

Georgia State Law

ALUMNI MAGAZINE • SPRING/SUMMER 2017

LEADERSHIP
IS THE CAPACITY
TO TRANSFORM
VISION INTO REALITY



After 13 years, Dean Kaminshine steps down.

A photograph of two men in academic regalia. The man on the left is wearing a black mortarboard cap and a black gown with a blue stole. The man on the right is bald with a grey beard and glasses, wearing a black gown with purple and gold stripes on the sleeve. They are both looking down and to the right. The background is blurred, showing other people in blue clothing.

First look | *Commencement 2017*

"Good lawyers ... stand up for the dignity of people and their equality before the law. ... You hold that power in your hands the moment you receive your law degree today. You have the power to do good, the power to change lives, the power to help."

—Linda Klein, American Bar Association President and commencement speaker



2017 spring graduates

J.D.: 192

LL.M.: 27

Number of pro bono hours: 13,000+

Graduated with academic honors: 59

Class Gift Scholarship Fund: \$6,987

Learn more at law.gsu.edu/commencement2017.



LEADERSHIP

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Passion, thoughtfulness, dedication and trustworthiness are among qualities exhibited by leaders profiled

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BY CHARLES MCNAIR

“Leadership is the capacity to transform vision into reality.”

—Warren G. Bennis, founding chairman of the Leadership Institute at the University of Southern California

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From the Dean

WHAT MAKES A GOOD LEADER? The answer to this typically philosophical inquiry has taken on a new urgency of late. At the national level, there are clashing voices passionately articulating contradictory views on this very question. People have rarely been more divided or more vocal in their opinions, and there seems to be no end in sight to the debate.

Closer to home, Dean Steven J. Kaminshine's decision to step down after 13 years at the helm has generated its own set of questions. A transition in leadership inevitably brings some feelings of anxiety as our community grapples with the uncertainty of change. At the same time, this transition creates an important opportunity to reflect on the values and mission of our college and select a leader who will continue Dean Kaminshine's legacy of growth, innovation and student-centered excellence.



I have been fortunate to work with Steve for more than 18 years and watch a great leader in action. There is no question that his superior communication skills, deep commitment to faculty, staff and students and willingness to adopt creative solutions have led this institution to new heights in legal education. The powerful example that he has set will resonate with me and with so many others long after he returns to the faculty.

At Georgia State Law, we are fortunate to find other examples of great leadership all around us. Members of the faculty, like Leslie Wolf, have created an ethos of excellence that simply pervades everything we do. Our alumni also have made incredible contributions to law firms, corporations, nonprofits, the government and the college. In this issue, we profile just a few, like Cathy Henson (J.D. '89), Linda DiSantis (J.D. '88) and Judge Shawn Ellen LaGrue (J.D. '87). No one who reads about the accomplishments of these incredible people can fail to be inspired by their leadership.

Amidst all of the uncertainty of this next year, one thing is for certain: Georgia State Law will continue to be an innovative leader in the field of legal education. The commitment that we all have to providing affordable, practice-oriented education and our love for this institution transcend any change. I look forward to playing my part.

Wendy F. Hensel
Incoming Interim Dean and Professor of Law

Briefs

Hensel named interim dean



Wendy F. Hensel, associate dean for faculty and research development and professor of law, has been selected to serve as interim dean of Georgia State University College of Law for the 2017–18 academic year while the university conducts a national search for a new dean beginning with the 2018–19 academic year.

Kavita Pandit, associate provost for faculty affairs, and **Richard Phillips**, dean of Robinson College of Business, are co-chairing the national search.

“President **Mark Becker** and I are excited to have Wendy serve in this capacity during the upcoming year,” said **Risa Palm**, Georgia State provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. “We look forward to working with Wendy to continue progress on the strategic plans for both the college and the university.”

Dean **Steven J. Kaminshine**, professor of law, steps down this summer to return to the faculty. “Wendy is a special talent who has distinguished herself through her leadership in overseeing the program for faculty development and research,” he said. “The college will be in great hands while it moves forward in the upcoming academic year.”

Hensel has been with the college since 1999. “I feel passionately about our students, our faculty and our mission,” she said. “I am incredibly proud of our programs and commitment to affordable

legal education and consider it a privilege to provide leadership during this time.”

Hensel will work with Kaminshine to ensure a seamless transition for the college.

“We have been fortunate to have excellent leadership from Dean Kaminshine over the last 13 years,” Hensel said. “I hope to continue that tradition of excellence and facilitate a seamless transition to new leadership of the college.”

In addition to her teaching and research duties, Hensel has served as associate dean for faculty and research development since 2012 and chaired the college’s strategic planning committee in that role.

“Legal education is evolving rapidly, and it is critical that we continue to innovate and move forward on our strategic plan next year,” Hensel said. “I hope not only to maintain our forward momentum but to support new initiatives that will help us continue our tradition of excellence in the coming years.”

Prior to her academic career, Hensel was an associate at Alston & Bird and clerked for Judge Orinda Evans in U.S. District Court. She served as an intern at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Hensel graduated from Michigan State University and earned her J.D. at Harvard Law School. Her research interests include disability, education, employment and tort law.

HeLP Clinic anniversary

The Health Law Partnership (HeLP) Legal Services Clinic will celebrate its 10th anniversary on **Thursday, Sept. 14**, with a reception at Georgia State University Law. Registration for the event opens in July.

Over the decade of service, students have handled 250 cases with 199 clients from 25 counties in Georgia and out of state on topics such as childhood disability, housing conditions, education and access to health care. They have secured almost \$1 million in Social Security and Medicaid benefits, more than \$100,000 in education services and more than \$17,000 in housing benefits.

Join the conversation on Twitter at **#HeLP10**.

10
years

250
cases

199
clients

25
counties

SPRING BREAK PROJECTS

Serving and learning are key

As part of the **Center for Access to Justice's** inaugural Alternative Law Spring Break, 17 students devoted their week to learning about a new area of law, either landlord-tenant law in Atlanta, or criminal law in Mississippi.

In Jackson, Mississippi, students visited courtrooms to document whether low-level offenders, often people of color living in poverty, were given access to legal representation.

"I became aware that the right to counsel is essentially only made available to a narrow group of people, and even then is often trampled upon by those in positions of power," said **Nick Nesmith (J.D. '18)**.

In Atlanta, students volunteered at Atlanta Volunteer Lawyer Foundation's Saturday Lawyer Program, where lawyers meet with potential clients facing eviction or sub-standard living conditions. Students followed up on the clients' cases, conducting interviews, documenting housing conditions, researching legal issues and drafting demand letters.

"It was disheartening to see the coldness and at times uncompromising rigidity within our legal system, which seems to land the hardest on those in most need of reprieve," said **Charles Theodore (J.D. '17)**. "But I was also encouraged, as we had the opportunity to work alongside organizations that are dedicated to helping those less fortunate navigate a system that can be costly and intimidating."



Students visit PANI, the national child welfare agency in Costa Rica.

In another program, sponsored by the **Center for Law, Health & Society**, students went abroad to Costa Rica to learn about children's rights issues, including child migration, education and how children's rights law is implemented. The Global Perspectives on Children and the Law course was a partnership with the United Nations-mandated University for Peace (UPEACE) and included a mixture of classroom lectures and site visits.

Students were introduced to how social innovation can be applied to humanitarian challenges that are the focus of human rights law, said **Jonathan Todres**, professor of law, who led the program.

"The agenda fully encompassed the entire children's rights framework, from children themselves in their home and school environments, to the largest NGOs working in the region and around the world, to the Costa Rican government itself," **Diego Zorrilla (J.D. '19)** said. "We were able to learn about the practices and programs in place and innovate new methods to improve and expand child services."

Learn more at law.gsu.edu/alt-spring17 and law.gsu.edu/costarica.



Alumnus makes history

Sam Park (B.A./B.S.'09, J.D. '13) made history by becoming the first openly gay man elected to the Georgia General Assembly for District 101 in November 2016.

Park said he is proud to be the first progressive Asian-American and the first openly gay man to serve in the General Assembly. "It demonstrates our ability to transcend the differences that so often divide and separate us," he said.

