

Georgia State Law

ALUMNI MAGAZINE • FALL 2016



LAUREN SUDEALL LUCAS, DIRECTOR,
CENTER FOR ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Shining a
light on
OBSTACLES
TO ACCESS
in the South



Jim Smith (LL.M. '17) is pursuing the new LL.M. degree in health law.

ENTERING CLASS**LL.M. students**

Bar track: 25

General studies track: 12

Countries represented:
Argentina, Australia,
Brazil, China, Colombia,
Georgia, Ghana, India,
Israel, Kazakhstan,
Netherlands, Nigeria,
Philippines, Romania,
Saudi Arabia, South
Africa, Sweden, Turkey,
Bolivarian Republic of
Venezuela

J.D. students

Total applicants: 2,115
(10% increase from
fall 2015)

Enrolled: 207

Men: 111 (54%)

Women: 96 (46%)

Diversity: 56 (28%)

Part-time: 35

Full-time: 172

Non-residents: 40

Average age: 24

GPA

75th percentile: 3.61

25th percentile: 3.21

Median: 3.42

LSAT

75th: 160

25th: 155

Median: 158

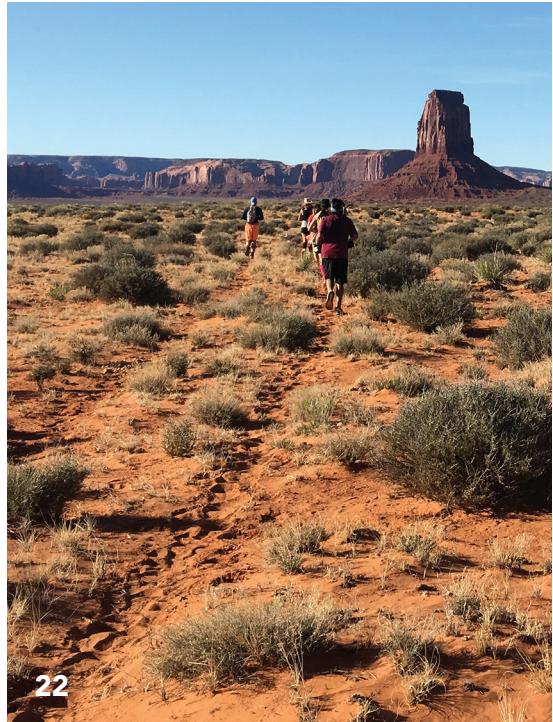


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Law school unplugged blog: law.gsu.edu/law-school-unplugged



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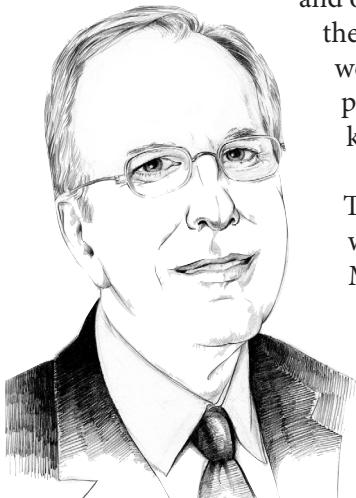
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From the Dean

ONE OF THE GREAT TENETS of the legal profession is fairness and equal treatment under the law. The barriers to access to legal representation in the criminal and civil systems for those with limited financial means lead to grave inequalities in the scales of justice. With a growing divide between the wealthy and the poor, access issues are more pressing than ever.

As an avenue to reduce those inequities, Georgia State Law, under the leadership of assistant professor Lauren Sudeall Lucas, is launching the Center for Access to Justice. Lauren has devoted much of her career and scholarship to indigent defense reform. In addition to its research, advocacy and outreach components, the center will be an invaluable resource for our students, providing them opportunities to be more informed and have hands-on experiences in public interest work. Lauren has recruited a large number of our faculty to the center, who will begin to place more emphasis on access issues in their curriculum, equipping future lawyers with the knowledge and motivation to find workable solutions for this crisis.



The center is another manifestation of how Georgia State Law is committed to cultivating well-rounded graduates who enter the profession while giving back, fulfilling the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct's Rule 6.1 — that every lawyer has a professional responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay.

Lawyers like Stephanie Everett (J.D. '02), Nicki Vaughan (J.D. '94), Peter Zeliff (J.D. '98) and Nancy DeVetter (J.D. '08) are making strides in fighting for access and providing pro bono or affordable services. Stephanie, the director of Lawyers for Equal Justice, trains attorneys on how to provide affordable representation to the underserved population — those who earn too much to qualify for legal aid but not enough to afford the market rate for an attorney.

Nicki, chief assistant public defender for the Northeastern Judicial Circuit, is involved in the State Bar Access to Justice Committee. Peter is a criminal defense attorney based in Cumming, Georgia, and a former public defender. Nancy, a staff attorney in the Savannah Regional Office of the Georgia Legal Services Program, helps clients with public benefits and expungements. Learn more about these alumni in this issue.

Georgia State Law alumni have a long tradition of public service. We salute all our alumni and faculty who devote their talents to serving their communities, whether it be as public defenders, Legal Aid attorneys and judges who ensure their courtrooms are easy to navigate for *pro se* clients or those engaged in pro bono efforts.

Steven J. Kaminshine
Dean and Professor of Law

Briefs

OUTSTANDING LAW STUDENT AWARD

The Georgia Association for Women Lawyers (GAWL) presented **Jenna Rubin (J.D. '16)** with its annual Outstanding Law Student Award at the GAWL Annual Awards Dinner in May.

Kelly Cahill Timmons, associate dean for student affairs and associate professor of law, nominated Rubin for the award, which recognizes female law students' commitment to excellence and an aptitude for leadership and philanthropy.



proceedings during her last semester at Georgia State Law. She decided to attend law school after teaching special education at a Title I school.

"When I was assigned a special education classroom, I had to teach myself the special education laws because I was not trained in them," said Rubin, a staff attorney at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit. "I quickly realized I was one of very few people who consistently advocated for my students' rights as prescribed by law. I wanted to go to law school to make an even bigger difference."

"I was completely surprised and flattered by the recognition," Rubin said. "It was wonderful to cap off my law school experience with recognition of my hard work."

Rubin published a note in the *Georgia State University Law Review* about children and worked with organizations representing domestic violence victims in protective order

Study Space IX examines Africa's struggle to urbanize sustainably

The Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth with the University of Cape Town's African Centre for Cities held "Study Space IX, Revaluing the City: Land, Infrastructure and the Environment as a Catalyst for Change" in Cape Town, South Africa, June 27 to July 1. The weeklong intensive workshop featured lectures and site visits designed to give participants an understanding of Africa's struggle to urbanize sustainably and equitably post-apartheid. With an urban population that is projected to reach 50 percent by 2030, problems of income inequality, food insecurity, inadequate transportation networks, lack of urban services, environmental degradation and climate change present novel management and legal challenges for Africa.

Professors **Julian Juergensmeyer**, **Ryan Rowberry** and **John T. Marshall** and Assistant Director **Karen Johnston (J.D. '08)** annually develop the seminar for leading U.S. and international urban development practitioners and scholars in the fields of planning, law, community development and finance and allied disciplines. A published volume of post-conference papers is forthcoming.

"Exploring the Right to Die in the U.S." at Nov. 11 symposium

Georgia State Law Review's symposium, "Quinlan at 40—Exploring the Right to Die in the U.S.," will be held Friday, Nov. 11, in the Knowles Conference Center.

The landmark case, *In re Quinlan*, was decided by the Supreme Court of New Jersey 40 years ago. It was the first major judicial decision to hold that life-sustaining medical treatments may be discontinued in appropriate circumstances, even if the patient is unable or incompetent to make the decision.

"With new advancements in medicine and the law, more people are faced with end-of-life decisions," said **April Meeks (J.D. '18)**, *Law Review* symposium editor.

"We hope this symposium will educate students and attorneys on where we are as a country—and more specifically as a state—when it comes to making these important decisions."

Speakers will discuss how case law, legislation and general attitudes towards end-of-life decisions have evolved since *In re Quinlan*. **Margaret P. Battin**, distinguished professor of philosophy and adjunct professor of internal medicine with the Division of Medical Ethics at the University of Utah, will deliver the keynote.

Dr. Dean Karampelas (J.D./M.S.H.A. '14), critical care medicine and pulmonology specialist with the

Northeast Georgia Health System, will offer a physician's perspective on end-of-life decision-making and **Alan Meisel**, professor of bioethics, professor of law and psychiatry and director, Center for Bioethics and Health Law, University of Pittsburgh, and **Thaddeus Pope**, professor of law and director of the Health Law Institute at the Mitchell Hamline School of Law, will share legal perspectives.

The symposium will also include a panel examining end-of-life decisions affecting specific populations, including pregnant women, the disabled and the elderly, as well as a panel focusing on laws and legislation in Georgia.



LAW DAY 2016

Miranda: More than words

Russell Dean Covey, professor of law, participated in the 2016 American Bar Association (ABA) Leon Jaworski Public Program series as part of Law Day 2016.

In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Miranda v. Arizona*, the 2016 Law Day theme was "Miranda: More than Words." Covey participated on a panel that discussed whether *Miranda* is still "part of our national culture."

"The Supreme Court has handed down many decisions since the 1970s that have watered [Miranda] down, which sought to improve how people stay informed of their legal rights and balance the needs of the legal system while enforcing criminal law," Covey said.

Covey considers the prevalence of *Miranda* in pop culture as an important topic for legal professionals.

"*Miranda* is unique among Supreme Court cases. It reflects a major moment in the development of criminal procedure. Not only did it impact police practices and the status of criminal procedure, it became known by the general public more so than any other," he said. "We use *Miranda* as a symbol of the rule of law and processes police should follow during interrogation."

Covey acknowledges that TV and film producers don't often depict *Miranda* accurately. As a result, many people don't fully understand the importance of evoking their *Miranda* rights.

"People who are being interviewed by police don't take it seriously, and they should," he said. "The purpose of the *Miranda* warnings was not only to tell the individual that they had the right to be silent and to consult an attorney, so that the attorney could inform them better about their right to silence, but also to communicate to them that anything they say can and will be used against them, which is a significant moment that has legal consequences."



BOOK RECEPTION

Professor **Jonathan Todres**, an internationally recognized expert in children's rights, presented on *Human Rights in Children's Literature: Imagination and the Narrative of Law*, a book he co-wrote with **Sarah Higinbotham**, on Sept. 7 at Georgia State Law. Their book brings together children's rights law, literary theory and human rights education research to argue that for children to fully realize their human rights, they first have to imagine and understand them.

Todres discussed how children can grow to realize their rights and to respect the rights of others and how human rights norms are disseminated so that they make a difference in children's lives. In connection with the event, the Center for Law, Health and Society sponsored a book drive to benefit Fugees Family, a Georgia-based nonprofit organization devoted to working with child refugees.

HeLP Clinic students score two big disability wins

Ryan Behndleman (J.D. '16) and **Ryan Bozarth (J.D. '16)** won two Social Security disability cases for their clients, two children with significant medical disabilities, while working with the Georgia State Law Heath Law Partnership Clinic. Both children were previously denied disability benefits.

In the first case, the judge awarded disability benefits based on the brief that Behndleman and Bozarth filed on behalf of their client, a toddler born with a genetic condition that resulted in deformities. "It was amazing to be able to help a family that you know deserved to be receiving benefits," Behndleman said. "Being able to win solely based on something that we wrote was really satisfying as well."

The second case involved a 2-year-old girl with sickle cell disease. The client was granted several thousand dollars of back payments, dating from the original application for disability, as well as an award of future monthly disability benefits.

