Louie Pastor L’09 has joined Xerox as executive vice president and general counsel. He will also serve as a member of the company’s executive committee. Pastor will oversee all of Xerox’s legal affairs, including legal aspects of the company’s various strategic initiatives, and lead the company’s corporate security and government-related and public policy activities on domestic and international affairs. Pastor joins Xerox from Icahn Enterprises, where he was deputy general counsel, responsible for, among other things, numerous long-term strategic initiatives, including the acquisitions and dispositions of various operating companies, and investments in and engagements with various public and private companies. Pastor was also responsible for overseeing the legal departments of the various operating subsidiaries of Icahn Enterprises. Pastor began his legal career at Simpson, Thacher Bartlett LLP in New York, where he advised public companies on mergers and acquisitions, securities offerings, corporate governance and other general corporate matters.

Klar Fitzpatrick C’05, L’10 was named one of the “2018 Lawyers on the Fast Track” by The Legal Intelligencer. Fitzpatrick is an associate at Morgan Lewis & Bockius, where she focuses her practice on labor and employment law. She is vice chair of the firm’s returning to work diversity lawyer network, which helps lawyers who take extended leaves; is chair of the Philadelphia Associates Committee; is a member of the Philadelphia Recruiting Committee; is a member of Morgan Lewis’s steering committee, the Philadelphia office’s women’s network and the firm’s United Way committee.
Anthony Frick L’10, the president and CEO of Philadelphia-based health and wellness tech company GlobalFit, expanded the business with the purchase of WalkMyMind, a one-person Philadelphia startup. The WalkMyMind app gives employees, whose companies offer exercise programs through GlobalFit, motivational podcasts and corporate messages in “walkcasts” to be listened to while exercising.

Kenji Price L’10 was appointed in January by Attorney General Jeff Sessions as Interim U.S. Attorney for Hawaii. Price had most recently been a director at Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing in Honolulu, where he focused on white collar criminal defense and commercial litigation. Price, a former Army Ranger with two Bronze Stars, also previously served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of New York, where he prosecuted a variety of cases involving domestic and international narcotics trafficking and other federal offenses.

Adam Schwartzbaum L’11 has joined The Moskowitz Law Firm, a new law firm founded by experienced class action litigators in Miami. As a senior associate, Schwartzbaum manages some of the largest class action lawsuits in the United States.

Leen Al-Alami L’13 joined Philadelphia law firm Kleinbard LLC as an associate in the business and finance department. She focuses her practice on corporate and securities matters, with emphasis on private equity transactions, mergers and acquisitions and corporate governance issues. Al-Alami was previously an associate in the corporate and securities group at Dechert LLP.

Harper Seldin C’11, L’14, an associate at Cozen O’Connor, was named a Buchholz Fellow by the Committee of Seventy, a nonpartisan civic leadership organization. The fellowship is for under-40 Philadelphia leaders who work in the nonprofit or private sectors. It focuses on building a pipeline of young leaders who want to improve the governance of the city, state and region. Fellows spend a year as a member of the Committee’s board of directors. The fellowship, which launched in 2017, honors Carl Buchholz L’92, who had served on the Committee of Seventy’s board of directors and executive committee for a decade before his passing in 2016.

Steve Stoute L’14 was named chief-of-staff to DePaul University’s President A. Gabriel Esteban. In his new role, he serves as the president’s senior advisor and oversees operations in the Office of the President. He is responsible for facilitating the development and delivery of the university’s strategic plan, as well as serving as the liaison to the board of trustees on key executive matters. Stoute was previously a corporate and securities attorney at Dechert LLP in Philadelphia.

Anna Han GED’15, L’15 married Daniel Silverman Aug. 18 in Washington, D.C. Kendal Rinko L’16 officiated the ceremony. Other alumni in attendance included Britney Wilson L’15, Casey Kraning-Rush L’16, Peter Mardian L’16, Gizele Rubeiz L’16, Jonathan Wheeler L’16, Lucas Tejwani GEN’17, L’17 and Silvia Ibrahim L’17. The newlyweds reside in Washington, where Han is an associate at Covington & Burling LLP.

Callie Kim L’16, who in March 2017 opened Tuck Barre & Yoga in Philadelphia’s Point Breeze neighborhood, opened a second location in University City in April. She hopes to expand barre and yoga options in the area, especially for Penn Law students.