Park discovered his interest in public service while taking the Health, Legislation and Advocacy class taught by **Sylvia Caley**, clinical professor of law and co-director of the HeLP Legal Services Clinic. As the students spent the semester at the Georgia Capitol drafting legislation to expand preventative health care services for children in Georgia, Park realized how much good can be achieved through the legislative process. He became fascinated with legislation and policy.

"Not only did Professor Caley introduce me to the world of public service, she sparked my passion to serve others. Without a doubt, I would not be where I am today if not for Georgia State Law and the opportunity to learn and grow under the many brilliant professors I had," Park said.

Read more at law.gsu.edu/StateRep-Sam-Park.



2017 MILLER LECTURE

Lisa Foster, the former director for the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Access to Justice spoke about injustice under the law during Georgia State University College of Law's 59th Henry J. Miller Distinguished Lecture Series on March 2.

More at law.gsu.edu/Lisa-Foster-Lecture.

Center launches online journal

The Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth launched an online journal, the *Journal of Comparative Urban Law and Policy*, which will serve as a resource for lawyers, planners, policy makers and scholars grappling with growth-related issues in metropolitan regions across the globe.



"It provides a platform, accessible around the world, for scholars, practitioners and policy makers to share ideas, strategies and lessons learned," said **Julian C. Juergensmeyer**, center director and Ben F. Johnson Jr. Chair in Law.

"Over the course of nearly 15 years, the Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth has developed a reputation as a leader in urban legal studies in the United States and abroad," said **Colin Crawford**, Robert C. Cudd Professor of Law and director of the Payson Graduate Program in Global Development at Tulane University. "I expect that the journal will become an invaluable resource for academics, professionals in the field and those interested worldwide in urban issues, law and policy."

The first edition contains research articles from the center's 2016 Study Space Program in Cape Town, South Africa.

"It will offer a comparative view of land use law and policy issues internationally, especially those connected, even in six-degrees-of-Kevin-Bacon fashion, with growth," said **Dwight Merriam**, partner at Robinson & Cole. "The *Journal of Comparative Urban Law and Policy* is our window to the world and provides all of us, around the globe, with the forum we have needed for so long to learn from each other."

The editorial board consists of Juergensmeyer, editor in chief; **Karen Marie Johnston (J.D. '08)**, managing editor; and **Ryan Rowberry** and **John Travis Marshall**, associate editors. The geographically diverse board of advisors consists of Ellen Margrethe Basse, Crawford, Janice Griffith, Lydie Louis, Camille Mailot, Claudio Monteiro, Arthur C. Nelson, Romulo Sampaio, Juli Ponce Sole, Bruce Stiffler and Maria Kenig-Witkowska.

Read more at readingroom.law.gsu.edu/jculp.



GEORGIA STATE LAW WINS INTRASTATE MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Georgia State Law brought home the winning trophy and received the best brief recognition at the Intrastate Moot Court Competition, hosted by the College of Law March 24–25. **Eleanor Miller (J.D. '18)**, **Yasmin Assar (J.D. '18)** and **Chadwick Williams (J.D. '18)** beat the University of Georgia School of Law in the final round.

Williams said the team's coach **Kaitlyn Pettet (J.D. '17)** pushed them to do their best.

"She worked with us to break our bad habits and arranged several great benches of professors and practicing attorneys," he said.

Pettet said the team had a strong work ethic. "They were most impressive with their knowledge of relevant statutes, case law and policy implications. I felt overjoyed that the many justices recognized the cumulative efforts of our team throughout the competition. The outcome was well deserved."

More at law.gsu.edu/2017-intrastate-mootcourt.

Brewer explores social enterprise in book



Social enterprise is difficult to define and classify. Organizations as distinct as Habitat for Humanity (nonprofit), Warby Parker (for profit) and Amtrak (government owned) combine a social mission with profit-making and can

be viewed as social enterprises. Associate Professor **Cass Brewer** and his colleagues determined that a unique metaphor

might provide a more comprehensive understanding of the sector in *The Social Enterprise Zoo: A Guide for Perplexed Scholars, Entrepreneurs, Philanthropists, Leaders, Investors, and Policymakers*.

Brewer, with professor emeritus **Dennis R. Young** and **Elizabeth A.M. Searing (M.A. '11, Ph.D. '15)**, developed the idea for the book while discussing the various ways scholars define and describe social enterprise organizations.

Through the metaphor, the book examines the concepts and content of the social enterprise zoo: how the zoo functions as an interactive collection of diverse animals in various habitats; how the zoo is

managed and governed by its curators and zookeepers; and how the "animals" perform in terms of innovation, economic resilience and overall social impact.

A collaborative effort among authors from several disciplines, including business, social science, economics and law, the book includes a variety of perspectives on how social enterprise impacts each area.

"We hope to bring structure to a topic that is a bit chaotic because of the number of different theories trying to define and categorize it," Brewer said.

Read more at law.gsu.edu/social-enterprise-zoo.

In their words | *Two alumni on leadership*

"We have an obligation to give back."

Dawn Smith (J.D. '89)

What led you to found Cool Girls Inc., whose mission is to empower girls?

Not long after graduating in 1989, I heard a story about a girl whose mother had forced her into prostitution, and I felt the need to do something.

Someone from my church connected me with a community organizer at East Lake Meadows, which was a housing project in a neighborhood referred to as "Little Vietnam" because of gang violence. I met with 25 girls who lived there, and together we decided to form a club, which they named Cool Girls.

I recruited all of my friends who were also lawyers or in public health to help. Initially we focused on child abuse prevention — many of the girls were telling us they had been molested.

Then we started going on field trips — most of them had never even been to other areas of Atlanta. I'd make peanut butter sandwiches, and we would visit places like the Atlanta History Center. I soon realized one-on-one mentoring really makes a positive impact, so we added the Cool Sisters program. From there, it just got bigger, and I started more programs in other areas. So far, over 6,000 girls have come through our doors.

I now serve in an advisory capacity, and Cool Girls serves over 350 girls through partnerships with eight Title 1 schools in DeKalb and Fulton Counties.

Why do you give back?

As a kid, people were there for me when things were tough, and I want to be there for others. I have been given a lot in life. I have a position of privilege because of my resources, skin color and nationality, and I feel an obligation to use that to help empower others — not to do for, but to do with. My faith calls me to do it, and my law license requires me to do it; the bar rules are clear in stating that we have an obligation to give back.

You are a mentor to many women lawyers. What advice do you give?

I talk to them about the importance of knowing all they can about the subject they are going to speak about or advocate for. Those with confidence, grace and respect — both in giving and expecting it be given — are the people who are heard the most and are the most effective.

Many young women are learning how to find their voice, and then once they have it, how to use it effectively. In my career, I have used mine both ineffectively and effectively, so I share the lessons I have learned.

Unfortunately, there is still a different standard for women. I tell mentees it's important what we wear because we are scrutinized. Not long ago, a judge commented on my shoes and called me "girl." We have to talk about the realities of gender in today's world.

I also tell them it's important to realize that when people disagree or take a different position, it's not personal. Taking it personally can get you off track.



ADVOCATING
FOR CHILDREN

Choose your battles wisely, and ask yourself, "Is this issue the hill I want to die on?"

I want them to know they can lead no matter what station of life they come from — you can use where you come from to relate to and inspire others.

Why is it important for lawyers specifically to "step up" and lead?

Lawyers are taught to be advocates; Georgia State Law does a great job at this. We are trained to distill information, take from it those crucial points that are most compelling and make the best presentation for our cause. I believe the law and the judiciary is the one branch of government we can count on to protect us. My knowledge and special training make my obligation even greater.

Dawn Smith (J.D. '89) is a partner at Smith & Lake, where she practices family and education law. She has served as deputy director of the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and was named Atlanta Legal Aid Volunteer of the Year in 2016. She founded Cool Girls Inc. in 1989 and is an advocate for children in many capacities.

“Many Asian-American lawyers I have met are the first in their families to choose law as a career.”

Christopher J. Chan (J.D. '98)

You are involved in many organizations and are a mentor to many young lawyers. Why is that important to you?