"This victory was really satisfying because we knew how important these benefits were to her family," Bozarth said.



SBA, first-year students help Feeding ATL project

When Student Bar Association President **Darlene Childers (J.D. '17)** learned of an opportunity to help a local charitable organization, she sprang into action. She reached out to incoming first-year students and within a few days had more than enough volunteers to assist Caring For Others Inc. with its Feeding ATL project.

"I had many responses, but had to limit the opportunity to 10 students," Childers said.

The students helped pack boxes of food and load them into the cars of nearly 2,000 recipients who were prequalified by founder Eslene Shockley.

"The recipients were people who have jobs but still have trouble making ends meet," Childers said. "It was eye-opening for me to see how many people qualified even with the stringent requirements."

Kimberly Carabotta (J.D. '19) also said the experience was enlightening.

"Often, those are the people who get overlooked, and helping them continue to succeed made me feel good."

Volunteering was also a wonderful introduction to Atlanta and to Georgia State Law's community, said Carabotta. "For me, being new to Atlanta and being able to immediately join in and help the community was a great feeling," she said.

Childers reached out to the incoming students specifically to give them a chance to get to know some classmates before classes started.



"I volunteered to serve the community, and it ended up being a blessing for me," said Carabotta, a part-time evening student. "I really appreciate that Darlene had foresight to see this as not only an opportunity to help the community but also an opportunity to help us start our new law family. And being able to carry that into orientation—I felt a huge relief walking in already knowing so many classmates."

The quick response Childers received in her call for volunteers is indicative of the civic-minded atmosphere at Georgia State Law, she said.

"Georgia State is committed to public service, and to have these incoming 1Ls be so responsive shows how awesome our admission program is at identifying students who further promote the commitment Georgia State has to public service and the environment we have already cultivated," Childers said.

Childers plans to coordinate more volunteer opportunities for students with Caring For Others Inc.



Kinkopf testifies before House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee

Professor **Neil Kinkopf** testified Sept. 7 before the U.S. House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice about the legalities and oversight of the Judgment Fund.

The hearing was prompted by charges that President Obama has been abusing the fund to create programs to benefit political allies, Kinkopf said. The recent \$1.7 billion payment to Iran, which represented the settlement of a decades-old arbitration claim but has been called a ransom payment for release of prisoners by critics, also was questioned. Part of the payment, \$1.3 billion in cash, was taken from the Judgment Fund.

The hearing also sought expert opinion regarding pending legislation that would require certain disclosures by the Department of Treasury about how Judgment Fund payments are administered.

"The information it would require the executive to disclose would allow the public, and Congress, to monitor the use of the Judgment Fund and to have some basis for identifying instances of overreach," Kinkopf said. "This bill seems a modest measure that respects the constitutional separation of powers while allowing Congress to fulfill its constitutional responsibilities."

This is the fourth time Kinkopf has been called as a constitutional law expert to provide information at a congressional hearing.

In their words | Two alumni on entertainment law



VIACOM
TAX COUNSEL

Chiquita Banks (J.D. '09)

What's your day-to-day like?

It's a little bit of tax, a little bit of entertainment and a lot of negotiation. I help productions gain tax incentives for film and television projects that spend money to produce content in a jurisdiction, such as Georgia — they purchase hotel rooms or wood to build sets, rent cars and venues, pay for talent or laborers such as electricians, etc. Essentially, I help reduce the cost of production.

These tax credits are based upon a state, local or international jurisdiction's laws, so I also get to interact with legislators at various levels, to follow legislation as it passes/fails and determine the impact it will have on our current and future production slate.

phase and help them hone in on the types of things they should think about for production. For example, an MTV series is considering filming in New Zealand, so I get to interact with the country's film commissioner, read code and regulations as it relates to tax incentives and then help the production team better understand the types of expenditures that will qualify.

When you see the Georgia peach logo at the end of a Viacom production, I helped that show receive a tax incentive. I've assisted productions such as VH1's *Love & Hip Hop: Atlanta*, BET's *Being Mary Jane* and Paramount's soon-to-be-released *Baywatch*. I get to know who is going to star in a TV show or movie, or where it will be filmed, before the general public. As a consumer and fan of our brand, that's exciting to me. I also visit TV or

"My 6-year-old niece appreciates that I work for Nickelodeon!"

What's the biggest misconception others have about your work?
That it's boring — it's not boring at all! I

speak with the accountants and finance executives with various productions. I learn about productions in the developmental

film sets a couple of times a year and get to attend award shows. And finally, my 6-year-old niece appreciates that I work for Nickelodeon!

What led you to working as a tax attorney in the entertainment field?

It was a matter of being in the right place at the right time. In 2010, I started working with Bennett Thrasher. They focused primarily on entertainment because of the influx of production due to Georgia's state film tax credit, which was revamped in 2009. The amount of production in Georgia skyrocketed; now it is the state with the third largest number of TV and film sets.

Many of my clients at Bennett Thrasher were large MPAA members, and I had such great relationships, especially with my contact at Viacom. So when a position opened up, it was mine.

How would you advise students interested in a similar career?

You have to know the industry and the industry players. I listened to clients and researched their projects. I knew challenges that the industry faced, not just from a tax perspective, but in general. I had to learn what they needed outside of the service I was providing. Make sure that you are addressing their concerns and know the audience you are speaking to so you can be effective.

Chiquita Banks (J.D. '09) is tax counsel at Viacom Inc. (parent company of brands such as MTV, BET, VH1, CMT, Spike, Logo, Nickelodeon, Comedy Central, Paramount and more). She was named one of Daily Report's 40 Rising Stars in 2015. She earned an M.B.A. from Florida A&M University.

"I love to create innovative businesses, and I get to do that all the time."

Peter Morris (J.D. '07)

Editor's note: Peter Morris (J.D. '07) became the executive vice president of the IMAX Entertainment unit and senior vice president of the overall corporation in June. He is the former vice president of business affairs and strategy at Funny or Die, where he worked for nearly six years. In this interview, he shares his experience at Funny or Die.

What got you interested in entertainment law?

After college I had illusions of being an actor, and so with virtually nothing more than a suitcase I headed to Los Angeles. Turns out I was not a good actor, but I was lucky and scored an internship in a casting office at Disney. There I became fascinated with the process of actors being booked for the show: casting, marketing and promotion, negotiation and drafting of contracts.

What are some funny things you've had to deal with on the job?

Tough call! How about a 58-email chain with Comedy Central debating whether Adam Devine could show a close up of a camel urinating on our television special, whether that might amount to animal cruelty and whether it might be a violation of the FCC regulations.

Figuring out what to do when co-workers found the David Letterman Late Show set "abandoned at CBS" and wanted to use it on the Chris Gethard Show. They told me, "We aren't stealing it; we're just giving it a new home."

Learning that comedians in the series "Drunk History" are really drunk—we actually require them to get hammered during filming—and then figuring out how we were going to release them and care for their safety.

What's the most exciting thing about your job?

I love to create innovative businesses, and I get to do that all the time. My favorite recent example is our Funny or Die D.C. office. Essentially, it produces specialized comedic content with political parties and candidates, Super PACS and other politically motivated nonprofits. Working through the difficult campaign finance laws and regulatory issues to help build this business was fun. Recently, Funny or Die D.C. was responsible for a campaign that helped secure near unanimous Congressional passing of the Sexual Assault Survivors Rights Act.

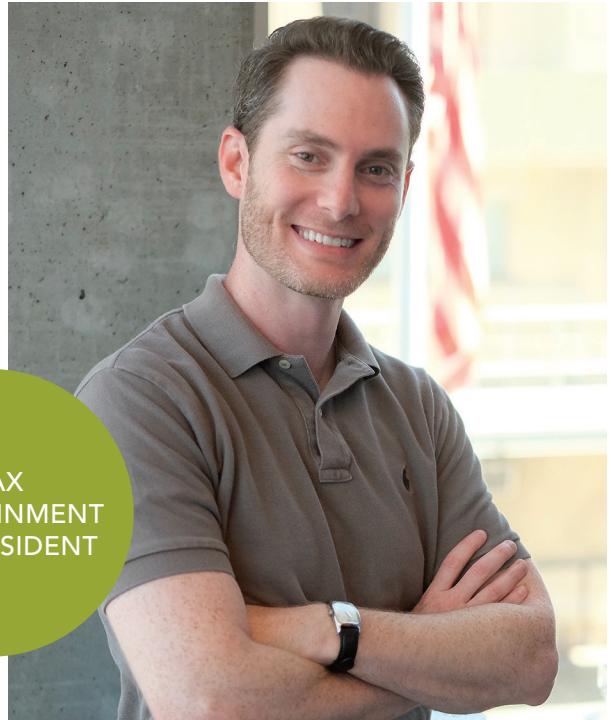
How often do you steer the creative team away from potential trouble?

Almost every piece of content we make is reviewed by the legal team, and it is extremely rare that we say "no." Our goal is to help solve the legal problem and work with the creative team to come up with a suggestion that they like but still gives us the protection we need.

What advice would you give to students considering a career in entertainment law?

You need to be prepared to claw, scratch and hustle! It's an extremely small and tight-knit group. You likely need to move to Los Angeles. Take every single meeting you can. Don't ever leave a meeting

**IMAX
ENTERTAINMENT
VICE PRESIDENT**



without asking that person to set up a meeting for you with a new person.

What are you most proud of?

A couple of years ago we got a call from Will Ferrell and Adam McKay (two of Funny or Die's main principals) about a young American who was working in the United Arab Emirates and was being held in a maximum security prison. His crime was creating a short comedy video and posting it to YouTube. It was shortly after the Arab Spring, and the UAE had a new law against using social media. He was arrested and jailed without ever having set foot in a courtroom. When a reporter asked his brother why he made a silly video, he answered that his brother was inspired by Funny or Die. We immediately went to work on a campaign to draw awareness to this young man's plight. Shortly after, he was released. Many people and our government worked to secure his release, but the fact that Funny or Die was able to help is the thing I am most proud of in my time here.

Read more Q&A at law.gsu.edu/chiquita-banks and law.gsu.edu/peter-morris.

OBSTACLES TO ACCESS

Barriers leave many
falling through the cracks
of the justice system

by Jennifer Bryon Owen

WHEN CONFRONTED WITH some of life's most difficult hardships—whether the custody of children, the ability to remain in long-term housing, domestic violence, incarceration, compensation for work or obtaining government benefits enabling a person to put food on the table and receive health care—the assistance of a lawyer is invaluable. Yet a vast number of Americans lack the means and sometimes access to secure an attorney, creating a substantial disparity in equality of justice.

In 2010, the U.S. Department of Justice recognized this “crisis in the criminal and civil justice system” and established the Office for Access to Justice to “improve the justice delivery systems that serve people who are unable to afford lawyers.”

1 in 4 Georgians likely face barriers to obtaining employment, housing and even voting due to having criminal records.

— “The State of Corrections in Georgia,” Georgia Center for Opportunity

This fall, the College of Law launched the Center for Access to Justice, which will convene scholars, practitioners and law and policy makers to research and discuss ways to eliminate obstacles and increase access to justice, with an emphasis on the South. (Read more on page 14).

These efforts are part of similar conversations nationwide, all of which likely start at the same place—defining access to justice, which can mean different things to different people.

“At the center, we conceive of access to justice not only as access to a lawyer, but as encompassing all of the ways in which lower-income individuals navigate the justice system to achieve a desired end,” said Lauren Sudeall Lucas, assistant

professor of law and the center’s faculty director. “True access to justice also has to contemplate the needs that people may not themselves think of as ‘legal’—to those individuals, these are just problems they face every day, whether they relate to housing, a job or family—but which can and should be resolved by the justice system.”