Anthony Wildasin L’18 joined Day Pitney as an associate in the firm’s Parsippany, N.J., office. A summer associate at the firm in 2017, he now focuses his practice on public securities.
Faith Ryan Whittlesey L’63, a fierce anti-communist and conservative leader who served as ambassador to Switzerland and was one of the top-ranking women in President Reagan’s administration, died in May at the age of 79.

“She was completely dedicated to the President and his agenda—I wouldn’t use the word aggressive, but certainly persistent,” said Col. Oliver North, who is president of the National Rifle Association and worked closely with Whittlesey when he was a key figure at the National Security Council during the Reagan administration. “She had an enormous amount of influence on how things got done.”

Whittlesey, who co-chaired Reagan’s presidential campaign in Pennsylvania in 1980, later served as his assistant for public liaison, championing his conservative agenda. She served two stints as ambassador to Switzerland.

Whittlesey began her ascent to political power after winning the state representative seat for Haverford, Delaware County, Pa., in 1972. She was reelected in 1974. The Philadelphia Inquirer called her “one of the best prepared lawmakers in Harrisburg.” The next year, she successfully challenged the long-entrenched “War Board” Republicans who had controlled Delaware County since the 1950s, serving on County Council until 1979.

“She prevailed against a very established machine in Delaware County and... was able in her first terms as county commissioner to really reinvigorate and reorganize,” said Sandra Cornelius CW’65, a longtime friend and former Delaware County human services director.

Cornelius recalled observing her friend hand out campaign gear on train platforms at 42 weeks of pregnancy. Whittlesey, she said, was gifted at bringing people together to work for a cause.

“She was fierce,” Cornelius said. “She had an intellect that was tough to keep up with when she tilted off into her strategies to change the world. She was always seven steps ahead of everyone else.”

That included support for then-candidate Ronald Reagan, whom she voted for as an alternate Delaware County delegate to the 1976 Republican National Convention in defiance of the local Republicans, who backed Gerald Ford. Whittlesey suspected that vote cost her the primary election for Pennsylvania lieutenant governor in 1978, but she was triumphant in 1980 when she was named co-chair of Pennsylvania’s Reagan for President campaign.

In support of Reagan’s anticommunist policy in Central America, she formed the White House Outreach Working Group on Central America and advocated the creation of the National Bipartisan Commission on Central America. Because of phone records between her and Col. North, she was investigated for involvement in the Iran–Contra scandal, in which the Reagan administration sold arms to Iran to fund the Contras, a rebel group seeking to overthrow the socialist government in Nicaragua. North was indicted in the scandal, although his conviction was later overturned, and Whittlesey was cleared of any involvement.

“She was very clearly a devoted anticommunist, but she never got in front of the President,” North said, adding that she had a grasp of what would resonate with the American people, such as her demand for the declassification of a report on a massive stockpile of Soviet weapons retrieved after the liberation of Grenada.

After concluding her second ambassadorship in Switzerland, Whittlesey served 19 years as president and chairwoman of the American Swiss Foundation.

“She initiated the Young Leaders Conference in 1990 and led this organization for almost three decades and built it into what it is today, which is the most important private organization in United States/Swiss relations,” said Patricia Schramm, the current Foundation president.

Schramm called her an extraordinary leader and diplomat who deftly applied everything she learned as an ambassador in her work. “She was very, very devoted,” Schramm said, “and very beloved by all the people who worked with her.”

Her political and diplomatic efforts rarely waned. In 2001, President George W. Bush made her a member of the U.S. delegation to the U.N. Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects. The American Rose Society named an off-white rose after her in 2006, and in 2010, she received the International Friend of the Rose Award for fostering a relationship between gardening communities in the U.S. and China.

Whittlesey faced personal adversity. Her husband, Roger Whittlesey, took his own life in 1974, which left her a widow with three young children. Her oldest son, Henry, also committed suicide in 2012.

Despite her sorrows, friends described her as charismatic. “Charm doesn’t cover it,” Cornelius said. “She left people feeling joyful.”

Whittlesey is survived by her children William and Amy; 10 grandchildren; and a brother.
Harvey McClure L'49

During World War II, he served in the Rhineland, Battle of the Bulge and Central European Campaign as an artillery captain in the 84th Infantry Division. He was awarded the Army Bronze Star.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Helen. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Barbara; daughters Maureen and Christine; and stepchildren Robert and Kathe.