I think all lawyers should strive to be involved in their communities. I am passionate about helping people, and being able to do so outside of the legal profession is refreshing. I'm often asked to provide my legal views for the activities I am involved in — there's always a need for a lawyer's experience in the business world, for profit or not.

I also want to be involved with organizations that have contributed to my professional success and help improve them so that they will continue to do so. When I affiliated myself with Georgia State Law's alumni council and IP Advisory Board, they were just starting out. I felt the need to help with strategic direction and purpose since I knew both would become influential within the legal community. Through each, I can help build stronger ties among our alumni and hopefully, by encouraging others to give back to the college, continually improve the reputation of Georgia State Law.

When I was starting as a law student and lawyer, I didn't have any older family members who had pursued a legal degree. Many Asian-American lawyers I have met are the first in their families to choose law as a career. I understand the feeling of not having anyone to ask questions about what the legal practice entails. I want to educate law students and young lawyers about the lessons I have learned and be someone they can turn to for advice.

How did your roles as president of the Moot Court Board and VP of the Asian American Law Students

Association while a student help shape you as a leader?

Both experiences made a significant impact on me. The Moot Court Board was a defining moment in my legal education, learning about the differences in managing lawyers and, at the time, lawyers-to-be.

My role in the Asian American Law Students Association (AALSA) was just as educational and fulfilling. At the time, there were probably fewer than 100 Asian lawyers in Atlanta, and through my leadership, I was introduced to many of them. When I later served as president of the Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association (GAPABA), many of those relationships helped me in that leadership role and still help me in my ongoing GAPABA fundraising activities. I attribute some of my success in GAPABA to my early days of leading the AALSA.

How can law students cultivate leadership skills?

Find an organization, committee or cause you are passionate about, and take a leadership role there. Don't join something just to be a member and receive monthly emails. Being a leader will attract attention to your skills, your practice and your firm or organizational affiliation. Your efforts will be a reflection of the values and work of your firm or organization.

INVOLVEMENT
AND MENTORSHIP



If you don't feel comfortable leading yet, take a committee or lesser role, but work as hard as you would if you were leading that committee. Once you gain the experience of organizing the committee's activities and have learned as much as you can from its leaders, you should be ready to lead the committee and, someday, the organization.

And even then, continue to hone your leadership skills. It's extremely important as a leader to stay humble and not deceive yourself into thinking you know everything. With respect to leadership and continuing to develop myself as a leader, I still think of myself as a student.

Christopher J. Chan (J.D. '98) is a member of the Intellectual Property Practice Group of Eversheds Sutherland. He serves on his firm's Professional Development and Pro Bono & Public Service Committees, Georgia State's Law Alumni Council and Intellectual Property Advisory Board, the Executive Board of the Center for Puppetry Arts and the Board of Directors for the Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association, among others.

PROFILES IN LEADERSHIP

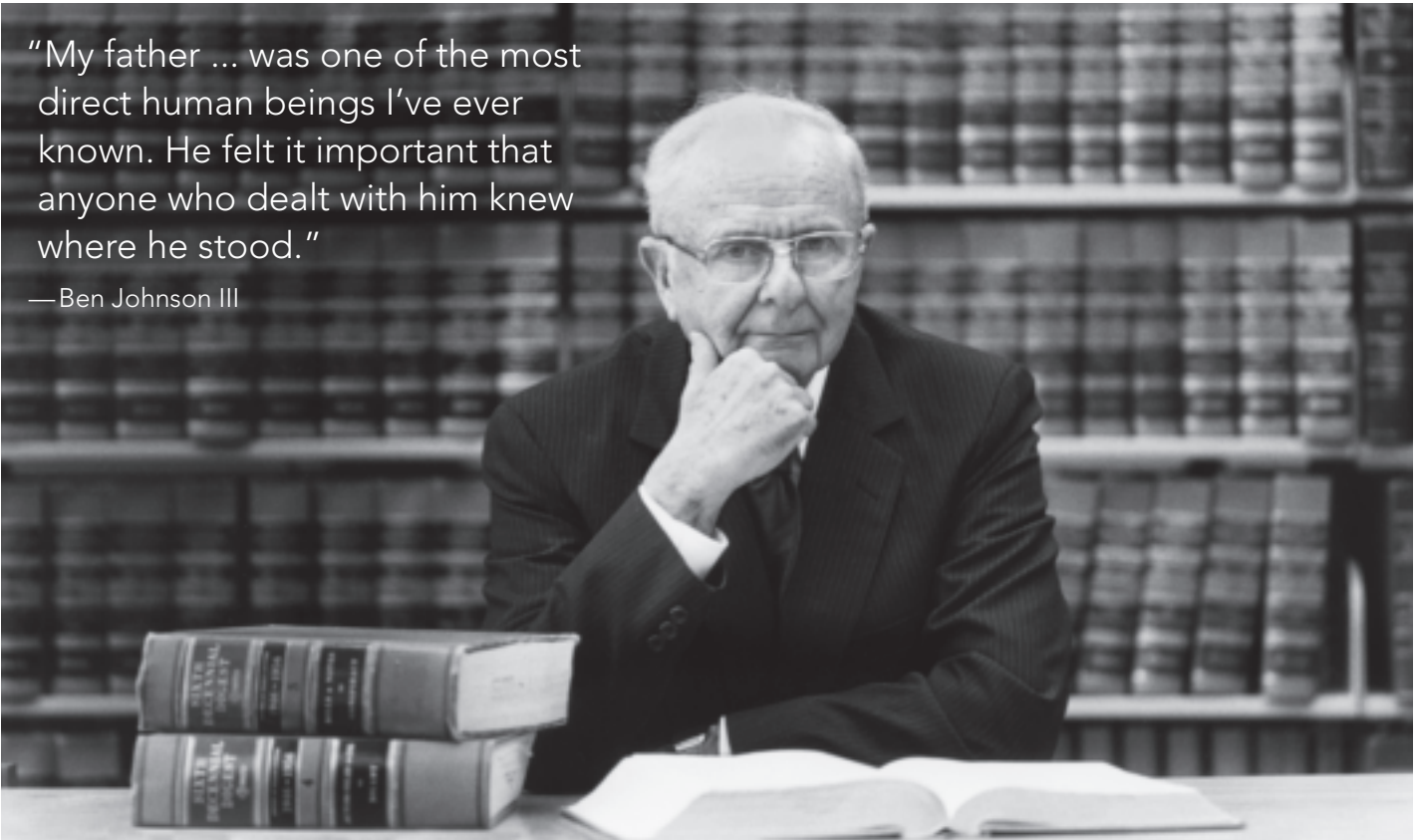
What makes a great leader? We asked several leaders in the Georgia State Law community to share their thoughts on others who exhibit leadership qualities worth modeling.

by Jennifer Bryon Owen



"My father ... was one of the most direct human beings I've ever known. He felt it important that anyone who dealt with him knew where he stood."

—Ben Johnson III



Ben F. Johnson Jr.

A foundation of leadership

A proven leader was needed to establish the new law school at Georgia State University. Ben F. Johnson Jr. was just the person. Though he had just retired from 35 years as professor and dean at Emory University School of Law, Johnson, who was in his late 60s, accepted the charge to be Georgia State Law's founding dean.

"He was always looking for the next challenge," said his son Ben Johnson III. "This one, at this time in his life, seemed like David slaying Goliath. He was passionate about it."

Passion, Johnson III said, was his father's greatest leadership quality. That passion developed from his experience as a Depression-era night student at Georgia State University. He "learned about the significance of motivation, the effective use of time and the incremental power of persistence," and his "career found direction."

"But passion, by itself, doesn't get you where you need to go," Johnson III said. "He was knowledgeable and experienced, particularly as a law school dean, which he viewed as a calling."

Political experience and savvy also played a role in his success. Johnson reached his goal because he had developed relationships in many sectors and knew how to communicate and work with them, his son said.

The dean was transparent. "My father was never good at filtering his thoughts," Johnson III said. "He was one of the most direct human beings I've ever known. He felt it important that anyone who dealt with him knew where he stood."

His courage gave him a willingness to speak truth to power. "He once told the Georgia State president that it was his [Johnson's] responsibility to 'protect the integrity of your [the president's] aspirations.'"