For example, a person experiencing illness caused by mold in her apartment may not understand it’s not only a health issue but potentially a legal issue that should be addressed with the landlord.

On the criminal side, the U.S. Constitution guarantees some defendants the right to an attorney. Yet, just having a lawyer present isn’t always enough to ensure fair access. “If you have a lawyer, and he or she isn’t competent, or if they are competent but not able to do their job effectively due to time or resources, that can be very dangerous,” Lucas said.

On the civil side, there is no parallel to guarantee legal representation. While legal aid is an option for some, the income level to qualify for assistance is shockingly low, Lucas said. With little exception, clients’ incomes must be at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty level. That leaves a large number of middle-income Americans who cannot afford a private attorney but also don’t qualify for a legal aid attorney. In Georgia alone, that is over 1.69 million households.

Even those who are eligible may not get assistance, given limited resources. Data shows that across the country, on average, only one legal aid attorney is

available for every 6,415 low-income households.

The experiences of two Georgia State Law alumnae—a legal-aid attorney and a magistrate judge—highlight the complex issues involved in ensuring access.

Legal aid navigates the system

Nancy DeVetter (J.D. ’08), a staff attorney in the Savannah office of the Georgia Legal Services Program, defines access to justice as an equal opportunity to understand the law and to present a case when something has gone wrong. DeVetter specializes in public benefits—access to Social Security, unemployment, food stamps, Medicare and Medicaid and other programs designed to help people in need.

“My job is to help people who normally don’t have a legal education or access to that kind of lawyer sort through basic legal problems,” DeVetter said.

Of the nearly two million people in Georgia who live below the poverty line, DeVetter said the majority are eligible for a variety of services but have problems dealing with large, underfunded, understaffed government agencies.

“A lot of people fall through the cracks,” she said.

Having the assistance of an attorney who can help navigate the system can make a significant impact.

One of DeVetter’s clients, an elderly woman awaiting a kidney transplant, didn’t understand why her food stamp allocation had been cut from \$190 a month to \$40. DeVetter realized the error,

secured the client \$100 in food stamps in back pay and \$194 in food stamps going forward. Overcome with emotion, the client gave DeVetter a big hug—and told her to use the client's nickname.

"The 24 hours between when she called me and that court appearance made a difference in her life," DeVetter said.

Access to information is another hurdle in closing the justice gap. Many of those eligible for legal aid services don't know they can get help, and some are not

at the local probation office and works with a nonprofit organization providing job training to target people who may need her help. She also works with various agencies to target people recently released from prison to ensure they know what services are available to help them transition back into their communities.

In addition, she relies on satisfied clients to spread the word, often through their churches.

But the downside to awareness is the reality of legal aid: lack of funding means there are not enough lawyers to serve all who walk through the door. So cases in DeVetter's office are prioritized: first served are domestic violence victims, the elderly and the disabled. There is a dire need for volunteers.

"Pro bono work is essential in helping meet these legal needs," said DeVetter. "We definitely need more."

Adding to her already

heavy caseload, DeVetter has assumed duties as the office's Spanish-speaking attorney. Language can be a barrier to access. But it is not the quality of her Spanish that concerns DeVetter. She and her colleagues want more attorneys and volunteers who are native Spanish speakers so their office will be more representative of the diverse clients they serve.

Funding is key to increasing access

Lack of funding is a frequent barrier to sufficient staff, programs, communication avenues and research—all needed to ensure access to justice.

"Funding is the biggest problem; it always is," said DeKalb County Magistrate Judge Mary McCall Cash (J.D. '92).

While Cash feels good about the opportunities for access in DeKalb County, she said everything depends on funding, and it is never enough.

DeKalb County is fortunate in its criminal system, she said. "We have excellent public defenders, so access in our county is unlike it probably is in most places. There are places in which they still have lawyers who fall asleep in court and don't have any idea what they're doing. Guilty or not, everyone deserves a good defense," Cash said. Even if the person is not acquitted, a good public defender could reduce the charges or limit the time served.

Reiterating that access is affected by where you live, she praises the idea behind Georgia's statewide public defender system, but notes it has never had enough money to make it the truly viable system it could be. In addition, six single-circuit counties opted out of the system.

Part of the funding problem is that the people who don't have good public defenders to represent them are also people who don't really have access to the General Assembly to lobby for their needs. "There's no political pressure," Cash said.

The state is moving in the right direction in criminal cases by providing access to specialty courts, or accountability courts, for juvenile and adult mental health, veterans, DUIs and drug court for nonviolent people with addictions, Cash said.

The war on drugs has had devastating consequences in the criminal justice system, Cash said. "Instead of treating people as having an addiction problem, we treat them as criminals," she said. "The amount of money and time we spend on it—why are we wasting our resources on that? [Many of those people] don't need to be in jail, they just need some help to get back on their feet."

Lack of access and lack of awareness of resources for affordable legal



Nancy DeVetter (J.D. '08)

aware of legal procedures that may help resolve issues affecting their livelihood.

This is often the case in expunging non-convictions from clients' criminal records. "I had a client who was falsely accused of rape, and it had been on his record 20 years, although the warrant against him had been dismissed," DeVetter said. "His record was preventing him from getting work and housing."

But even letting communities know assistance is available has challenges. With little money for marketing, getting the word out often falls on the shoulders of attorneys—another duty tacked on to caseloads that are too high. To network in her community, DeVetter teaches classes

representation and help lead to many citizens representing themselves in court.

In her court, Cash takes measures to ensure it is “user friendly” for pro se clients so they will get a fair hearing. The judges are patient, listening and letting the pro se talk it out. “Under our rules, we won’t let people argue until they’ve gone with a deputy to try to work the problem out by talking, and a huge number of cases get worked out that way,” she said.

In 2013, Georgia’s two legal aid organizations closed 18,047 cases with 110 attorneys.

—secf.org/legal-aid-ga

The ethnically diverse DeKalb County also has a workable solution for the barrier to access that language can present. Cash estimated that five to eight percent of the people appearing in her court do not speak English.

In one-on-one situations, such as in an ex parte interview for a protective order, Cash’s court uses AT&T’s language line for interpreters. It’s also used for hearings held via video.

“However, in all formal, in-person courtroom hearings, the courts in DeKalb County hire court-qualified interpreters to do virtual simultaneous translation,” she said.

Other solutions to closing the justice gap, Lucas said, may involve looking to resources that involve non-lawyers, changing the nature of legal representation (for example, providing unbundled, discrete services for a flat fee) and using technology to assist self-represented litigants.

“There seems to be some increased awareness of the issues people are facing, and I’m hopeful the center can harness the momentum building behind access to justice to solve these problems and create change,” Lucas said.

Q&A WITH LAWYERS FOR EQUAL JUSTICE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEPHANIE EVERETT (J.D. ’02)

Providing affordable representation

Why was establishing L4EJ important?

First, we are providing much-needed support and training to new lawyers who are launching a practice—picking up where law school leaves off. Second, there are over 1.69 million Georgia households who earn too much income to qualify for free legal services yet cannot afford market rate for most attorneys. It’s estimated that 90 percent of Georgians in this group do not obtain legal help for issues where representation could significantly change the outcome.

Why is affordable representation important for this segment?

These folks often are hitting our legal system at a critical time in their lives. They are facing real problems—losing their home, losing custody of a child, becoming victims of domestic violence or predatory lending. They struggle navigating the legal system on their own. If you are living paycheck to paycheck, you may be able to come up with a small retainer or follow a payment plan, but you’ll need an attorney who is willing to work with you.



What is L4EJ is doing differently?

L4EJ provides a laboratory where lawyers can experiment with practicing—trying new delivery models and pricing and learning what is effective. For example, they are providing limited-scope representation. In many cases, all a client needs is someone to point them in the right direction or explain what their options are. For some, a \$25 half-hour consultation arms them with the information they need, and then they can move on from there. Another option is to draft pleadings for the client or only handle one aspect of a case. For instance, one client needed to modify the terms of his parole. The L4EJ attorney drafted the applicable pleadings, and the client was then able to go to court by himself.

Where do you see a huge need for low-bono lawyers?

Landlord-tenant disputes. Not many attorneys represent tenants in eviction defense because it is not usually economical to do so. But representation often leads to a significantly better result for the client, whether it’s a reduced amount in the back rent owed, improved living conditions or more time to find another place to live. If we can keep a person from having to sleep on the streets, then that may also help prevent other issues that arise from homelessness.

Taking calls from potential clients has opened my eyes to the problem we have in Georgia with substandard housing and landlords who refuse to repair premises. People describe the horrible conditions they are living in, but moving expenses are an insurmountable cost for those who have limited means.

Do you think this model will be adopted by more practitioners?

Many lawyers are just learning about this model, but there are firms that offer unbundled legal services, and the Atlanta Bar has a modest-means referral program. I would love to teach attorneys throughout Georgia how to offer lower costs services and remain profitable. Then we truly can offer all Georgians affordable legal representation.

>> For more information: lawyersforequaljustice.legal.io

Center for Access to Justice shines light on problems in the South

by Stacey L. Evans (B.A. '02)

"The experience of lower-income civil and criminal litigants is often fundamentally different from those with financial means," said Lauren Sudeall Lucas, assistant professor of law and faculty director of Georgia State Law's Center for Access to Justice.

Lucas created the center to establish a regional and national base for the study of problems relating to access to justice for lower-income individuals. The need for such a center in the Southeast is "critical," Lucas said.

She became familiar with the obstacles indigent clients often face while a student at Harvard Law School engaging with such issues through her classroom, clinical and work experiences. A summer internship at the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta further opened her eyes to how wealth and resources affect access to justice, especially in the South. She returned to the Southern Center in 2007 as a Soros Justice Fellow and was later hired as a staff attorney. She joined the Georgia State Law faculty in 2012.

From left, Faculty Director Lauren Sudeall Lucas, professor of law, Jobena Hill (J.D./M.B.A. '19), Assistant Director Darcy Meals and Andreva Navratil (J.D. '18) discuss projects for the Center for Access to Justice.



One of the primary reasons Lucas came to Georgia to practice law was the amount of unaddressed need in the region. Compared to other regions in the U.S., the South has consistently had a higher rate of incarceration, and the death penalty is more prevalent. According to sentencingproject.org, the imprisonment rate in Georgia is 519 per 100,000 residents, making it the ninth highest in the nation. Louisiana's incarceration rate is the highest in the nation at 867 per 100,000. A 2015 U.S. Department of Justice report noted that 1 in 13 adults were under some form of correctional supervision in Georgia — in jail or prison or on parole or probation — compared to the national average of 1 in 36. As in many states across the country, indigent defense systems are often underfunded and underresourced; many Southern states also do not provide representation post-conviction.

While Lucas' background is primarily in the realm of criminal justice, the center will also bring attention to underserved needs within the civil justice system. In Georgia, for example, a 2009 report showed that fewer than 10 percent of low-income individuals seeking help with civil legal needs



were able to obtain assistance from an attorney. Many more low and middle-income Georgians are unaware that their problems are legal ones that could be solved if they were able to receive such assistance.

“The South seems to have — or perhaps it has devoted — fewer resources to resolve these problems,” Lucas said. “And there are not many places in the region where people working on access to justice issues can convene to discuss

strategies for solving these problems.”

The center aims to fill that void by bringing together scholars, practitioners, law and policy makers and academics from across different disciplines to explore those problems and work together to develop solutions.