Catherine Barone L'48, who served as an attorney at law for 65 years, died Aug. 23. She was 97.

Ms. Barone was born in Philadelphia and attended John W. Hallahan Catholic Girls' High School and Temple University. After graduating from Penn Law, she clerked for the chief justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court from 1949 to 1950.

She mostly worked in private practice, but also held roles at the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, where she was a deputy attorney general for 12 years. After 65 years working as a lawyer, she retired in 2013 at the age of 92.

Ms. Barone was preceded in death by her former husband, Anthony Barone. She is survived by her son, Anthony Barone W'83; grandchildren Clara and Lucas; siblings Nancy and John; and several relatives.

Peter Ward C'47, L'49, a lifelong sailor and longtime New York City attorney, died June 3. He was 93.

Mr. Ward was born in New York City and attended The Green Vale School on Long Island and St. George's School in Newport, R.I., where he later was a trustee, chairman of the board of trustees and an active honorary trustee.

A graduate of Penn as both an undergraduate and law student, Mr. Ward also served as president of the Law School’s New York Alumni Society. Prior to his college graduation, Mr. Ward served in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He was discharged in 1946 with the rank of lieutenant.

He was a partner at Chadbourne & Parke, LLP, which recently merged with Norton Rose Fulbright, for more than 35 years. During his career, he...
served on several committees of the New York City, New York State Bar and American Bar associations. Mr. Ward was a director, vice president and executive committee member of the Legal Aid Society of New York, and also a director of the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest.

He and his wife of 60 years, Audrey, were residents of Darien, Conn., where Mr. Ward served on its representative Town Meeting and the Vestry. In addition, he was a senior warden at St. Paul’s Church. He was also a member of the New York Yacht Club for 61 years, of which he was a past secretary and trustee; he was a member of several other clubs, including the Royal Scandinavian Yacht Club. In 1955, he voyaged from Connecticut to Scotland and then sailed and raced in the Baltic and North seas.

The Wards also summered in Wood’s Hole, Mass., and Mr. Ward was additionally a member of the Quissett Yacht Club and a previous volunteer at the Quissett Fire Department.

He is survived by his wife, Audrey; children Peter, Susan, Pamela and Douglas; grandchildren Morgan, Brendan, Alexandra and Caitlin; and his brother, Larry. Mr. Ward was preceded in death by his brothers, Thomas and Philip.

George D’Angelo C’47, L’50, a Philadelphia lawyer known for his resplendent clothing, died April 16. He was 91.

Mr. D’Angelo was born in Philadelphia and graduated from Central High School. After attending Penn as an undergraduate and law student, he joined Truscott & Erisman and later formed D’Angelo & Eurell. From 1954 to 1969, he taught professional responsibility and the practice of law as an adjunct professor at Temple University Law School. His classes always had a waiting list, which he said was the consequence of being the sole Republican professor at the school.

He was remembered as an elegant man who in the summertime wore a straw boater and seersucker suits, while after each Sept. 15, he donned a black bowler and darker three-piece pinstripe suits. He enjoyed driving his 1949 Cadillac convertible, taking in an outdoor Mummers concert at Two Street, stopping by Downey’s or dining at the Four Seasons or the Philadelphia Club with friends.

Mr. D’Angelo was president of the Philadelphia Art Alliance from 1975 to 1981 and brought many new shows to the city. He remained an active board member and also supported several educational scholarships. Additionally, he was president of the Episcopal Church Club of Philadelphia; the treasurer of the Lawyers Club of Philadelphia; on the Vestry of the Church of St. Asaph’s; and a board member of Promesa Foundation and City Innovation in New York, and at Hayes Manor Retirement Community in Philadelphia. Mr. D’Angelo was a member of several legal and social organizations, including the Order of the Coif and the Philadelphia Club.

Mr. D’Angelo loved traveling, reading biographies and history, theater, ballroom dancing, and sailing.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Antonia Billett D’Angelo CW’47, SW’50, whom he met in English class on her first day at Penn. He is survived by his children Marc D’Angelo C’73, Christopher, David and Victoria; and his longtime companion, Brenda.