When the Decatur Rotary Club voted against admitting women after Johnson's impassioned plea of support, he resigned and walked out.

Johnson III recounts the enthusiasm his father brought to everything he did. He was excited about every student, every course he taught.

The family still jokes about the blackboard in the kitchen. "Every meal was exciting because he was going to use that meal to explain something new to you," Johnson III said. "He had a blackboard there so that if he needed to diagram something, he could."

"My dad displayed his passion in a lot of ways."



Leslie E. Wolf

Thoughtful and trustworthy

Several female colleagues were playing a game in which each selected a card she felt best described the “it” person.

Every card chosen for Leslie E. Wolf, director of the Center for Law, Health & Society and professor of law, said, “The one we would most like to have her finger on the nuclear bomb.”

The card nailed it, said Wendy F. Hensel, incoming interim dean and professor of law. “Being an ethical and dedicated leader is central to who Leslie is,” Hensel said. “She’s dependable, trustworthy and extraordinarily thoughtful about the implications and impact of what she does — especially on people who don’t have a voice in the issue — and the significance of the policy issues behind what she’s being asked to decide.”

Ethics research claims Wolf’s passion. “You can’t be a lightweight and find ethics fascinating,” Hensel said, noting the complexity created by the intersection of written law and human behavior.

New degree programs, such as the new LL.M. with a concentration in health law, and the development of innovative delivery mechanisms are results of Wolf’s pioneering leadership.

“She’s not afraid to go into uncharted waters and explore how we can maximize our impact,” Hensel said. Should things not work as expected, Wolf doesn’t see failure but is inspired to think creatively about more effective solutions.

She cares about the people who work with her and supports them in solving their challenges. Wolf mentors young faculty about career choices, reviews their scholarship and is instrumental in the promotion and tenure process.

She also seeks balance in life, said Hensel. “She’s carved out time for outstanding scholarship, public policy administration, family and herself.”

Key to Wolf’s success, believes Hensel, “is her ability to never lose sight of what is important to her and constantly being aware of the goal and how her actions move her toward that.

“That’s why the game was so hysterical. We were unanimous about Leslie’s leadership.”

CRAIG CLELAND (J.D. ’92)

Communicating clearly

As a student, Luke Donohue (J.D. ’16) was helped to succeed in Complex Litigation by the leadership of adjunct professor Craig Cleland (J.D. ’92). As an associate at Ogletree Deakins working under Cleland, a shareholder, that leadership education continues.

“[As a professor] he was passionate and helped students tackle a difficult subject and do well,” Donohue said.

Cleland clearly communicated his expectations: Attend, read the material, be ready to discuss. He would help them tie it all together. “It was clear he was willing to put in the effort to help us succeed,” Donohue said.

As one of Donohue’s bosses, Cleland’s goals are equally unmistakable. “There is no substitute for good work, and expectations are high. He’s an example of doing everything the right way in dealing with people.”

Clients are excited to talk with the personable Cleland, who guides them through the negatives of litigation by focusing on the goals, Donohue said. He understands the big picture and makes sure clients keep their eyes on it.

Cleland impresses Donohue with the depth of knowledge he accrues about each client—what they do, how they do it, their routines, their processes and their goals.

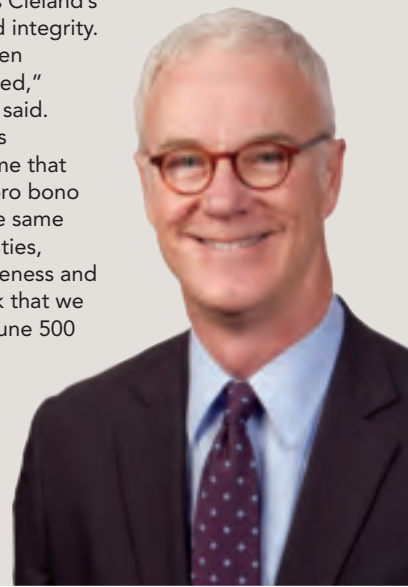
His open-mindedness encourages associates to think outside the box by understanding where all the pieces of a case fit, developing an alternate plan and anticipating next steps.

Should something go wrong, Cleland stresses responsibility. “He wants us to keep ourselves accountable, but also to be prepared to correct the mistake,” Donohue said.

Their pro bono work highlights Cleland’s ethics and integrity.

“He’s gotten me involved,” Donohue said.

“He always reminds me that we owe pro bono clients the same ethical duties, responsiveness and hard work that we do a Fortune 500 client.”



Darlene Childers (J.D. '17)

Initiative and openness

As associate dean for student affairs, Kelly Cahill Timmons interacts with many students. She's watched one in particular — Darlene Childers (J.D. '17), president of the Student Bar Association — model leadership.

"I learn a lot from Darlene," Timmons said. "Her skills are impressive."

Childers understands balance. A mother of two who held a job and went to school part-time, Childers still participated in the SBA throughout her academic career, worked as a graduate research assistant and was named a 2016–17 Bleckley Inn of Court Pupil.

Under Childers' leadership, the SBA worked especially hard, partly because of Childers' attitude that it's the SBA's job to make the law school experience better for their classmates, Timmons said.

To make the SBA more professional and transparent, Childers clearly communicated board meeting times and the

location of minutes. She displayed initiative on an issue by researching solutions and contacting other schools. And her organizational skills ensured the always activity-packed Law Week's myriad events were in place.

"There are many moving parts," Timmons said. "She had a Google Doc for Law Week. She made sure speakers had parking. She excels in thank you notes."

Law Week 2017 also had a new component — a community service project — because of Childers' creativity and service attitude. "Darlene thought we could do more and was willing to make it happen," Timmons said.

The student leader develops relationships with her peers and the legal community through her "incredible friendliness and openness," Timmons said, adding that she handles criticism with mature professionalism and admits mistakes. "Darlene doesn't take things personally. She's thoughtful about what she does."



"I learn a lot from Darlene.
Her skills are impressive."

— Kelly Cahill Timmons

See Childers' commencement speech at law.gsu.edu/2017-commencement-ceremony.



Don Samuel

Credibility and compassion

For Manny Arora (J.D. '94), Don Samuel possesses leadership qualities worth emulating. Arora observed Samuel, an adjunct professor, when they were partners at Garland, Samuel & Loeb, and he strives to employ those characteristics at his firm, Arora & LaScala.

"Don sets the example," Arora said. "He puts in the work, the effort and the ethics and makes you want to work harder and better. That's the best leadership."

Judges and other lawyers trust Samuel, even if they disagree with him, because they know his credibility and integrity, Arora said. "He doesn't stretch facts to win, never takes shortcuts. You never question whether you can believe him."

Samuel knows the law and communicates it well. Arora likens him to an encyclopedia: "He can immediately recite what needs to be done. You can have an intellectual discussion with Don at the drop of a hat and walk away wishing you'd thought of that. It's just natural to him. That's an enjoyable part of working with him."

Samuel's persistence ensures he solves an issue. "He doesn't nag. He is thorough and works as hard as anybody in the firm."

Arora noted that Samuel's "super compassionate big heart" is evident personally — he and his wife have adopted a number of children — and professionally — he serves pro bono cases and fights for the underprivileged.

Samuel is dependable and even-tempered. "I've never seen him get upset. He takes his time, but you know the case will be ready."

Such an example empowers others. "He is what you want to be," Arora said.

NANCY JOHNSON (J.D. '86)

A visionary's legacy

With the best views, the Law Library is "prime real estate" at the top of the College of Law building. This was the vision of the late Nancy Johnson (J.D. '86), associate dean for library and information services and professor of law.

She wanted the best spot for the students and found agreement within the planning team and faculty. But Johnson's imprint remains on more than the building.

Not one to talk about her own leadership, she modeled good leadership skills and demonstrated best practices. An example of her dependability and focus: Johnson finished updating a publication while she was in chemotherapy.

"She talked about the importance of mentoring people, helping them improve so they could progress," said Kris Niedringhaus, Johnson's former associate director and now associate dean for library and information services and associate professor of law.