Atlanta — as the capital of both the state and the region — and Georgia State University, with its focus on community engagement with those outside of academia and its encouragement of interdisciplinary teamwork, is an ideal fit for the center, Lucas said.

Filling the gaps in research and data is also part of the center’s mission.

“Current and accurate data are essential to figuring out what the most effective solutions may be,” Lucas said.

Research generated by affiliated faculty and graduate students will help identify and better understand the difficulties lower-income individuals face in attempting to navigate the justice system. That research will inform whether and how those difficulties might be addressed. For example, can non-attorneys provide assistance in legal matters? Are there ways to

use technology to reach more people? What’s the best way to implement new, innovative systems? How can public defenders provide more effective representation?

The data will help illuminate how law, policy or other systemic changes can “ensure that the justice system functions fairly and effectively for lower-income individuals,” Lucas said.

On March 2, 2017, the Center for Access to Justice will welcome Lisa Foster, director of the Office for Access to Justice at the U.S. Department of Justice, who will deliver the 59th Henry J. Miller Lecture at Georgia State University. To learn more about the center, visit law.gsu.edu/a2j.

Educating law students about access issues, and engaging them in such work, will also play a significant role in building a community that will effect change.

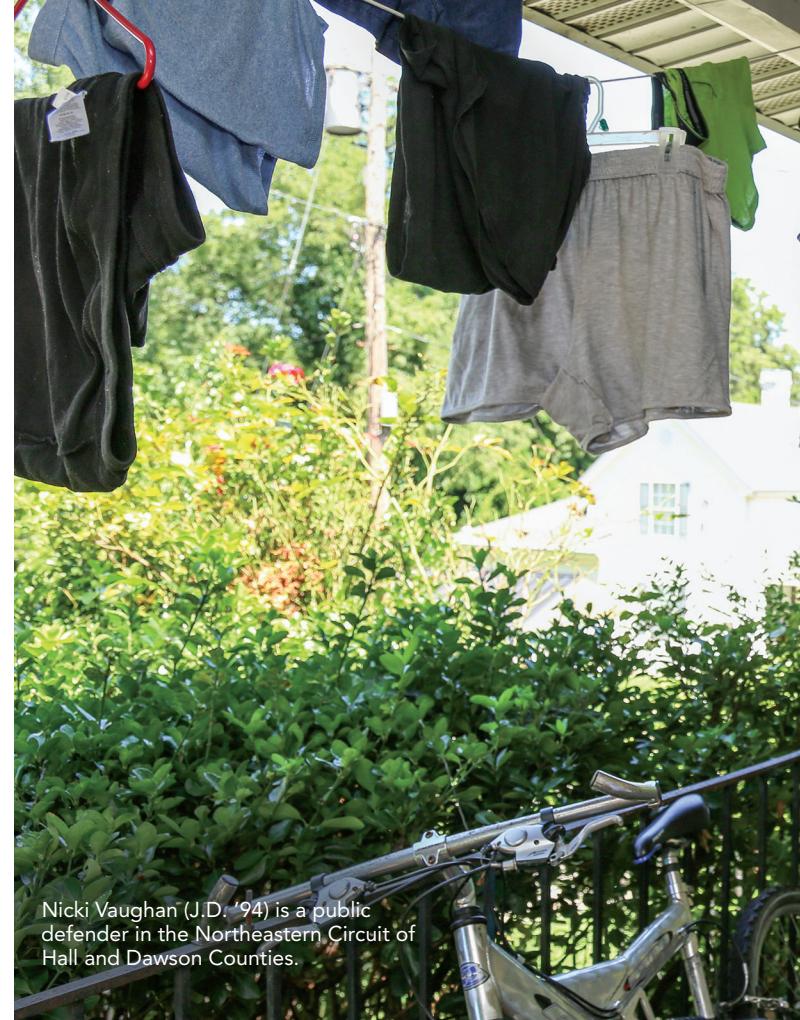
“The center aims to create a supportive environment for students to think about these issues, to contribute to access to justice through public interest and pro bono work and to engage with those practicing in the field,” said Darcy Meals, assistant director of the center. Lucas added, “When students go into practice, our hope is that they will continue to be mindful of these issues and incorporate access to justice ideals into their own work.”

Lauren Sudeall Lucas graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School and received her B.A. with distinction from Yale University. She serves on the Southern Center’s board of directors, the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Aid & Indigent Defendants, the Indigent Defense Committee of the State Bar of Georgia and the board of advisors for the Systemic Justice Project at Harvard Law School. She also serves as chair of the AALS Section on Constitutional Law.

Darcy Meals received an A.B. in public policy from Brown University and her J.D. from UCLA School of Law. Prior to joining Georgia State Law, Meals was an attorney at O’Melveny & Myers in Washington, D.C., where she maintained an active pro bono practice, representing clients in deportation proceedings and a group of federal inmates seeking accommodation under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. She has written articles on immigration law and co-wrote an amicus brief in *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt* that was cited twice in Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s concurring opinion.

Lack of lawyers, information present major challenges in rural Georgia

by Ray Glier



Nicki Vaughan (J.D. '94) is a public defender in the Northeastern Circuit of Hall and Dawson Counties.

Tara Vogel (J.D. '14), a staff attorney out of the Macon office of the Georgia Legal Services Program, bought a new car after she graduated from Georgia State Law two years ago.

The car now has 30,000 miles on the odometer.

Vogel has a lot of face-to-face time with her windshield before she can get face-to-face time with impoverished clients in rural Georgia.

"I feel bad for my car," Vogel chuckled.

She feels worse for her clients in rural counties who have to deal with, among other things, loss of government benefits, one-sided lease agreements with landlords and predator loans. There are also proof of identity snafus in rural areas of the state because many prospective clients were born with the help of a midwife and may have incorrect birth certificates, or none at all.

Contrast that with Main Street in a larger Georgia city — turn any direction and you are likely to see an attorney's shingle.

The local economy plays a role in the scarcity of lawyers in the rural area. In Mitchell County, which is south of Albany, 32.6 percent of residents are considered impoverished, according to 2014 U.S. census figures. In Calhoun County, it's 38.7 percent.

"I don't think there is enough business to sustain a large number of attorneys in some rural counties," said John Gee Edwards (J.D. '02), a personal injury/criminal defense attorney in Valdosta.

A circuit-rider like Vogel is critical to the state's judicial system. She can have showdowns with state entities in court, but much of her time is spent educating citizens on their rights.



"Access to information is an issue in rural areas," Vogel said. "People don't know where to turn, so they don't even try. People will go to court without a lawyer or not even go to court, which ends up hurting them even more."

"You see so many people going to the library to use the Internet because they don't have it at home, and they are trying to find any information they can. The librarians don't know how to help them. The court clerk can't help them because they cannot give legal advice. So a lot of people feel shut out, like no one wants to help them, like no one cares about them."

Access to justice is an issue on both the civil side, where those going to court may not be entitled to a lawyer, and on the

criminal side, where defendants typically do have a right to an attorney.

Peter Zeliff (J.D. '98), a criminal attorney in Forsyth County and North Atlanta, is a staunch defender of public defenders.

"I know public defenders in rural areas who are outstanding, and, in fact, they might be the best lawyer in the courtroom, but they don't have the resources," Zeliff said. "They are swamped."

Do rural public defenders have the added burden of politics? "The honest answer is yes," Zeliff said. "They have to be diplomatic. They are in a courtroom with a particular judge several times a week. It is harder to be a thorn."



Peter Zeliff (J.D. '98)

40 of the 400 poorest counties in the country are in rural Georgia.

—secf.org/legal-aid-ga

In a larger system like DeKalb County, which has approximately 57 public defenders, it's easier to debate in the courtroom, he said.

"My very first job was to be a public defender in DeKalb, and the first thing my employer told me was, 'Go to court and raise hell.' I knew exactly what he meant," Zeliff said.

The driving distance to small South Georgia towns is also a frequent issue. It can make hiring a legal expert prohibitive — a luxury really, Edwards said.

"You have to go to bigger cities to find expert witnesses because that is generally where their home base is located," Edwards said. "I usually go to Atlanta, and I have gone to Florida to look for experts. Travel for an expert is going to add to the cost."

Nicki Vaughan (J.D. '94), a public defender in the Northeastern Circuit of Hall and Dawson Counties, agrees that "the real challenge is in South Georgia and the far reaches of North Georgia." There are several counties in South Georgia that do not have a single lawyer, said Vaughan, who is on the Executive Committee of the State Bar and involved with the State Bar Access to Justice Committee.

The state bar and many legal aid entities are actively working to get more attorneys to those areas of need.

In Atlanta and other metropolitan areas of the state, the large, established law firms are supportive of, and some even require, pro bono work for their lawyers. The task there, Vaughan said, is to get those transactional attorneys, who are accustomed to writing contracts, doing real estate work, banking and other work outside of court, to feel comfortable in a courtroom or to identify work they can do outside of court.

But the majority of the need seems to be in representing people in court, and getting to South Georgia for Atlanta-area lawyers is an all-day venture for which few have the time to expend. "Even if they do it, they can't do it often," Vaughan said.

The state bar has made access to justice a major component of its strategic plan and is looking at ways to use technology to connect those who need legal services with lawyers willing to represent clients in areas where access is limited.

"Some counties already have self-help kiosks for obtaining necessary forms, and some courts, including Hall County, offer free legal advice and forms to people in need of family violence protective orders," she said.

The Gainesville GLSP Office has various dates set for volunteer lawyers to assist people who come in needing help primarily filling out forms for probate matters, which gives its attorneys more time to attend to more complex matters.

MISSION: INNOCENCE

Christina Cribbs works to
right wrongful convictions

by Charles McNair



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10/21/2014

Heppner, Michael S. [Agent]

PO Box 1320, Office of the Governor

Atlanta, GA 30304

RE:

State v. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

The Office of the Governor

Georgia Innocence Project

Georgia Innocence Project, Inc.

State v. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Christina Cribbs (J.D. '10) knows the scales of justice rise ... and fall. In 2009, while interning at the Georgia Innocence Project (GIP), Cribbs exited the Fulton County Jail beside Michael Marshall, a man she helped free from a wrongful conviction.

More recently, Cribbs lamented a lab report that found no DNA evidence on tested items in another case. Without it, a client's conviction cannot be challenged. "He has two life sentences," she said, "so he will never get out of prison. It is absolutely heartbreaking, because I firmly believe in his innocence."

Cribbs began trying to right wrongful convictions as an apprentice and then as a staff attorney at GIP, a nonprofit corporation devoted to exonerating people imprisoned in Georgia and Alabama for crimes they did not commit.

She made her mark.

"Christina's simply an amazing attorney," said Aimee Maxwell (M. Ed. '83, J.D. '87), GIP's founding executive director.

As a GIP staff attorney, Cribbs led work on a \$424,000 National Institute of Justice grant, the Kirk Bloodsworth Post-Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program. The 2014–15 project brought prosecutors and GIP together to examine nearly 3,000 cases where there was a match between DNA on crime scene evidence and an offender in the CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) database. Of those cases, Cribbs investigated the approximately 75 in which the DNA on the crime scene evidence did not match the convicted defendant. Her work exonerated a Brunswick man for a wrongful burglary conviction.

Cribbs, a Duluth resident, remains a volunteer GIP staff attorney and works fulltime with the Georgia Public Defender Council on criminal appeals for indigent defendants.

"I've always been interested in criminal justice," Cribbs said. "I attended law

school to become a prosecutor."

Her 2008–09 summer internships and working school year at GIP changed her. "Seeing the devotion that GIP had to people who had no one else to care about them was completely inspiring," she said.