The Hon. Stephen McEwen Jr. L’57, former president judge of the Pennsylvania Superior Court and district attorney of Delaware County, died April 26. He was 85.

Judge McEwen was born in Upper Darby and attended St. Joseph’s College. Nearly 30 years after graduating from Penn Law, he earned a Master of Laws degree in 1986 from the University of Virginia Law School.

He was a two-term district attorney for Delaware County from 1967 to 1976. Between public service roles, Judge McEwen worked in private practice.
In 1981, then-Pennsylvania Gov. Dick Thornburgh appointed him to the appeals court bench, and he was later elected to a 10-year term. Judge McEwen sat on the Superior Court bench for more than 30 years, serving as president judge for five of those years. He retired in 2012.

Judge McEwen was remembered for his kindness, intelligence and sense of humor. He was fond of history, particularly American history, and once spearheaded an effort for the Superior Court to make arguments in Independence Hall.

Judge McEwen is survived by his wife of 62 years, Marguerite; twin daughters Mary Anne and Maureen; and seven grandchildren.

Roger Young L’61, who had an illustrious career as an FBI special agent, died March 30. He was 85.

Mr. Young was born in Massachusetts but grew up in the Philadelphia area. He was a graduate of Lower Merion High School and Dartmouth College. After college, he served as a U.S. Air Force navigator for three years before enrolling in Penn Law.

Just weeks after graduating from law school, Mr. Young fulfilled his lifelong dream of joining the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a special agent. He was first stationed in North Carolina, where he married and began a family. Then he moved to New York, where he was involved in the 1975 investigation of FALN, a Puerto Rican terrorist organization.

The FBI transferred Mr. Young to Phoenix, where he was the assistant agent in charge. His office investigated the 1976 bombing death of an investigative newspaper reporter from the Arizona Republic. From 1978 to 1980, he was the special agent in charge at the FBI’s San Diego office. He led investigations into the crash of Pacific Southwest Airlines Flight 182 into a neighborhood and the murder of two El Centro FBI agents.

He became the FBI’s chief spokesman in 1980, and a year later, was promoted to assistant director for the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs. He spoke on behalf of the FBI in high-profile cases including the 1981 assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan.

In 1984, Mr. Young retired from the FBI and returned to San Diego, where he was executive director of the San Diego Crime Commission until 1988. Then he moved to Omaha and served as Union Pacific’s chief of police, and in 1994, moved back to San Diego and worked as a consultant and with charities. His favorite charity was the San Diego Nice Guys, which helps families in difficult financial situations.

Mr. Young loved playing tennis and was known as a warm, generous, and intelligent man.

He is survived by his wife, Teresa; children Curt, Tim, Krista and Elicia; their mother, Dorothy; stepsons Jaryd, Brandon and Tyson; 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Arthur “Art” Jacobs L’66, who practiced law for five decades, died July 14. He was 77.

Mr. Jacobs grew up in the Bayside area of Queens, New York. After graduating from Penn Law, he worked as a tax attorney for the government of Washington, D.C. He then moved to California, where he was a corporate attorney for Dole, and subsequently to the Bay Area, where he met his future wife, Joy.

Thirty years ago, Mr. Jacobs and his family moved to Monterey, Calif., where he took up golfing. He enjoyed admiring nature on the courses, telling stories with his friends and teaching his grandchildren how to play the sport.

Mr. Jacobs practiced law for 50 years and throughout his career, loved helping others, especially those in great need. He was remembered as “a true character” who was funny, wise, and loving.

Mr. Jacobs is survived by Joy, his wife of 40 years; children Jon, Jen and Jordana; grandchildren Matthew, Joel, Sierra, Ben and Brody; and his two dogs, Charlie and Frankie.
RAY TRENT, REMARKABLE RESEARCHER AND MENTOR TO AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS, DIES AT 86

Ray F. Trent, a researcher extraordinaire who assisted countless students for almost 50 years as a pillar of the Biddle Law Library, passed away last August. He was 86.

Trent was a mentor to generations of African-American students, many of whom became lifelong friends. He took a particular interest in incoming students such as Anthony Gay L’94.

Gay, board co-chair of the Penn African-American Law Alumni Society, said he met Trent early in his first year. Their association continued until his death. “He was always keenly interested in how I was doing and my progress at the Law School and in my career,” said Gay, vice president, governmental and external affairs, PECO Energy. “I know from discussions with other alumni I was not alone in experiencing Ray’s caring, kindness, and encouragement.”