Purposeful in her actions, Johnson co-wrote papers with colleagues new to the field to help establish them and encouraged those hesitant to speak publicly by providing speaking opportunities.

She felt strongly about creating proficient law librarians and mentored those who worked for her, as well as others. "Most, if not all, of her associate directors have become directors of law libraries," Niedringhaus said.

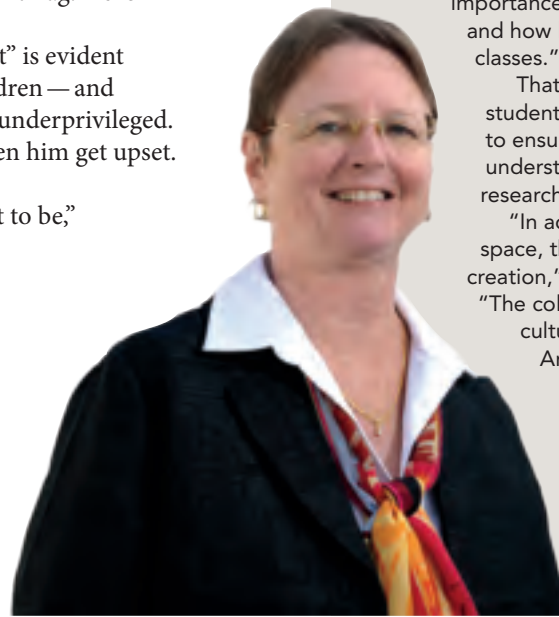
Johnson was passionate about teaching legal research. "When it was created, the legal research program at Georgia State Law was a leader in the country," Niedringhaus said. "Nancy was at the forefront of emphasizing the importance of legal research and how librarians teach those classes."

That, too, was for the students. She wanted to ensure law students understood how to do legal research well.

"In addition to the physical space, this library is Nancy's creation," Niedringhaus said.

"The collection, services and culture were built by her.

And I am the fortunate beneficiary."



Linda K. DiSantis (J.D. '88), Cathy Henson (J.D. '89), Shawn Ellen LaGrua (J.D. '87)

Alumni leaders set examples

Lawyers must have good leadership qualities, says Roy Sobelson, professor of law and former associate dean for academic affairs. "People in leadership positions accomplish things and empower others to accomplish."

To this end, Georgia State Law students hear about professional identity from orientation until graduation. "The point is to get the students to think consciously about the kind of person they want to be as a lawyer," he said.

And there is an abundance of excellent leaders among Georgia State Law alumni to serve as examples to students. He cites three who are actively involved in the college through giving back, mentoring students and participating in college events and programs.

Linda K. DiSantis (J.D. '88), chair of the College of Law's Board of Visitors, has worked for a major law firm, been general counsel for UPS and CARE, was counsel to Atlanta's Mayor Shirley Franklin and is an adjunct professor at Georgia State. "She knows her strengths and uses them in different situations where she expects people to work hard, take chances and be creative as long as they take responsibility," Sobelson said.

Cathy Henson (J.D. '89), has been successful in a law firm and private enterprise and now devotes her talents to her passion — education. "Cathy's involvement in education grew from the local PTA to state, university and law school education,

where she has become a hard-working actor," Sobelson said.

"Through her volunteering, generous scholarship donations and leadership on countless boards and task forces, Cathy goes to great lengths to ensure others have opportunities. She leads by example."

Likewise, Fulton County Superior Court Judge Shawn Ellen LaGrua (J.D. '87) has set an impressive example.

While a prosecutor, she demonstrated "hutzpah and drive" when prosecuting criminals for high-profile, violent crimes, Sobelson said. As a judge, she works consistently to improve the judicial system.

"Shawn is innovative and a risk taker," Sobelson said. "She's always setting up new programs to help juvenile offenders succeed and to reduce the recidivism of women offenders."

Through her "My Journey Matters" program, which offers alternative sentencing for young offenders, LaGrua began awarding scholarships to graduates pursuing higher education. (Learn more at law.gsu.edu/lagrua-myjourney.)

She is also a mentor to many past, current and prospective law students, helping them navigate the process and offering encouragement.

Sobelson's goal is to ensure students join the ranks of such esteemed alumni. "We teach leadership in the finest sense of the word," Sobelson said. "Our alums are proof."



"Shawn is innovative and a risk taker."

— Roy Sobelson

Judge Shawn Ellen LaGrua (J.D. '87) speaks at the 2016 Swearing-In Ceremony at Georgia State Law.



Linda K. DiSantis (J.D. '88) and Cathy Henson (J.D. '89) took part in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new law school in 2013.



I remember Dean Kaminshine fondly as a teacher who really loved to teach. He was easy to approach with questions and had a true interest in his students.

—Alaric Henry (J.D. '91)

Share your
memories of
Dean Kaminshine
at [law.gsu.edu/
DeanTribute](http://law.gsu.edu/DeanTribute).

Steve has been an incredible force for uniting the law school community around common goals. He has made believers of everyone in what a truly fantastic place Georgia State Law is to work, to study and to gather as a community in support of life in the law.

—Charity Scott, professor of law

SO MUCH MORE THAN DEAN

by Breckyn Wood

IT'S DIFFICULT TO DEFINE THE WAYS in which Steven J. Kaminshine leads. Colleagues, alumni and friends clamor to add something new:

- He's a responsive listener.
- He delegates and puts trust in the people he leads.
- He truly cares about his students, faculty and staff and their many needs.
- He's a big-picture thinker with an eagle eye for detail.
- He never shies away from hard work.

In his more than decade as dean of the College of Law, the influence of his leadership on the school has been incalculable. There are a few numbers we can point to — the 40-spot jump in national rankings, the \$30 million raised, the five new clinics — but the true breadth of his influence will continue to have ripple effects for many more decades, and it stretches far beyond the walls of 85 Park Place (which, not surprisingly, was also his idea).

An accessible, caring mentor

As many will attest, Steve's leadership at Georgia State Law has been notable in many respects. What stands out for me personally is the incredible support and mentorship that he has provided to all faculty members, junior and senior. I have both been the direct beneficiary of his efforts and had the pleasure of working with him to create a first-rate faculty development program as an associate dean.

Throughout his tenure, Steve has been accessible in ways that are extraordinary

given his heavy responsibilities. His door is always open to faculty members, and he genuinely cares about every one of them.

He is not one who holds the role of dean in order to exercise power or to achieve acclaim. Instead, he repeatedly has made clear that his highest priority is to support faculty in their pursuit of teaching and scholarly excellence, particularly those at the beginning of their careers. It is an incredible testament to Steve's leadership that every person to come up for promotion or tenure

under his watch has been successful, despite the reality that Georgia State has raised its standards of excellence exponentially over this period.

His consistent efforts to employ all resources within his control to improve the lives of the faculty will have an impact long after he has stepped down as dean.

—Wendy F. Hensel, associate dean for research and faculty development, will serve as interim dean for the 2017–18 term.

As good of a dean as he's been for the law school, Kaminshine has been an equally valuable leader in the broader legal communities of Atlanta, Georgia and even the entire country. From serving as president of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools to chairing the Labor and Employment Section of the Atlanta Bar (twice), Kaminshine is everywhere you look.

As a prominent member of the Section of Legal Education of the American Bar Association, Kaminshine has provided testimony on many topics, including the importance of clinical experience in law schools.

"He is always willing to roll up his sleeves and do what needs to be done to benefit the greater legal community," said Linda Klein, president of the American Bar Association, who appreciates Kaminshine's hands-on involvement. "Steve understands the role of the bar in leadership for the profession. He sees how the bar and law schools can work together to help the public and strengthen the profession."

With the creation of the Lawyers for Equal Justice (LEJ) program, Kaminshine has helped do exactly that. A nonprofit that encourages Georgia lawyers to provide affordable services to low- and moderate-income clients, LEJ was a collaborative effort between the Supreme Court of Georgia, the State Bar and the five Georgia law schools.

"It has been a tremendous success and a national model for training programs for young lawyers that also provides service to those in need," said Patrise Perkins-Hooker, past president of the State Bar. "I think without Dean Kaminshine's willingness to go the extra distance, the other law schools might not have been as engaged."