She now passionately advocates for public defenders.

"You hear a lot of negative talk about people who can't afford a private attorney and have to use a public defender," she said. "I never let those comments go by without giving my opinion: 99 percent of public defenders are there because they care that everyone has access to a lawyer and a fair chance."

But the sheer volume of caseloads public defenders carry increases the chance of wrongful convictions, according to Cribbs. The system is overburdened, and that makes her job even more difficult.

"A private criminal attorney may handle 30 serious felony cases a year," she said. "A public defender is expected to handle two to three times that many. It's harder to build an appropriate case to defend clients."

In 2013, statistics from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) showed the average public defender in Atlanta had an estimated time of just 59 minutes per assigned case.

"Unrealistic time allotments such as these," Cribbs said, "can create an enormous amount of pressure on attorneys to dispose of cases as quickly as possible."

A lack of "balance in resources" in the legal system also puts justice at risk, according to Cribbs.

"Let's say a case involves a complex

medical issue. A private lawyer spends \$5,000 and consults medical experts. But it's hard for a public defender to get money approved for that."

In 2014, National Public Radio reported that "The costs of the criminal justice system ... are paid increasingly by the defendants and offenders."

Cribbs explains: "Those who cannot afford to pay are often treated unfairly in comparison to those who have the financial means to pay, even when they

People of color and communities with less income are disproportionately affected by inadequate public defense systems.

— "System Overload: The Costs of Under-Resourcing Public Defense," Justice Policy Institute, 2011

have been accused of the same crime."

But even with its flaws, Cribbs believes fully in our legal system. She urges Georgia State Law students to believe too.

"Wrongful conviction is my cause," she said. "Find your cause, and get behind something you feel you can make a difference with."

Alumni profile | *Marchman (J.D. '08) advocates for the homeless*

FINDING BEAUTY IN THE STRUGGLE

by Jaya Franklin



Cathryn Marchman (J.D. '08) created her path to success. Although it was a journey full of rocky roads and several barriers, the Georgia State Law graduate followed her heart and found her purpose.

Marchman realized that no matter which route she chose, her passion for advocating for individuals experiencing homelessness always took center stage.

After high school, the Sandy Springs native enrolled at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. While there, she worked for an after-school program for at-risk youth.

“My career has truly come full circle around homelessness. I always joke that I fell in love with the kids cursing me out and throwing waffles at me,” she said.

This experience strengthened her love for serving the community. Eventually, Marchman dropped out of UW–Madison after her first semester because of homesickness. She then attended Georgia State University as a pre-med major for two years, but decided to return to Wisconsin to finish what she started, graduating with a B.S. in anthropology and social welfare.

Then, she enrolled in the Hunter School of Social Work in New York and served as an intern for an alternative high school in the South Bronx.

Ultimately, her goal was to become a “champion public defender.” She interned for the New York County Public Defender’s office and worked at Rikers Island and for the Bronx Defenders in New York, which provides holistic legal services, social work support and advocacy to indigent people residing in the Bronx neighborhood.

“I worked with some really brilliant attorneys, but as good as they were at their jobs, they weren’t always good at communicating with clients. Especially our clients who were very impoverished and a part of a marginalized community,” she said.

This void gave Marchman an idea. “I thought, I’ll just go to law school because then I’ll be a ‘super public defender’ — a social worker, plus a lawyer,” she said.

Because of the high cost of law school tuition in New York, Marchman found herself back in Atlanta, this time as a part-time student at Georgia State Law.

While in law school she worked for City of Refuge, an organization that specializes in social transformation for the 30314 neighborhood located in the heart of Atlanta. In this position she took advantage of an opportunity to live as a resident manager at the shelter where she worked for nearly two years with 30 women and children in the Vine City area. She

also conducted assessments and counseling for the women and children who were seeking services from the organization.

After graduation, Marchman was asked to serve as the program director for City of Refuge.

“To be honest, after graduation I was very burned out from law school. I said, ‘To hell with the bar; I’m not going to practice,’ ” Marchman said.

“I had become somewhat disillusioned about becoming a public defender by that time because the public defender system in Atlanta is very different from the one that I came from, which was very progressive,” she added.

Her social work career took off after law school. She began working for Mercy Care Inc., which provides health care to the homeless and marginalized communities. Two years later, Marchman took the bar and passed it.

In 2013, she became a legal, policy and compliance officer for Saint Joseph’s Health System. In this position, she managed contractual agreements and counseled the system through governance changes and health care legal issues.

In October 2015, Marchman took on a new assignment. She became the executive director for Partners for H.O.M.E. (Housing Opportunities Made for Everyone), a nonprofit organization created by the City of Atlanta. Its overall mission is to develop a coordinated crisis response system that decreases homelessness by providing leadership, planning and implementation of community strategies and resources.

“I know that homelessness is not always the most sympathetic thing — not everybody is passionate or empathic to people who sleep outside,” Marchman said. “But I have been overwhelmed with the amount of interest and compassion by the public, governmental sector, private individuals, by philanthropy, by the local corporate business community and by our providers.”

Although she’s not practicing law, Marchman uses lessons learned while at Georgia State Law, like critical thinking, contract writing, review and negotiation.

“Persuasive writing skills are essential,” she said. “Occasionally, I have to interpret and assess law and its impact on our work.”

She struggled through law school, but her story is a testimony that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Marchman said that if she were able to commiserate with other students at the time, it may have helped the process run much smoother.

She encourages students to not be afraid to be vulnerable and transparent about their experience. “Because what I’ve come to learn from other lawyers is that everybody was feeling the same way [during law school] ... but we were terrified to tell other people about it.”

GOING THE (REALLY, REALLY LONG) DISTANCE

by Stacey L. Evans (B.A. '02)



At mile 83, Kat Schuller (J.D. '13) almost gave up. She had been running more than 20 hours in the ultramarathon Thunder Rock 100 in Tennessee. Between her and the 100-mile finish line was a chest-deep, rapid river and a steep, four-mile incline. The early morning air was chilly, and she was exhausted — so exhausted that she was hallucinating.

“I thought I saw a shark in the trees,” she said. “I sat down and was very cranky.”

But one thing ultrarunning has taught her is not to give up on herself. So she took a deep breath, got up and pushed forward, crossing the finish line 26 hours after she started.

Ultramarathons — technically anything longer than a 26.2-mile marathon, but typically 30 to 100 miles — require a huge dose of willpower and perseverance, especially when unpleasant conditions arise: a blistering sun beating down as you scramble up a slippery hill. Stumbling over rocks and roots in the dark. The gnawing ache of fatigue after miles of constant motion.

Chilly rain drops showering you with the threat of hypothermia.

(Which Schuller suffered from while running the Pinhoti 100 in November 2015, one of the few races she didn’t finish. The other two were due to sprained ankles.)

For Schuller, who has participated in about 20 ultramarathons, ultrarunning is fulfillment — a weekly regimen that is vital to her wellbeing. She spends most weekends trekking through the North Georgia forest, often with golden retriever Gracie at her heels. To get in as many miles as possible, she cooks a hearty meal over a fire, sleeps in a hammock and begins at daybreak, sprinting 30 or so miles. On average, she runs 40 to 45 miles each week, and supplements training with weight lifting, rock climbing and yoga.

Schuller, who won first place for women and third place overall in the H9 Dragon 50-miler in August, was introduced to long-distance running while in law school. Inspired by the book *Born to Run*, she joined the Georgia Ultrarunning and Trailrunning Society (GUTS). Running helped take the pressure off the intensive workload and career focus of law school.

“Having something that I could identify with, that wasn’t related to my career, helped me to stress less about what job I would have or where my career was headed,” said Schuller, an attorney at Paul Hastings. “Careers are important — I love my



profession. But if that's the only focus, you can lose sight of who you are without your career."

In 2012 she entered her first ultramarathon, the 50-mile Cruel Jewel. It was a cathartic experience.

"It was like a boot camp for emotions. You feel excitement and happiness, and you connect with people on the trail. You're also alone a lot and may experience sorrow, pain and grief. But you have to keep putting one foot in front of the other," she said.

Ultrarunning became her therapy. The long periods of solitude and being in nature lend themselves to deep thinking and self-reflection. It also teaches how to cope with pain, whether physical, emotional or spiritual, Schuller said.

"Sometimes people look for an escape from the difficulty of just sitting with their feelings, and trail running gives you a lot of alone time to learn about who you are when you're not escaping," she said.

Many people, especially those in high-intensity professions such as the legal field, tend to keep their feelings bottled up, said Schuller. "People feel that you're not supposed to be vulnerable in the workplace ... or in relationships," she said. "Being alone in nature gives you the chance to really experience those stagnant emotions and then let out whatever you are feeling — you can

literally scream at the top of your lungs — and know that it's going to be fine."

Ultrarunning can also be a spiritual experience, she said, which has made her calmer and more grounded.

"You're breathing clean air and not focused on the minutiae of daily life, which for many of us involves computers, cell phones and cars," she said. "It's like a reconnection when you get away from those things that seemingly control our lives."

Running through the night is especially conducive to deep meditation, she said. "All you have is your headlamp and what's right in front of you. You're not distracted by the world around you — it's just one foot in front of the other."

Nature inspires you to see things differently, too.

"On one trail there was a fallen tree. Out of its roots, other plants were growing. Its bark was covered in moss. So, although it had fallen, the tree repurposed itself and is supporting the environment around it, helping other things grow," she said.

She applied that metaphor to struggles in her own life, along with countless other lessons learned while going the distance.

"Running long distances makes me feel like I have unlimited potential, and it has taught me not to limit myself in other ways," she said. "And that is a really powerful thing."

Alumni profile | *Harper (J.D. '09) crafts community, gives back*

MAKING THE CASE FOR BEER

by Therra C. Gwyn



UPON GRADUATION from Georgia State University with honors and a degree in political science, Taylor Harper (B.A. '05, J.D. '09) knew what he wanted next: a law degree and a career in the military. But life and the law profession had other plans for the adventurous Atlanta native and son of Georgia State Law alumna Lisa Harper (J.D. '91).

"I was pretty sure I was going into the Marine Corps or Army JAG," he said.

JAG, or Judge Advocate General Corps, the legal branch of military justice, is some distance from the alcohol and beverage industry where Harper practices now. He represents suppliers including distilleries, wineries, breweries and importers in administrative, regulatory and litigation matters. Harper's affection and advocacy for the art and business of craft breweries have earned him the moniker "the beer lawyer." He even writes a popular blog on beer and the law.

An associate at Taylor, Feil, Harper, Lumsden & Hess, he finds himself once again following in his mother's footsteps: She is a shareholder in the firm.

While in law school, Harper was on the Moot Court board and part of the student Triathlon Association. He enjoyed being taught by some of the same law professors who had instructed his mother years before.

The 35-year-old husband and father hasn't always been a craft beer connoisseur. He discovered the joys of small batch brewing during a trek to Africa.

"I went to Kenya and had a two-day layover in Belgium," he explained. "All I'd had up to that point in my life was a Budweiser or a Coors Lite. At a café they brought me a Belgian Tripel. I can remember tasting it and thinking, 'What is this!?"

He noted the vast differences there from a normal beer run in the United States: the bottling, the serving and the carefully constructed choices.

"They treated beer as if it were wine," he said.

When his JAG aspirations didn't work out and he graduated from law school as the economy was in a serious dip, Harper found himself at a crossroads, wondering where to put his considerable focus.

He's working both professionally in the beverage industry and personally to lift children out of dire conditions in Africa.