Trent, a senior bibliographic assistant at the time of his retirement in 2013, became the go-to source for information on the African-American experience in America, with an emphasis on the black lawyer. He was a one-man repository, supplying everything from the speeches of Malcolm X to bibliographies on American bank loans to South Africa.

In 1989, Elizabeth Kelly, then-director of the Biddle Law Library recognized the value of his documents and established the Ray F. Trent Collection on the Black Lawyer in America. The 250-volume collection, located outside the Rare Book Room in Tanenbaum Hall, includes the writings of Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr., volumes of the National Black Law Journal, and a biography of Philadelphia civil rights lawyer Raymond Pace Alexander, one of the namesakes of Penn Law’s civil rights chair.

Trent also gathered an impressive collection of audio tapes that feature everyone from Harry Belafonte to Bayard Rustin, the chief organizer of Martin Luther King’s March on Washington. Hundreds of those tapes have found a home at Temple University as part of the Blockson Collection.

After graduating from Cheyney State Teachers College, Trent worked as a welder, social worker and teacher until he found a home at Penn Law School, in 1964, when the library was located on the second floor of Silverman Hall.

More than 40 years later, Rachel Pereira L’09 met Trent as she ran through Tanenbaum Hall to make it to class on time. As she whisked by, Trent shared a box of Girl Scout cookies with her.

This was “the beginning of a long friendship,” said Pereira, legal affairs advisor and director of opportunity at Vassar College. “One of the things I most admired about Raymond Trent was his ability to sincerely be proud of the success of others. He relished hearing how Penn students flourished upon graduation.”

“He loved Penn Law,” she continued. “He loved the students who made up Penn Law.”

Two years ago, Penn Law alumni, led by Beverly Moran L’81, professor of law and sociology at Vanderbilt University, honored Trent with the unveiling of his portrait during a ceremonial dinner which was attended by Penn Law Dean Ted Ruger, a host of alumni and current students. Trent’s portrait is located in Gittis Hall.

Marvin Benton L’78 attended the portrait unveiling. Benton and Trent had an enduring friendship of 43 years. Informed of Trent’s critical condition by his wife, Benton rushed to Trent’s bedside from his home in Texas the day before Trent’s death.

Benton, a senior attorney with the Environmental Protection Agency in Dallas and a retired Army colonel, said when he arrived at the hospital he kissed Trent’s forehead and prayed for him. Trent, he said, had not opened his eyes all day but did so as Benton got ready to leave.

Benton, who delivered remarks at Trent’s funeral services, called Trent “the scholar behind the scholar, the professor behind the professor because Ray had really strong research skills.”

As a final tribute, The Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia, which addresses the needs of African-American lawyers in the community, in October dedicated a CLE to Ray Trent to commemorate his life's work on the black lawyer and the Raymond F. Trent Collection at Penn Law, according to Benton.

Trent is survived by his wife of 52 years, Gwendolyn and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.
Laura Christa L’80, a former president of the Penn Law Alumni Board of Managers and an enterprising California litigation lawyer, died Aug. 1. She was 63.

Christa spent much of her career at her eponymous small law firm, Christa & Jackson. She leveraged her global connections—as both a member and officer of the International Bar Association and as chair of LAWorld, a collaborative international network of independent law firms—to give the firm more reach and power, often representing national and international entities who sought California representation in the state and federal courts.

Ms. Christa brought the same global proclivity to Penn Law School, according to Rick D’Avino W’77, L’80, a classmate who preceded Ms. Christa as president of the Law Alumni Society Board of Managers. “She was one of the few undergraduate JD students who quickly became close to and regularly connected with the LLM group…and that connection lasted a lifetime,” said D’Avino, chair and managing director, Insourced Solutions for Tax at Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

Ms. Christa was born in Fort Knox, Ky., but as an Army brat, grew up in Germany, New Jersey, and California. After graduating from summa cum laude from Brandeis University, she enrolled at Penn Law School. In 1981, she moved to Los Angeles to practice law. She met her future husband, Laurence “Larry” Jackson, a few years later when they were associates at Finley Kumble.