Bucky Askew, visiting professor of law and chair of the LEJ Board of Directors, seconds that idea. "Steve really led that collaborative effort," he said. "In bringing me to Georgia State to

create an incubator program, Steve was the one dean that had already been thinking about how to make low bono work and trying to promote it."

As a former director of the Office of Bar Admissions for the Supreme Court of Georgia, Askew has seen Kaminshine's leadership from the other side of the bar.

"Steve is a leader among the deans in terms of bar admission activities," he said. "In the years I served as director, he and the law school were always looking for ways to help the Supreme Court make the process work more smoothly and be more responsive to student needs."

Despite the wide-ranging nature of Kaminshine's involvement in the legal profession, his efforts have always circled back to improving the law school he loves.

"Dean Kaminshine has been an instrumental leader at a crucial point in the development of Georgia State's College of Law, and he has done much to move the school toward a position of preeminence," said Hugh Thompson, former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

"He should be very proud of the position in which he's leaving the law school."

Georgia State Law's two most consequential deans, Ben F. Johnson Jr. and Steven J. Kaminshine.



Never afraid to say yes

As was the case with our founding dean, Ben Johnson Jr., it is impossible to overstate the significance of Steve's leadership.

Dean Johnson's job was simply stated, but not easy to achieve. Working from scratch, he had to create an accredited public education facility equally accessible to students, mostly in the Southeast, seeking full-time and part-time legal education.

Once Dean Johnson and his successors had achieved that basic goal, though, it was no small task to figure out where to go from there. We could, for example, focus our attention on attracting the best-credentialed students available, reaching beyond the Southeast to the entire world.

We could hire faculty with proven academic excellence and promise of greater

prominence nationally or internationally, attracting them with opportunities to engage in interdisciplinary work at Georgia State and other schools, as well as governmental and community organizations. We could develop specialty programs to provide unique academic and practical opportunities.

We could build a spectacularly inviting facility, reflecting the newest trends in legal education and design and providing conference space for university, community and private functions. We could work with local government, the bar and private enterprise to make the law school an internationally recognized center for dispute resolution. Or we could focus on experiential education, adding new classroom, clinical, externship and center activities for the

benefit of our students and the community.

What's so impressive about Steve is that he has achieved all of these things and more. Every day, he has demonstrated two of the most important qualities a leader can have. First, he fosters an atmosphere in which everyone is encouraged to think outside of the box and be bold. And second, he's been willing—no, anxious—to develop and use our resources to make those bold initiatives a reality.

Steve sometimes says no, of course. But he is never afraid to say yes, which is why we have come so far in such a short time. Bravo and thanks, Steve, for a job very well done.

—Roy Sobelson, professor of law and former associate dean for academic affairs



Professor Roy Sobelson, Dean Kaminshine,
Judge Shawn Ellen LaGrúa (J.D. '87) and
Anne Ware Lewis (J.D. '89)

Effective mediator

I was never fortunate enough to have Steve as a professor, but I know a lot of people who did—and I know, for many of them, he shaped their careers in the labor and employment field. I know many have also called upon Steve after they graduated to ask labor and employment questions, just as similar calls have been made to—and answered by—Roy Sobelson, Lynn Hogue and others through the years. One of the many great things about being a Georgia State Law alum is that the same care and concern the professors have for you while you're a student continue into your professional years. They are great advocates for graduates who are learning how to be lawyers. I'm thankful to Steve for fostering that.

Over the years, I've had the wonderful experience of working with Steve on the Law Advisory Council and in other College of Law groups. Steve is an ever-present, always active member of every group.

Last year, I had the good fortune to work with Steve in a different capacity, when he served as a mediator in a case in which our firm represented some of the parties. The case was a difficult one, involving neighbors who clearly all loved their community but were simply at odds on a particular issue. I think it would be fair to say that the other lawyers and I initially thought, "Nobody's going to be able to get this resolved." But Steve came in and helped us find a solution to a dispute that had been dividing an otherwise undivided community for several years. He found a way to get the parties and their lawyers to come together, just as he has gained consensus on so many projects during his time at Georgia State.

So while I never had Steve as a professor, I have learned so much from him long after leaving Georgia State Law. When I think about Steve's leadership, I think about the saying, "There is simply no limit to what can be done if it doesn't matter who gets the credit." That is Steve Kaminshine.

—Anne Ware Lewis (J.D. '89)

Thank you for the contributions you have made to build on the firm foundation of this law school, making it a more shining example of the best legal education and commitment to service in the state.

—Dawn M. Jones (J.D. '00)

Steve knows that students need to have a wealth of opportunities to integrate doctrine with other lawyering skills. He helped make those opportunities possible.

—Andrea Curcio, professor of law



Dean Kaminshine with Kelly Cahill Timmons and Jessica Gabel Cino

Steve's vision for a thriving public law school in downtown Atlanta is his legacy. He's not afraid to get into the trenches and work alongside staff and faculty to continually improve the college.

—Jessica Gabel Cino, associate dean for academic affairs and associate professor of law

Steve has been a driving force behind our rise in rankings and our increasing role as the school of choice for prospective law students. —Mary Radford, professor of law

Service to students

Steve's leadership has benefited students in numerous ways. Perhaps the most obvious is our beautiful law building, which would not exist without Steve's leadership over a period of years. In designing the building, Steve was a proponent of the idea that the best floors should be for the students, which led us to put the Law Library (rather than faculty or administrative offices) on the top two floors. He also supported putting classrooms and faculty offices together, to promote student-faculty interaction.

Steve has always been aware of the fact that the cost of law school is an obstacle for many students. Throughout his tenure as dean, he has worked tirelessly and creatively to raise money for scholarships.

Current students may be surprised to hear that before 2010, the college graded on a numerical basis, on a scale of 55–100, with a mandatory average for first-year courses between 77.5 and 79.0. For years, students complained that the grading system was hard for employers to understand and that the average was low compared to that of other law schools. Converting the system to letter grades was not easy, but Steve was committed to carrying out the change for the benefit of our students.

Early in his tenure, Steve created the position of associate dean for student affairs to focus on nonacademic student issues. That decision reflects the priority Steve has placed on service to students, and I am honored to serve in that position.

—Kelly Cahill Timmons, associate dean for student affairs and associate professor of law

Structural, creative support

Imagine a job where you look forward to your annual review because you know you will leave feeling confident and committed to doing your best. Steve has always made me and my colleagues feel supported, challenged, engaged and valued. Aside from my mother, I cannot think of anyone who has believed more in my professional ability or appeared more proud of my accomplishments than Steve.

During my years as a junior faculty member, through tenure and beyond, Steve provided structural, creative and professional support. Structural support included conference travel as a platform for faculty research and an opportunity to build our networks. Steve also prioritized

summer research grants and course loads that increased faculty focus on innovating teaching and scholarship.

Steve provided creative support too, encouraging me to pursue my untraditional or poorly timed passions, like cohosting the Citizens United law review symposium in my second year or developing an experiential course before I was tenured.

Steve helped me when I embarked on empirical research and needed resources like software, databases and Ph.D. students. He has contributed to my professional development by coaching me through difficult decisions, leading by example and incrementally increasing my leadership roles.

Perhaps most telling, Steve also readily

celebrates our personal highs and laments our lows. He helped me find solutions to accommodate first my pregnancies (one difficult) and then the arrival of my two children. He gave our baby daughter her absolute favorite blanket; he inquires about illnesses; he wants to see the latest photos.

Under Steve's leadership, I have felt like the elusive work/life "balance" is possible. The sense of loss I feel as he steps down is not about anxiety for the future but rather recognition that with Steve at the helm, I have grown professionally and personally in ways I could not have imagined. For this and more, I will always be grateful.

—Anne M. Tucker, associate professor of law

Alumni profile | *Leading in Afghanistan and Anniston, Alabama*

by Ray Glier



There is no place like Afghanistan to show your leadership reflexes. You have to know how to perform on your own, which first means controlling your emotional temperature and making sure you don't add to the crisis. There's no live chat support there.