Harper is the chair and president of Maji Mazuri USA, a nonprofit fundraising branch of the African community organization Maji Mazuri ("good water" in Swahili). The funds he raises help children and families mired in poverty in Nairobi, Kenya, by supplying food, education, counseling and health care.

The group also provides small loans for local entrepreneurs to enrich the community and promote independence.

Harper enjoys helping others, whether it's aiding and educating brewers and suppliers or supplying children in Kenya with opportunities for a better life.

"Sometimes people ask why we should help kids over there when kids over here need help," he noted. "I want to say something. There's a huge disparity between kids here and there. There are fewer to no resources there. A dollar goes a lot further. If you put a child from Kenya and a child from America side by side, you would see the difference. But I understand. If your heart is open to kids in Kenya, great. If it's kids in Atlanta, great. Both, even better. There's no wrong way to help."

Even while volunteering in Kenya, he found the beauty of brewing beer alive and well.

"They produce Tusker, a lager," he said. "I remember observing how proud people were of their local product. They drink it everywhere over there, and I realized people can commune around a local product and around beer."

His growing enthusiasm for craft beer led to being an advocate and local legal eagle for artisan brewers.

"It's almost like the stars were aligned," he said of the marriage of his personal passion and legal purpose.

Harper's recommendations for enjoying a local brew during Atlanta's fair fall weather: Divine Bovine (a milk stout brewed with organic chai spices) from Atlanta's Red Brick Brewing Company and Autumn Defense by Wild Heaven Craft, brewed in Avondale Estates.

"Craft beer is an art," he said. "It's not about funneling 21 Budweisers. It's about the taste."

He also suggests the aptly named Taylor Harper Oatmeal Porter, a beer occasionally tapped from 5 Seasons Brewery. It's a tip of the hat — or a tap of the keg — saluting Harper for his work in helping the small batch beer market grow in Atlanta. He penned the legal arguments that eventually allowed local brewpubs to sell growlers to-go. Previously, a tangle of restaurant and alcohol laws with the Department of Revenue didn't permit establishments like brew pubs to make "off premises" sales, except through wholesalers. While Harper gives credit to pub owners and the Georgia Craft Brewers Guild for their efforts in getting the DOR to sign an amended regulatory interpretation in March, 5 Seasons Brewery owner Crawford Moran has been quoted in local press saying Harper is "a saint" who "should never have to buy a beer in this town again."

Learn more:

- Taylor Harper's beer 'n' law blog: georgiacraftbeerlawyer.com
- Maji Mazuri (Africa): majimazuri.org

Faculty news

PRESENTATIONS

Charlotte Alexander, assistant professor at J. Mack Robinson College of Business and the College of Law, presented at the Academy of Legal Studies in Business Conference in San Juan, PR; the Midwestern Law and Economics Association Annual Conference at Emory University School of Law; and the annual Labor and Employment Law Colloquium in Seattle, WA.

Hulett H. "Bucky" Askew, visiting professor of law, presented at the National Conference of Bar Examiners Annual Educational Conference with Jim Leipold of the National Association for Law Placement on "Doing the Numbers: Admissions, Enrollment and Bar Passage" and on the Uniform Bar Exam at the annual retreat of the Supreme Court of Georgia and the Board of Bar Examiners.

Cass Brewer, associate professor of law, presented on the law of entrepreneurship at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS) in August.

Sylvia Caley, clinical professor of law, and **Leslie E. Wolf**, professor of law and director of the Center for Law, Health & Society, conducted a workshop, "Measuring the Impact of Social Justice Teaching: Research Design and Oversight," using the Health Law Partnership research program as a model at a joint conference of the International Journal of Clinical Legal Education and the Association for Canadian Clinical Legal Education at the University of Toronto, Faculty of Law.

Jennifer Chiovaro, senior principal lecturer, presented "'Practicing' Practicing Law—Creating a Legal Writing Course to Comply with New ABA Standard 304" with **Maggie Vath**, senior lecturer, at the Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference in Portland and at the Southeast Legal Writing Conference at the University of Miami.

Clark D. Cunningham, W. Lee Burge Chair in Law and Ethics, presented "Being a Lawyer, Becoming a Hero" at the Seventh International Legal Ethics Conference held by

Fordham Law School. He was an invited expert at the Third Annual Legal Education Leading Edge Conference organized by publishing company Walters Kluwer. He also presented a progress report on Georgia's Student Practice Rule to the Supreme Court of Georgia at its annual meeting with the Board of Bar Examiners.

Andrea Curcio, professor of law, presented a new model for measuring student legal analysis learning outcomes at the ABA Associate Dean's Conference and led a workshop on the topic of developing learning outcome assessment measures. She also participated in a panel discussion about formative assessment at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference and was an invited speaker at a symposium on campus sexual assaults.

Erin Fuse Brown, assistant professor of law, presented "The Double-Edged Sword of Health Care Integration: Consolidation & Cost Control" at the 39th Annual ASLME Health Law Professors Conference in Boston and participated in the back-to-school edition of *The Week in Health Law*.

Wendy Hensel, associate dean for research and faculty development and professor of law, presented at the National Association of County and City Officials National Preparedness Conference with **Leslie E. Wolf**. She also attended the Leading Edge in Legal Education Conference in Chicago, where she discussed the development of student learning outcomes and assessment to enhance instructional effectiveness.

Nicole G. Iannarone, assistant clinical professor and director of the Investor Advocacy Clinic, presented "Social Media: Ethical Considerations of Posting, Tweeting and Blogging in Law Practice" at the CALI Conference for Law School Computing; "Building the Complete Lawyer" at the Institute for Law Teaching and Learning Annual Conference; "Crafting Comment Letters: Teach Policy, Develop Skills and Shape Pending Regulation" at the Emory Center for Transactional Law and Practice Conference with Professor Benjamin P.

Edwards, Barry University School of Law; and "Risky Business: Ethical Obligations and Conflicts of Interest" at the American Immigration Lawyers Association Georgia-Alabama Chapter Conference. She co-chaired the Georgia Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism's 23rd Annual Convocation on "Professionalism: The New Normal for Delivery of Legal Services" and moderated the panel "Lawyering Today and in the Future."

Kendall Kerew, assistant clinical professor and director of the Externship Program, presented "Professional Identity Formation in the Externship Seminar: Teaching Methodologies" at the Holloran Center for Ethical Leadership in the Professions' July Professional Formation Workshop, "Helping Each Student Internalize the Core Values and Ideals of the Profession."

Paul A. Lombardo, Bobby Lee Cook Professor of Law, presented the "Ethics of Genetic Medicine" at the University of Michigan; "Eugenics on Tobacco Road: The Debate over Sterilization in Georgia, 1935" at the Georgia Archives Public Health Symposium; "Confronting Reproductive Technologies: History, Rhetoric and the Spector of Eugenics" at the Hastings Center; "State of the Data: Assessing the Appropriate Legal and Ethical Divide between Biospecimens and Derived Data" at the American Society of Law, Medicine & Ethics Health Law Professors Conference; and "Eugenics at the Movies: Abortion and Birth Control in *Where Are My Children?* (1916)" at the American Association for the History of Medicine.

Timothy D. Lytton, Distinguished University Professor and professor of law, delivered the annual Gaynor Lecture, "The Turbulent History of Kosher Certification in America: From Price Fixing, Consumer Fraud, and Drive-by Shootings to a Model of Private Regulation," at the Jewish Community Center of Columbus, Ohio. He also presented a draft chapter—"Building a Better Burger: The Dynamics of Food Safety Reform"—from his book on food safety regulation at law school workshops at Cornell

University, the University of Texas and the University of Georgia.

Caren Morrison, associate professor of law, presented "Police Body Cameras and the Illusion of Truth" at the Surveillance/Society/Culture Conference at Georg-August Universität, Göttingen, Germany. She also presented "The Police Homicide Grand Jury" at CrimFest 2016, held at Cardozo Law School in New York City.

Kris Niedringhaus, associate dean of library and information services and associate professor, presented on "Disruption in the Legal Industry" at the American Association of Law Libraries Annual Meeting. She also spoke at SEALS, discussing the role of the law library in 21st-century legal education and the future of artificial intelligence in legal practice.

Mary Radford, professor of law, presented "Ethical Challenges in Acting as and Representing Fiduciaries" at the ALI Seminar on Advanced Issues in Estate Planning in Wisconsin and "Recent Developments in Georgia Fiduciary Law" at the Estate Planning Section of the Atlanta Bar and at the Fiduciary Law Institute.

Natsu Taylor Saito, Distinguished University Professor and professor of law, moderated a panel for the Public Interest and Litigation Section of the Atlanta Bar Association on *United States v. Texas*, involving state challenges to President Obama's deferred action for immigrants. She also held a seminar on the evolution of law relating to race in the United States for Morris, Manning & Martin's High School Internship Program for Diverse Students.

Charity Scott, Catherine C. Henson Professor of Law, presented on "Law, Ethics, and Politics in Reproductive Rights" at the Emory University School of Medicine.

Jonathan Todres, professor of law, and **Leslie E. Wolf** presented on the challenges of conducting research on child trafficking at the American Society for Law Medicine & Ethics' annual Health Law Professors conference at Boston University. Todres also

Lytton examines gun industry litigation

Timothy D. Lytton, distinguished university professor and professor of law, has been quoted as an expert on mass shootings, gun control and gun industry litigation in numerous media outlets, including the *New York Times*, CNN.com, *Forbes*, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, the *Connecticut Law Tribune*, Bloomberg.com, and Radio Sputnik (Moscow). He has written several articles on the subjects.



In his article "How the Sandy Hook Lawsuit Could Hold Gun Makers Liable for Mass Shootings," published in the *New Republic*, Lytton examines the implications of the potentially precedent-setting lawsuit filed by families of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting against the manufacturer of the AR-15 rifle that Adam Lanza used to kill 26 schoolchildren and teachers in 2012.

"The litigation highlights the question of whether the gun industry ought to bear some responsibility for helping stem the epidemic of mass shootings," Lytton said. "Although the Second Amendment undoubtedly imposes restrictions on the civil liability of gun manufacturers, the idea of holding them liable for carelessness is actually not so far-fetched."

Lytton's research on the history of lawsuits against the gun industry has revealed legal marketing practices that most would agree are irresponsible, he said.

"For example, some gun manufacturers have sold semiautomatic assault weapons in the form of complete parts kits in order to avoid federally mandated background checks that apply to the sale of firearms but not firearm parts," he said. "Others continue to supply retail stores that they know sell hundreds of guns traced to crimes every year."

Holding gun makers liable for such negligent practices would discourage them from circumventing background checks and encourage them to police their supply chain to root out rogue dealers, he said.

"The problem is they enjoy special immunity under federal law," Lytton said. "The Sandy Hook lawsuit seeks to exploit an exception to this law by putting a novel twist on a traditional legal theory. Plaintiffs in the Sandy Hook case are asking the court for the first time to extend the theory of negligent entrustment beyond a retail store to a gun manufacturer."

If marketing the AR-15 to the general public is a form of negligent entrustment, then their claims are not barred by the federal immunity statute.

Those who applaud the Sandy Hook lawsuit believe that exposing gun manufacturers to civil liability will encourage them to limit the sale of their most powerful weapons to the military and law enforcement. Critics denounce such efforts as a misuse of the civil justice system—an attempt to promote gun control regulation through private litigation, he said.

presented papers at the ASLME Health Law Professors Annual Conference and the Children's Literature Association Annual Conference.