While they were engaged, Ms. Christa started her own law firm. After the two married in 1984, Larry joined her practice, renamed Christa & Jackson, and the couple led the firm for the rest of their careers. At Christa & Jackson, Ms. Christa specialized in complex business litigation matters, with a focus on class action defense, copyright, trade secret, contract and other complex business disputes.

She also championed the advancement of girls and women. Ms. Christa spent time as a board member and board president of the California Women’s Law Center, where she advocated Title IX litigation for female athletes in L.A.-area schools. She was also an ardent fundraiser for women in all levels of public office, ranging from city councilors to presidential candidates.

Additionally, Ms. Christa served as judge pro tem and judicial settlement officer of the Los Angeles Superior Court.

At Penn Law School, she was an active alumnus as an ex-officio member of the board of overseers and as president of the Law Alumni Society Board of Managers. She served on reunion committees and regularly attended Los Angeles Alumni Club activities.

As LAS president, Ms. Christa expanded alumni involvement with admitted and current students, added social events, and took Society meetings to different cities, strengthening the bonds of members to one another and to Penn Law.

“Laura lived and worked far from Penn Law School, but the Law School was never far from her thoughts,” said Penn Law Dean Ted Ruger. “She brought great energy to everything she did, and we will miss her leadership and infectious enthusiasm.”

James Golden C’77, L’80, a fellow member of the Law Alumni Society Board of Managers, fondly recalled Ms. Christa’s effervescence. “Laura was representative of the personality of our class, which is perhaps the most important thing you could say about somebody,” said Golden, co-founder of Hamburg & Golden, P.C., in Philadelphia.

Ms. Christa loved the Rolling Stones, the Los Angeles Dodgers and Armani pantsuits. She had two children, Peter and Lucy, both of whom followed in her footsteps: Peter K. Jackson L’16 practices law at Latham & Watkins in Los Angeles, and Lucy is in her final year at UCLA Law School.

“We’re still wrapping our heads around it (her passing),” said close friend Sarah Solmsen L’80. “It doesn’t seem real. She leaves a big hole. She was just a force larger than life and was so devoted to the Law School.”

Ms. Christa is preceded in death by her husband, Larry, and her fraternal twin sister, Claudia. She is survived by her children and siblings Michael and Margaret.
He made a name for himself at the start of his career for his defense of Acme Markets against violations of Pennsylvania’s Blue Laws that restricted business on Sundays.

Sports weren’t his only passion: Mr. LePage loved the arts, including Baroque music and works by Shakespeare. He enjoyed playing bridge with his wife, Eileen, and traveling with her and their sons, particularly to national parks. Mr. LePage was a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Berks County. He was remembered for his sincere zest for life.

Mr. LePage is survived by his wife of 48 years, Eileen; sons Clifford and Alexander; grandchildren Mia, Arielle, Margaux and Pierce; and several relatives.

Clifford “Cliff” LePage, Jr. L’69, a prominent worker’s compensation attorney in Reading, Pa., died June 8. He was 74.

Mr. LePage was born in Reading and graduated from Reading High School and Brown University. After attending Penn Law, he was a longtime partner at Austin, Boland, Connor and Giorgi and was a legal community fixture in Reading. He specialized in workman’s compensation but made a name for himself at the start of his career for his defense of Acme Markets against violations of Pennsylvania’s Blue Laws that restricted business on Sundays.

He was a lifelong athlete and sports aficionado. He was co-captain of the track team at Brown and later completed the Boston Marathon. Mr. LePage was a member of the Pagoda Pacers AC. He also loved basketball and played in the Reading City League and the Antietam and West Reading summer leagues. For more than 40 years, he traveled across the country to attend the college basketball NCAA Tournament. Mr. LePage was additionally a loyal Cubs fan and rooted for the Oakland A’s, whom he believed were vastly underappreciated.

William DeVasher, Jr. W’67, L’70, who practiced corporate law for three decades in Wellesley, Mass., died Aug. 29. He was 72.

Mr. DeVasher was born in Philadelphia and graduated from LaSalle College High School. After attending the Wharton School and Penn Law, he began his legal career in New York City and Connecticut. He spent most of his career as a corporate lawyer in Wellesley, representing new, small and mid-sized businesses throughout New England. He loved his work and maintained lasting relationships with clients. An active alumnus, he also served as an interviewer for Boston-area applicants to Penn Law.