So in 2012 when a suicide car bomb exploded 200 yards away from his office in Afghanistan and shook the walls, Kent Davis (J.D. '98) did not spring from the chair behind his desk and rush out the door with his 9-millimeter pistol to meet the enemy. He paused and listened for the pitch of the sirens that can give a clue to the mayhem outside. Then he put on his helmet and ceramic body armor, and he kept the 9 mm weapon in its holster.

This is what leaders do. They follow protocol before they ask you to follow them.

There were dead Afghan security personnel and, even more tragically, dead children who had been walking to school when the car exploded at the base gate. Davis, a captain in Navy Public Affairs and one of the senior officers on the base, helped secure the situation.

"In Afghanistan you are in battle dress uniform the whole time you are there. The body armor is right next to you; you get

ready first," said Davis, who also served in war-torn Somalia. "I learned what we call in the Navy 'keeping an even keel,' and that is vital for any leader. As a leader, you cannot freak out, you cannot get overly emotional, you cannot lose your temper with people or the situation.

"People look to you for a sense of calm, and if they see you panicking, they tend to panic themselves. It's the role of the leader to say, 'We can handle this' and make the right decision."

Davis, 54, spent just over 30 years in the military, retiring as a rear admiral in the Navy in 2016. In his last military role, he was second-in-command of public affairs for the Navy at the Pentagon while simultaneously holding a full-time civilian job with Homeland Security in Anniston, Alabama.

He left Homeland Security to become the city manager of Anniston in 2016. As the chief executive of the east Alabama city, Davis is, as always, near the top of the chain of command.

What he has learned is that poise is an essential part of leadership, more essential than barking orders and being overly authoritative.

Here's what he lives by as a leader:

"When you are leading people, you have to recognize that everyone has something to contribute. You try to recognize the strengths of those individuals and play to their strengths to make them part of the team, asking yourself, 'Where do those strengths fit into the chain?'"

"You have to listen as a leader. You want everybody to feel involved and a part of the organization."

Davis is well trained to lead the city of Anniston and its 23,000 citizens and the 350-person city staff. While he worked his full-time job for Homeland Security, he was also a rear admiral in charge of 700 reservists. He had to manage the reservists' training and their possible deployment overseas to places like Afghanistan in this "part-time" job.

"You make a call to a reserve to tell them they are being deployed to Afghanistan, and you are changing their life in a big way for a year," Davis said.

One of his key jobs in the military was helping oversee 3,000 al-Qaida and Taliban detainees in Afghanistan. The United States was under scrutiny for how it handled these detainees, and the eyes of the world—the United Nations, human rights organizations, international media—were on the United States to see if it could follow the rule of law it preached to other countries.

Davis is not licensed to practice law in Alabama, but his legal background comes in handy. He was an attorney in labor and employment law for King & Spalding for two years before joining Homeland Security. The city manager, he said, is faced with a legal conundrum nearly every week.

"We have an issue with a contested election here in Anniston," Davis said. "I told our staff, 'We are a neutral party, do not take sides, treat everyone with respect.'"

Those are the words of a leader.

Crowdsourcing justice, and other **NEW LOOKS** in legal leadership

by Charles McNair





ENVISION A LEADER.

For most people, a single, forceful individual comes to mind, a powerfully principled figure with absolute commitment, moral authority, charisma. He or she blazes a meteoric trail, inspiring and compelling others to follow.

Think Gandhi. Susan B. Anthony. Martin Luther King Jr. Abraham Lincoln.

That's the model, historically. **But now consider the changing look of 21st-century legal leadership.**

In January, President Trump issued an executive order that banned travel into the United States from seven predominantly Muslim nations. Immediately, a quiet army of nameless, faceless immigration lawyers went to work to support affected people.

They posted on social media and texted one another. Some jumped in cars and headed to airports. Others called media and contacted various nonprofits (American Civil Liberties Union, Raksha, American Immigration Lawyers Association, etc.). Attorneys who didn't practice immigration law as a specialty volunteered services to colleagues. Websites popped up. Families and friends got involved, and phones of politicians rang.



Carolina Antonini
(J.D. '96)

Within days, immigration attorneys led by Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) appeared on news networks to threaten a sit-in. Thousands of citizens mobbed airports across the United States waving homemade signs and protesting.

"Here's the fascinating thing," said Carolina Antonini (J.D. '96), partner at Antonini & Cohen, an immigration defense firm in Atlanta, and adjunct professor at Georgia State Law. "This

scenario played out in very similar forms across the country. Immigration attorneys instinctively did the same things and subsequently organized. It was an impromptu action that ended up looking very coordinated ... and it resulted in coordinated efforts."

Coordinated, *effective* efforts.

Just days after the groundswell, federal judges at opposite geographic ends of the nation, Hawaii and Maryland, declared that President Trump's executive order violated the U.S. Constitution.

Leadership, in this case, rose collectively — a crowdsourcing of justice.

A moral obligation to lead

What — exactly — compelled the actions of so many lawyers working with no playbook and no iconic leader?

Antonini feels that, in a society based on laws and justice, individual lawyers have a moral obligation to lead.

"The question really is not whether lawyers *should* lead. The answer there is always affirmative," Antonini said. "The question is, 'What are the leadership roles for a lawyer?'"

"The range is immense," she continued. "Lead by example. Lead in the change of an unfair law. Lead to fill a void in the law. Lead your church into a just cause. Lead society toward a vision. Serve in government. Run for elected office. Educate those around you. Educate your judge. Learn. You cannot carry the scales of justice only from 9 to 5, Monday to Friday. Lawyering is not just a job. Every lawyer must lead."

More than in any other profession, arguably, lawyers are particularly well positioned for roles of leadership. It is no coincidence that the vast majority of governmental leadership is and historically has been made up of people trained in the law.

Why? Three primary reasons:

- **Historical legacy.** The United States as a nation was primarily framed and designed to serve two jurisprudence principles: the rule of law and the sanctity of the Constitution.
- **Social roles.** A nation based on rule of law and constitutional sanctity has evolved a complex society where statute, case law and the common law intersect. The system is sophisticated, and it can be difficult to navigate. With their professional insights, attorneys find themselves naturally suited to help communities and individuals navigate legal and social mazes.
- **Trust.** The legal profession places attorneys in positions of trust and intimacy. People entrust lawyers with extremely personal, important issues. Lawyers help solve their problems, and this naturally positions them as leaders.

"It is the combination of our historical legacy, our social role and our knowledge of the system that makes us fit to lead," said Antonini.

Leading from behind

Beth Littrell (J.D. '01) is a civil rights attorney for Lambda Legal, a nonprofit firm that seeks legal reform primarily through public policy work and impact litigation. She represents clients in LGBTQ cases, and she sees clear evidence in her field of nontraditional leadership.



Beth Littrell
(J.D. '01)

"The LGBTQ and HIV movement," she said, "is a less personality-driven, more diffuse and more collaborative effort."

Littrell cites marriage equality as an example.

"The leaders and architects of marriage equality are the largely unrecognized lawyers for Lambda Legal, GLAD, ACLU and NCLR," she said. "I refer to them as

'movement lawyers,' working for the past decade and longer to expose the injustice of marriage bans and the illegitimacy of the presumptions that supported them."

Littrell points out that prior to *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the case that struck down same-sex marriage bans nationwide, four previous cases rose to the Supreme Court. Brilliant legal teams engaged in each. Lawyers also fought dozens of cases on the periphery that helped shape the Supreme Court's decision.

"For every lawyer whose name was mentioned in the media, there were dozens more who contributed to the result," Littrell said.

It's a clear change in the leadership paradigm.

"What's been successful in LGBTQ leadership is having many different thought leaders who work loosely but collaboratively to lead the movement in the direction of change. It's a model of leadership that works.

"I've seen it firsthand in the LGBTQ movement," Littrell continued. "And look at the Black Lives Matter and DREAMer movements. You can call out certain people, but the leadership is much more collaborative. It's almost a movement led from behind."

Justice à la carte

Some attorneys lead by making justice more accessible.



Shelia Manely (J.D. '13) and Michael Manely (J.D. '89)

In 2015, Shelia Manely (J.D. '13) and Michael Manely (J.D. '89) launched the Justice Café out of their family law practice to address the legal needs of people with low or moderate income.