Anne Tucker, associate professor of law, presented her empirical work in impact investments—a multistage project—at the Seattle University School of Law Eighth Annual Berle Symposium: Benefit Corporations and the Firm Commitment Universe (*In Pursuit of Good & Gold: Shared Ownership Contracting Norms in Dual Goal Investments*) and at the Law & Society Association Annual Meeting (*Contracting Norms in*

Impact Investing vs. Traditional Private Equity).

Tanya Washington, professor of law, presented "Children Under the Marital Rainbow" at a CLE program sponsored by the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia.

Jack Williams, professor of law, spoke at the National Association of Attorney Generals Bankruptcy Seminar on valuation proof issues in bankruptcy from a state agency's perspective. He also participated on a panel at Georgia State Law addressing health care bankruptcies.

Patrick Wiseman, professor of law, participated on the panel "How Is Philosophy Relevant to Law?" at the SEALS Conference at Amelia Island in August.

Patricia J. Zettler, associate professor of law, discussed proposed changes to federal regulations governing human subjects research on a panel at the 2016 Health Law Professors conference.

PUBLICATIONS

Charlotte Alexander published "Post-Racial Hydraulics: The Hidden Dangers of the

"Universal Turn" in the *NYU Law Review*, with co-authors Camille Gear Rich and Zev Eigen, and "Workplace Information Forcing: Constitutionality and Effectiveness" in the *American Business Law Journal*, a peer-reviewed law journal.

Cass Brewer's co-edited book, *The Social Enterprise Zoo: A Guide for Perplexed Scholars, Entrepreneurs, Philanthropists, Leaders, Investors and Policymakers*, will be published in October.

Clark Cunningham published "Apple and the American Revolution: Remembering Why We Have the Fourth Amendment" in the online *Yale Law Journal Forum*.

Andrea Curcio wrote "Incentivizing and Assessing Faculty Committee Work Contributions, Why Now?" published at SSRN and forthcoming in the *Journal of Legal Education*. She also published an article on the *Best Practices in Legal Education* blog discussing concerns with, and ways to change, the existing bar exam process.

Erin Fuse Brown published "Fair Hospital Prices Are Not Charity: Decoupling Hospital Pricing and Collection Rules from Tax Status" in the *University of Louisville Law Review*.

Julian Juergensmeyer, Ben F. Johnson Chair in Law and director of the Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth, published a 2016 pocket supplement, *Land Use Planning and Development Regulation Law*, 3rd ed., and "Social Function and Value Capture: Do They or Should They Have a Role to Play in Polish Land Development Regulation?" in *Studia Iuridica*.

Timothy Lytton published "Sandy Hook Decision Puts Crack in Gun Makers' Armor" in the *National Law Journal*.

John Travis Marshall, assistant professor of law; **Ryan Rowberry**, assistant professor of law; and Ann-Margaret Esnard, a professor with the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, published "Non-Profits in Post-Disaster Recovery & Rebuilding

Niedringhaus receives award

Kristina L. Niedringhaus, associate dean of library and information services and associate professor, received the 2016 Kenneth J. Hirsh Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Law Libraries' Computing Services Special Interest Section (CS-SIS).



The award honors one recipient each year for outstanding contributions to the association in a number of areas, including leadership, service, professional development, mentoring and commitment to excellence in the law library profession.

Niedringhaus has been a member of CS-SIS since she started her career as a law librarian in 1999 and has served in various leadership roles.

"I feel that one of my professional responsibilities is to help new librarians and create a strong network of colleagues. Through the CS-SIS, I encourage them to propose programs and participate on committees," Niedringhaus said. "Also, being a member helps me stay up to speed on newer technologies and learn about best practices from other organizations and law schools that may benefit Georgia State Law."

Partnership Roles: Evaluating the Organizational, Operational, and Legal Implications" in the interdisciplinary journal *Natural Hazards*. Marshall also published "Cities Can Prepare for Hurricanes by Reforming Laws" in *U.S. News & World Report*.

Ryan Rowberry, assistant professor of law and associate director for the Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth, co-wrote with Gordon Pirie "Laws Regarding Controversial Cultural Heritage in South Africa and the United States: Public Monuments and Street Names" in *Studia Iuridica*.

Charity Scott served as the guest editor for a special symposium volume on "The Future of Public Health Law Education: Faculty Fellowship Program" in the *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*. She also wrote two articles for the same volume about the national fellowship program, which she led and was supported by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: "Transforming the Future of Public

Health Law Education through a Faculty Fellowship Program" and "Innovation in Higher Education: Lessons Learned from Creating a Faculty Fellowship Program" (with N. Kaufman).

Eric Segall, professor of law, signed a book contract with Cambridge University Press to write *Originalism as Faith*.

Patricia Zettler published "What Lies Ahead for FDA Regulation of tDCS Products" in the *Journal of Law and the Biosciences*.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Charlotte Alexander's working paper "Explaining the Boom: An Empirical Study of Federal Wage and Hour Litigation" was awarded a Distinguished Proceedings Award at the 2016 Academy of Legal Studies in Business Annual Conference.

Jennifer Chiovaro received the David J. Maleski Award for Teaching Excellence for "Practice-Ready Writing," a third-year course she created and taught

with **Margaret Vath**, senior lecturer.

Paul Lombardo was named an advisory board member to consult on The Eugenic Rubicon, a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant to the University of Michigan that will digitize state sterilization data.

Charity Scott received a community award for "vision, inspiration, and resourcefulness in the creation of the Health Law Partnership" at an April HeLP celebration.

Anne Tucker received the Patricia T. Morgan Award for Outstanding Faculty Scholarship for her scholarship on retirement investors and institutional investors, including her 2015 piece "Locked In: The Competitive Disadvantage of Citizen Shareholders," which appeared in the *Yale Law Review Forum*.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Charlotte Alexander was elected secretary of the Employment Law Section of the Academy of Legal Studies in Business and president of the Southeastern Academy of Legal Studies in Business.

Hulett H. "Bucky" Askew chairs the board of directors of Lawyers for Equal Justice and is a member of the board of directors of Friends of Legal Services Corporation; the Board of Trustees of the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE); the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association, representing NCBE; and the State Bar of Georgia Access to Justice Committee.

Mark Budnitz, professor of law emeritus, is a member of the National Consumer Law Center's board of directors and serves on its Audit/Finance Committee. He also is a member of Atlanta Legal Society's Advisory Committee.

Clark Cunningham has been appointed to serve on the Rules Revision Committee of Georgia's Judicial Qualifications Commission.

Andrea Curcio worked with the Society of American Law Teachers to draft a statement in response to the ABA's proposed changes to the bar exam pass rate accreditation standard.

Jessica Gabel Cino, associate dean for academic affairs and associate professor of law, was chosen by the American Academy of Forensic Science to serve on the national standards boards for both DNA and fingerprint evidence as part of a federal effort to create and improve standards and procedures in forensic laboratories across the country.

Nicole Iannarone was elected secretary of the Atlanta Bar to the AALS Section on Professional Responsibility Executive Committee, was selected as a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and chairs the Atlanta Bar Association Reputation and Public Trust Committee.

Kris Niedringhaus was appointed editorial director and chair of the Editorial Board for *AALL Spectrum*, the professional magazine of the American Association of Law Libraries.

Jonathan Todres served as a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Committee on the "Biological and Psychosocial Effects of Peer Victimization: Lessons for Bullying Prevention."

Margaret Vath, senior lecturer of law, was elected president-elect of the Atlanta Bar Association.

Tanya Washington co-wrote an amicus brief in the Georgia Court of Appeals in *Clifton v. McAlister* filed in May 2016. She also taught in the 10th Anniversary Justice Benham Law Camp, co-sponsored by Georgia State Law, the Gates City Bar and King & Spalding.

Patricia Zettler serves on the editorial advisory board for the *Food and Drug Law Journal* and has served as an ad hoc peer reviewer for that journal as well as for the *Journal of Law and the Biosciences*, *Therapeutic Innovation & Regulatory Science* and *BMC Medical Ethics*, among others.

MEDIA COMMENTARY

Erin Fuse Brown was quoted on various issues relating to hospital prices, surprise medical bills and medical debt collection practices in *Kaiser Health News*, *Modern Healthcare*, the *Saint Louis Post-Dispatch*, and the *Tennessean*, republished in *USA Today*.

Paul Lombardo was cited in Siddhartha Mukherjee's *New York Times* bestseller: *The Gene: An Intimate History* and in Henry Greely's *The End of Sex and the Future of Human Reproduction*, as well as a *Richmond Magazine* article on payments to sterilization survivors: "Compensating for the Priceless."

Lauren Sudeall Lucas, assistant professor of law, published "Does the First Amendment protect religious freedom laws?" on *The Conversation*.

Timothy Lytton was quoted as an expert on mass shootings and gun control in the *New York Times*, CNN.com, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and the *Connecticut Law Tribune*. He

was a guest on Radio Sputnik (Moscow) radio and the John Gambling radio show broadcast in New York City, and he discussed clergy sexual abuse lawsuits as a guest on Swiss Public Broadcasting radio. He was also quoted as an expert on gun industry litigation, food safety regulation, kosher certification and products liability in the *New York Times*, CNN.com, the *LA Times*, *Mother Jones*, *Corporate Counsel*, and *Crain's New York Business*. Lytton had an opinion piece, "Obama's Executive Order on Guns Mostly Political Theater," published in *U.S. News & World Report*.

Charity Scott was a contributing commentator for *Medical Ethics Advisor* on "Ethical Approaches to Disclose Errors Made by Other Clinicians."

Eric Segall published numerous blog articles on *Dorf on Law* and appeared on the national radio shows *Stand Up* with Pete Dominick, the *Jenny Hutt Show* and *Steele & Unger*. His essays on the eight-member Supreme Court appeared in the *New York Times* and *Salon*, and he was quoted

on the same subject by the *Huffington Post*, *Bloomberg News* and the *New York Times*.

Jonathan Todres was interviewed about bullying on the *Kathleen Dunn Show*, Wisconsin Public Radio, and *WalletHub* and about his new book, *Human Rights in Children's Literature*, on *NewsWhistle*. He was also quoted in "ABA Adds Its Voice to Calls for the US to Ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child," *ABA Journal*.

Tanya Washington gave several television and radio interviews on the U.S. Supreme Court's most recent affirmative action decision in *Fisher v. Texas*.

Patrick Wiseman published "Is the Constitution at stake in this year's election?" on *The Conversation*.

Patricia Zettler was quoted on various FDA issues in *STAT News*, *Fast Company* and the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society featured her publication on FDA regulation of neuroenhancement devices as a top story.

NEW COURSE/PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Andrea Curcio developed a capstone pre-trial class that builds upon doctrinal learning throughout law school and the skills taught in *Lawyering Advocacy* and other courses.

Lauren Sudeall Lucas became the founding faculty director of Georgia State's new Center for Access to Justice, which will engage in collaboration, research and education to focus on how lower-income individuals interact with the civil and criminal justice systems across the South.

Timothy Lytton taught a new course on Products Liability and Safety featured as one of "Five Georgia State Classes You Wish You Were Taking" on the GSU website.

Leslie E. Wolf launched the College of Law's first online course this fall. She has redeveloped her Health Law Quality & Access course, a required course for the Health Law Certificate, to foster student learning in a flexible, primarily online format.

Charity Scott honored

Charity Scott, Catherine C. Henson Professor of Law, was recognized for her "vision, inspiration and resourcefulness" in the creation of the Health Law Partnership (HeLP).

"The advisory council, staff and faculty wanted to honor Charity because, without her, HeLP wouldn't have gotten off the ground," said **Sylvia Caley (M.B.A. '86, J.D. '89)**, clinical professor and director of HeLP. "Her ideas and energy are embedded in everything the Health Law Partnership has accomplished during the last 13 years."