He had several interests, including a love of animals and keeping rare tortoises in addition to collecting minerals and French stamps. Mr. DeVasher enjoyed reading military history books, neighborhood poker games, old Western films, trying spicy foods and keeping up with New England and college sports. As a Penn student, he rowed on the crew team, and in his lifetime, ran several marathons. He also loved spending weekends in Maine, visiting family in England, and ultimately, spending time with his family over a good meal.

Mr. DeVasher is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Janet; daughters Claire Norwell and Emily Derosier C’04; and grandchildren Henry, Dylan, Annabelle, Teddy and Phoebe.

George Vary L’73, a lawyer and executive with a zest for life, died June 22. He was 69.

Mr. Vary was a graduate of Deerfield Academy and Harvard College, where he was “the voice of Harvard Hockey” on college radio. Following graduation from Penn Law, he had a successful career at Breed Abbot & Morgan in New York City before taking senior legal and executive positions at Armco Steel in Middletown, Ohio, and Washington, D.C.

Mr. Vary was also the executive director of the American Zinc Association for many years. A longtime Bethesda resident, he was a master chef and gifted golfer. After retirement, he and his wife Liz moved to the Charleston, S.C., area. He was remembered for his many talents and spontaneous wit.

Mr. Vary is preceded in death by his brother, Thomas. He is survived by his wife, Liz; children Elizabeth and Crispin; sisters Nancy and Betsy; and his beloved Golden Retriever, Boo.
Damon Miller L’75, a former U.S. Naval officer and longtime maritime lawyer, died Feb. 10. He was 71.

Mr. Miller was born in Summit, N.J., and lived there as a child in addition to Ontario, Canada and Jacksonville, Fla., where he attended Bolles School, graduating in 1964 as valedictorian.

Upon graduating from Princeton University in 1968, he was a newspaper reporter for five months at The Florida Times-Union, where he had previously been a summer editorial intern. He then completed Naval Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I., and served on active duty on the U.S.S. Northampton and the U.S.S. Hawkins until 1972. Mr. Miller retired from the Naval Reserve in 1991 with the rank of Commander, USNR.

After graduating from Penn Law in 1975, Mr. Miller began a 32-year career as a maritime lawyer, starting at Rawle and Henderson in Philadelphia. In 1984, he joined the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., where he specialized in the law of historic shipwrecks. Mr. Miller retired from the Department of Justice in 2007 as senior admiralty counsel.

Mr. Miller was a choral singer with the Mendelsohn Club of Philadelphia, where he performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, and with the Oratorio Society of Washington, where he performed with the National Symphony Orchestra. He served on the boards of both choral organizations. He also sang in the choir and Grupo Piccolo of his church, Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, in Bethesda.

Mr. Miller was a member of the Chrysalis Art and Culture and Adventuring Outdoors groups in Washington, and he taught English as a Second Language classes in retirement.

He is survived by his brother, Richard; best friend and companion, Richard Mumford; and other relatives.

William “Bill” Wynne, Jr. L’76, a longtime New York corporate attorney, died May 16. He was 65.

Mr. Wynne, the oldest of seven children, was born in River Edge, N.J., and attended St. Peter the Apostle School, River Dell Regional High School and Rutgers College.

After graduating from Penn Law in 1976, Mr. Miller joined White & Case in New York City in 1976, where he practiced corporate law for 40 years. In his career, he represented prominent corporations and private equity firms and held leadership positions within the firm, including chairman of the management board.

He was beloved at the firm as a respected mentor to younger attorneys and was remembered as loyal and generous.

Mr. Wynne is survived by his wife, Barbara; children Andrew, Emily and William; grandson Seth; siblings Diane, Deborah, Donald and Walter; and several relatives.

The Rev. Robert Wilson C’75, L’80

He was a member of Penn’s varsity track team until his senior year, when he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Friends and family said that he never felt sorry for himself or allowed the disease to stop him from enjoying life and achieving his goals.
A

drian Cronauer L’89, the man who inspired the movie *Good Morning, Vietnam*, based on his exploits as a morale-boosting disc jockey during the war, died in July. He was 79.

The film, starring Robin Williams, depicts Cronauer as an anti-establishment DJ who flouts military rules and connects with young soldiers. Williams earned an Academy Award nomination for his role.