HeLP is a partnership between Georgia State Law's Center for Law, Health & Society, the Atlanta Legal Aid Society and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta that aims to improve the health of low-income children and their families.

"The word I always use to describe Charity is relentless, because she would not give up on her belief that patients in hospitals, especially children, needed a collaboration between lawyers and doctors to address the social and economic determinants of their health," said Steve Gottlieb, executive director of Atlanta Legal Aid Society.

According to Scott, HeLP has succeeded due to the efforts of faculty, students, volunteers and countless supporters in the community.

"I just believed that this was a great idea that might eventually catch on," Scott said. "I simply kept the faith that HeLP might someday be seen as a truly worthwhile collaboration in our community. I am immeasurably grateful that this has proven to be so."

In addition to the award, HeLP members set up the Charity Scott Summer Law Student Scholarship, which will provide a stipend to students who work full-time for 10 weeks during the summer at the HeLP office, Caley said.



VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

Douglas Yarn, professor law and executive director of the Consortium on Negotiation and Conflict Resolution (CNCR), was appointed as a visiting fellow at the Lauterpacht Centre of International Law, University of Cambridge; he will take up residence during the Lent Term of 2017 to carry out independent research.

Tips for practitioners | Job searching

While the legal hiring market has certainly picked up in the last few years, conducting a job search can still feel daunting. Here are some tips to make your job search a little easier.

by Amy P. McCarthy (J.D. '02)

Network. Network. Network.

It is a well-circulated statistic that more than 70 percent of job seekers find their jobs through networking. But since job seekers often view networking as walking into a room full of strangers and awkwardly trying to start conversations, many simply refuse to do it. However, there are other approaches to building a professional network that may be easier for introverts and extroverts alike. Start with the people you know. Make sure your family members, friends and former colleagues know that you are interested in making a transition and what your ideal position would be. Also, reach out to other Georgia State Law alumni who are practicing in areas that interest you. You can find fellow alumni on the Georgia bar website. Ask them for a short meeting (15–20 minutes) to discuss strategies for finding your next opportunity. Never end a meeting with a new or established contact without asking if there is someone they might introduce you to who may also be a good resource.

Refresh your resume and other documents.

If you are actively networking, it will only be a matter of time before someone asks for your resume. So, make sure your resume is updated and reflects your most impressive qualifications. If you are less than three years out of law school, lead with your educational experience. If it has been more than three years, it is time to move your work experience to the top. Your resume should showcase your qualifications to do the job you would like to have. Start with the responsibilities you have held that are the most pertinent. Use detailed descriptions and give examples. When crafting a cover letter, highlight your strengths and skills and use examples from your resume to illustrate each. Do not simply repeat the list of responsibilities from your resume. The cover letter is your chance to show what you learned from those experiences. Finally, proofread your materials carefully. Then ask a friend or colleague to proofread. And then proofread again. You can ask the Career Services Office for assistance as well.



Clean up social media accounts.

Potential employers will look for you on social media. If you have a social media presence (e.g., Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook), go through your posts to ensure that you are projecting a professional image, even if you believe that your privacy settings would not allow a potential employer to access your profile. One photo of you holding a glass of wine at a cocktail party is probably not going to raise any red flags, but if you are holding a red Solo cup in every picture, a potential employer may develop some concerns. Also be cautious of bad language or off-color humor. If you have to think very hard about whether a post or a photograph is appropriate, it is probably best to delete it.

Use LinkedIn to your advantage.

If you have a LinkedIn profile, update your qualifications and make sure your picture is recent and professional. Your headshot should include professional attire and should not include pets, babies, significant others, or alcohol. If you are not on LinkedIn, consider joining. LinkedIn can be a powerful tool for networking and job searching. If you are considering applying for a posted position for a firm or organization, use the search feature on LinkedIn to see if you have any contacts there or if any of your connections know people there. If you see an icon that says “2nd” by the name of a person that works for the firm or organization you are interested in, that means you have a common connection with that person. Consider reaching out to your mutual connection to ask if they would be willing to make an introduction or put in a good word for you.

Amy P. McCarthy (J.D. '02) is the interim associate director of the Career Services Office.

Class actions

1990

Belinda Edwards was elected Superior Court judge in Fulton County, Georgia.

1993



Jeffrey R. Kuester of Taylor English was recognized by *Chambers USA* in the 2016 guide as a leading practitioner in Intellectual Property.

Robert Mack was elected Superior Court judge in Clayton County, Georgia.

1999



Johnny Lee was admitted as principal at Grant Thornton.

Frank Schneider received an exceptional achievement award from the U.S. Department of Labor Office of Labor-Management Standards for his conduct of investigations and enforcement of federal laws to protect union members.

2000

Dawn M. Jones has been appointed to the State Bar of Georgia Executive Committee.

2007

Henry "Dee" DeBardeleben IV was named partner by Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial.

Kevin W. Hathcock was named partner at Ballard Spahr LLP, where he is a member of the firm's intellectual property department in Atlanta.

E. Terrell Gilbert Jr., a partner in Arnall Golden Gregory's corporate and securities and corporate governance practice, has gone in-house at Beazer Homes as assistant general counsel of securities and finance.

2011



Zachary B. Harris was appointed by the Georgia Board of Natural Resources to the Coastal Marshlands Protection and Shore Protection Committees.

2016



Faryn Wallace was hired as a law clerk by The Chestnut Firm.



The Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association (GAPABA) honored Manoj Mishra (J.D. '02) (center) at its third annual gala on May 12. Kim Childs (J.D. '02) (left) and Aaron Strimban (J.D. '02) (right) helped him celebrate.

GAPABA honors alumni

The Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association (GAPABA) honored Georgia State Law alumni **Manoj Mishra (J.D. '02)** and **Christopher J. Chan (J.D. '98)** at its third annual gala.

Mishra, director of field operations and strategic deals for North American and European Financial Institutions for ACI Worldwide Inc., received the Rising Star Award.

"Manoj exemplifies the kind of young professional that GAPABA wishes to honor as a Rising Star. In addition to his professional success as a director at ACI Worldwide, he also takes time to give back to the community," said David B. Kahng, GAPABA president.

"My years at Georgia State Law were some of the happiest of my life," Mishra said. "Most importantly, I received the tools necessary to succeed from day one in my career."

Chan, a member of the Intellectual Property Practice Group of Sutherland Asbill & Brennan, received the Judge Alvin T. Wong Pioneer Award, which recognizes the outstanding achievements, commitment and leadership of an individual who has paved the way for the advancement of Asian Pacific American attorneys.

"Chris has dedicated years of service to GAPABA. As president, he helped create the vision of this gala and has led the efforts in expanding its supporters," Kahng said. "By helping GAPABA prosper to unprecedented growth and success, Chris has enabled its members to reach new heights in our profession."

Professor Natsu Saito was also honored at the event.

Share your news and stay connected with classmates and friends.

Tell us what you are celebrating at law.gsu.edu/class-actions.

Two sides | Two students on practice-based programs



Blinn Combs (J.D. '17)

THE HELP CLINIC provides its students with a useful reminder that the law isn't just a means of protecting deep pockets. At its best, it's a safe haven for people with no pockets at all.

The clients—each one a sick child—arrive with all manner of troubles. They may need help getting better access to special education services, disability benefits or new housing. Through extensive client interaction, we help solve their sensitive legal challenges.

This work of providing needy families with the means to survive and sometimes thrive is pro bono publico in its highest sense, and I'm immensely proud to have had such a rewarding experience.

As a HeLP Clinic summer intern, I represented a child with severe and debilitating problems at a Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability hearing. His benefits had been withdrawn and if he lost his benefits, his medical care would be severely curtailed.

Preparation for the case was extensive—we even staged a grueling mock hearing. On the day of the actual hearing, Professors Sylvia Caley and James Mitchell accompanied me and our claimant, his mother, her translator and the reporter. I was nervous, but in the end the administrative law judge indicated that he would be rendering a favorable decision.

Thanks to my participation in the HeLP Clinic and the dedication of professors and staff, I've written and submitted my first major brief; I've had my first courtroom experience and my first legal victory. Most importantly, I've helped a sweet boy retain the medical care that he desperately needs to survive and helped his family avoid the possible emotional and financial ruin attendant upon the loss of his benefits. As beginnings go, I couldn't be prouder.

Blinn Combs (J.D. '17) participated in the HeLP Clinic activities during spring and summer 2016 and is enrolled in HeLP II.



Armin Naghashzadeh (J.D./M.B.A. '16)

I PARTICIPATED IN the Bankruptcy Assistance & Practice Program and the Philip C. Cook Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic to obtain practical work experience and valuable skills such as interviewing and client management. What I found was both the program and clinic also gave me the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives.

One client who wanted to file bankruptcy was in his late teens and recently homeless. The story of why was outrageous and no fault of his own. Given how unfortunate his story was and how positive his attitude was, I wanted to make sure this client received his bankruptcy discharge as well as a resolution to the tax issues he was having with the IRS. Ultimately, we were successful on both fronts.

The experiences I shared with all of my clients are the most important I have had in my three years of law school. Not only did I have an opportunity to meet fantastic people and learn from amazing professors, I learned a lot about what it means to be a lawyer. In a clinic, you learn about the power that we have as lawyers to impact our clients' lives. Our clients depend on us to get their legal issues resolved, but that is an oversimplification. As lawyers we have the skills, ability and knowledge to make a huge difference in clients' lives for the better.

I believe that all students should try a practice-based program or clinic, because the value and fulfillment you get from the learning experience is well worth the work you put in.

Armin Naghashzadeh (J.D./M.B.A. '16) is pursuing a master's of tax at Robinson College of Business.

Read more at law.gsu.edu/blinn-combs and law.gsu.edu/bankruptcy-client

Bragging rights

CONSTRUCTION AWARDS FOR 85 PARK PLACE

Associated Builders and Contractors Georgia Chapter honored McCarthy with an Excellence in Construction – Award of Excellence.

The South Atlantic Chapter of the Construction Management Association of America awarded McCarthy Building Companies Inc. a Project Achievement Award in the Public Building – New Construction category.

CITED

A 2013 Georgia State University Law Review Peach Sheet written by **Alex Galvan (J.D. '14)** and **Ashley Worrell (J.D. '14)** was cited in a June 23 opinion from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, *Grange Mutual Casualty Company v. Woodward et al.*



RANKINGS 38th

Georgia State Law is ranked No. 38 in the country for graduates who land the top legal jobs on *Business Insider*.

RISING CHAPTER

The American Constitution Society for Law and Policy (ACS) named the Georgia State Law chapter as Rising Chapter of the Year for 2015–16.

3rd

Pierce G. Hand (J.D. '16) received third place for his paper, "Using the Absurdity Principle & Other Strategies Against Appraisal Arbitrage by Hedge Funds," in the 2016 Mendes Hershman Writing Contest.



REGENTS' PROFESSOR

Paul Lombardo was named Regents' Professor by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents. He is one of two law professors to hold the distinction.

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Tower to the Trenches is a monthly CLE series, including one hour of either ethics or professionalism training, dedicated to Georgia State Law alumni. The monthly sessions are led by Georgia State Law faculty and alumni who are experts in specific

practice areas and features a 40-minute faculty presentation, 60-minute panel discussion and 20-minute question and answer session.

The cost is \$50. For more information and to register, visit law.gsu.edu/tower-to-trenches

Upcoming sessions are:

Friday, Dec. 9: Insurance coverage in a shared ride economy

Friday, Jan. 27: Timothy Lyton on gun industry litigation