Cronauer’s story got the Hollywood treatment. The script transformed him into a wisecracking subversive who questioned the strategy of the war. In real life, Cronauer was a devout Republican who once cut an ad for George H.W. Bush’s re-election campaign that slammed Bill Clinton’s draft record.


According to newspaper reports, it wasn’t until 1979 that he thought about mining his experiences for a movie or TV show. That year he moved to New York, subleasing an apartment from Ben Moses, whom he had hired for an on-air position at Armed Forces Radio in Vietnam. Moses and Cronauer developed a storyline, which made the rounds of agents and producers. Many rejections later, it eventually found its way to Robin Williams’ agent. The rest is semi-invented history.

Moses, an Emmy Award-winning producer, summed up Cronauer’s legacy: “[*Good Morning, Vietnam*] literally changed the way Americans thought about the war in Vietnam and the Vietnamese people; and it opened up a dialogue and allowed all of us to talk about it again.”

By the time of the movie’s release in 1987, Cronauer had accumulated a wealth of experience, serving as a news anchor, radio station manager and radio pitchman for Lipton, Columbia Records, and Welch’s grape juice. He had also been an assistant to Fred Rogers, who was just starting out in Cronauer’s native Pittsburgh with a show called “The Children’s Corner.”

That same year, Cronauer entered law school, in his late forties. In a Penn Law Journal interview, Cronauer described the first semester of law school as “the hardest thing I had done since basic training.” But he survived and even made the University of Pennsylvania Law Review. Better yet, his cut from the movie and his earnings on the lecture circuit paid his way through law school. He said he graduated without owing a dime.

Cronauer was prepared to spend the rest of his life practicing communications law. But 9/11 changed his plans. When President George W. Bush recruited him to work on MIA/POW issues as a special assistant in the U.S. Department of Defense, he couldn’t say no.

In that job, Cronauer logged thousands of miles like a diplomatic attaché, traveling to Hanoi, Saigon, Seoul, Kuwait and Iraq, among many other locations. And every year, working with a team of far-flung forensics experts, he would help identify the remains of at least 100 people.

“It’s probably one of the most rewarding things I’ve ever done,” Cronauer told the *Penn Law Journal* in 2007. “This means a lot to me because of what it means to people who are trying to fill that hole [in their lives].”
Steven Liu L’97, a partner and chief representative for Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin & Hachigian’s China practice, died May 25. He was 46.

Mr. Liu emigrated to the United States from Taiwan as a child and attended Harker Academy and Bellarmine College Preparatory in San Jose and the University of California at Berkeley. After graduating from Penn Law, he joined Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, where he had been a summer associate.

Mr. Liu later worked as a partner at DLA Piper, relocating to Beijing, where he began serving as head of the corporate practice group in 2010. He joined Gunderson Dettmer in 2012, as the Silicon Valley firm prepared to open its first international office in Beijing. He assumed the role of co-head of the firm’s China practice and focused on venture capital and private equity work in Beijing. Mr. Liu counseled investors, entrepreneurs and technology companies in China, and the firm considered him a key player in China’s technology innovation efforts. In his career, he oversaw more than 100 mergers and acquisitions.

He was remembered for being a strong leader, a caring mentor, and for his humility, compassion and sense of humor. He loved his family, valued education and was a loyal fan of the Golden State Warriors.

Mr. Liu is survived by his wife, two children and his parents.

Richard Schollenberger, Jr. L’89, a Chicago attorney, died May 7. He was 53.

Mr. Schollenberger was born in Schuylkill Haven, Pa., and graduated from LCCC in 1985 and Boston University in 1987. After attending Penn Law, he was a state appeals law clerk in Allentown, Pa., and then became a managing partner at Lewis & Davidson, Ltd., in Chicago.

He is survived by his wife, Christine; sons Victor and Calvin; siblings Jack, Cassandra and Kim; and several relatives.
ON A SCORCHING SUMMER DAY, players hit blistering line drives during the annual 1L–Faculty/Staff softball game at Penn Park. Among the faculty taking the field were Penn Law Dean Ted Ruger, professors David Abrams, Michael Knoll and Polk Wagner, Practice Professor of Law Praveen Kosuri, and Legal Practice Skills Lecturer Sarah Pierce. As in years past, students prevailed.