The Justice Café provides clients with low-cost, "unbundled" legal services. Like using the à la carte menu at a restaurant, everyday people choose from

various attorney services at the price of \$85 per hour. If clients can handle certain legal chores solo, they save money.

"Lead by example. Lead in the change of an unfair law. Lead to fill a void in the law. Lead your church into a just cause. Lead society toward a vision. ... Every lawyer must lead." —Carolina Antonini (J.D. '96)

The benefits boomerang to the legal system too. The Justice Café has three locations in Georgia, where 75 attorneys have worked. Many started just out of law school. Eager for experience, they worked with Café clients and sharpened job skills, built resumes and quickly became hireable by more traditional firms.

Shelia Manely got the idea for the Justice Café in a 2012 Georgia State Law class taught by associate professor Bernadette Hartfield (now retired). A research project in barriers to justice

revealed a gap in the law where sky-high legal fees made the system unaffordable for many people. Shelia and her husband felt strongly that a disenfranchising judiciary could one day be at risk itself—the rich would find their way around the law, and the poor would simply avoid the system due to expense.

"So we launched the Justice Café," Michael said. "We did it because we believe that each and every person should have access to affordable, quality legal service. A small percentage of the population can easily afford to have a lawyer on call at all times, but most of us do not have that luxury."

In its four years, the Café has served 2,750 clients. "The Justice Café may not fill the justice gap, but it makes a dent," Shelia said.

In the case of judges

Where does the law today find bench leadership?

In the case of Phillip Jackson (J.D. '89), associate judge with the Fulton County Juvenile Court in Atlanta, a quote from John Milton applies: "They also serve who only stand and wait."

"It is important for judges to take leadership roles because judges are the law-keepers," said Jackson, who presides over dependency and delinquency cases. "But it is a different type of leadership role.

"If judges lose their credibility," he said, "people lose confidence and respect for the law. Judges lead by what they do ... and what they don't do."

Jackson does community service and attends community meetings to understand concerns and needs. He has become known for interpreting law in the best interests of a child and for balancing rehabilitation with prevention and discipline.

"Good leadership in a judicial leader is the ability to be educated and then work behind the scenes educating others to influence changes that support or develop rehabilitation programs," Jackson said.

Every lawyer a leader

Evolving leadership in law mirrors a prismatic society, where technology, a shrinking globe and shifting demographics today reorder traditions and social patterns.

The law needs leadership as it, too, changes. So what kind of lawyer can be a leader?

Antonini says it takes just one quality: "The will."

Explaining further, she said, "It's the desire to nurture both your practice and your community. The desire to make the world better, to initiate change. To inspire. Our commitment must be for daily outward and inward leadership and to promote justice on a small or large scale.

"We as lawyers must look to our profession as a way of life, a calling, a purpose."

"And we get paid on top of that? It's oh, so sweet."

Faculty news

PRESENTATIONS

Ted Afield, associate clinical professor of law and director of the Philip C. Cook Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, co-presented on a panel, "Training Students and Volunteers: Best Practices and Potential Issues," at the 2017 Annual Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic Grantee Conference. Afield participated in the AALS Discussion Group on the future of tax administration and enforcement, gave a presentation to the Atlanta Bar Tax Section on current tax reform proposals from the National Taxpayer Advocate and participated on a panel at the ABA Tax Section's May meeting on the interactions of offers in compromise and bankruptcy.

Charlotte Alexander, assistant professor of law, presented "The Hacking of Employment Law" at the Indiana University Kelley School of Business and "Explaining the Boom: An Empirical Study of Federal Fair Labor Standards Act Litigation" at the Vanderbilt Law & Economics Ph.D. workshop.

Clark D. Cunningham, W. Lee Burge Chair in Law and Ethics, presented at the American Bar Association Midyear Meeting to the Consortium of Professionalism Initiatives on amending ABA accreditation standards to include professional identity formation as a mandated outcome for legal education. He also was an invited participant for the University of St. Thomas Law Journal Symposium, "The Next Steps of a Professional Formation Social Movement."

Andrea Curcio, professor of law, was the keynote speaker at the Institute for Law Teaching's spring conference held at Emory University. She talked about her work gathering empirical evidence on the value of formative assessment and how to meet the ABA's formative assessment and outcome measures mandates.

Erin C. Fuse Brown, assistant professor of law, presented "The Anticompetitive Potential of Cross-Market Mergers in Health Care" at the AALS annual meeting in San Francisco. She also presented and moderated a panel on "The Future of the Affordable Care Act" for the

college's Tower to Trenches series. She presented "ERISA as a Barrier for State Health Care Transparency Laws" at the Petrie-Flom Center's Conference on Transparency in Health and Health Care at Harvard Law School.

Wendy F. Hensel, incoming interim dean and professor of law, presented on "People with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the Workplace: An Expanding Legal Frontier" at the 18th International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability and Developmental Disabilities. She presented the same topic to members of the State Bar of Georgia at the CLE session on Advanced Employment Law in Atlanta.

Nicole G. Iannarone, assistant clinical professor and director of the Investor Advocacy Clinic, presented "The Night Owl Clinician: Responding to the Needs of Evening Students" at the AALS Clinical Conference in May. Along with **Tameka Lester**, assistant clinical professor and associate director of the Philip C. Cook Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, Iannarone presented "Professional Identity Formation: Lessons from Clinicians" at the College of Law.

Kendall Kerew, assistant clinical professor and director of the Externship Program, presented "Giving Voice to Values: Helping Students Identify and Clarify Their Values and Fulfill Current and Future Responsibilities to Clients, Society, and Themselves" with **Lisa Radtke Bliss**, Paula Galowitz, Catherine Klein and Leah Wortham at the 2017 AALS Conference on Clinical Legal Education.

Tameka Lester was lead panelist at a session entitled "Representing a Taxpayer in an EITC Exam" at the 2017 LITC Annual Grantee Conference in Washington, D.C. She was also on a panel at the AALS Clinical Conference on "Using Technology in Teaching and Practice to Enrich the Student Experience" and moderated a panel at the ABA Tax Section's annual meeting on litigating the merits of a tax case in a collection due process hearing with the IRS.

Paul A. Lombardo, Regents' Professor and Bobby Lee Cook

Professor of Law, presented "From Psychographs to fMRI: Historical Context for the Claims of Neuroscience" at the SUNY Downstate Medical Center and gave the Joan Echtenkamp Klein Memorial Lecture, "The Continuing Relevance of Eugenics," at the University of Virginia. He also participated in The Hastings Center program on "Goals and Practices for Next Generation Prenatal Testing" at the Open Society Institute in New York.

Lauren Sudeall Lucas, associate professor of law and faculty director of the Center for Access to Justice, presented at "50 Years of Loving: Seeking Justice through Love and Relationships," a symposium celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Loving v. Virginia* decision, hosted by the Werner Institute and Creighton University School of Law. She also presented on the state of public defense litigation across the country at the *Indiana Law Review* Symposium, "Implementing *Gideon's* Promise: The Right to Counsel in the Nation and Indiana."

Timothy D. Lytton, Distinguished University Professor and professor of law, presented "Making Salad Safe Again: The Network Structure of Food Safety Regulation" at law school workshops at the University of California-Berkeley, University of California-Los Angeles and Vanderbilt University. He also spoke on a panel about "Developments Nationally in Gun Litigation and Regulation" at the 8th Annual Georgia and the Second Amendment Conference at the State Bar of Georgia.

John Travis Marshall, assistant professor of law, and **Ryan Rowberry**, associate professor of law, presented on "When 'What's Old Is New Again': The Challenges of Tailoring Land Use Regulation and Tapping Technology" at a symposium in Apalachicola, Florida.

Kristina L. Niedringhaus, associate dean for library and information services and associate professor of law, presented "The Impact of Artificial Intelligence in the Legal Environment" at the Southeastern Chapter of the

Atlanta Bar leadership

MEMBERS OF THE Atlanta Bar Association elected **Margaret Vath**, instructor of law, as president; **Nicole G. Iannarone**, assistant clinical professor, as vice president/president-elect; and **A. Craig Cleland (J.D. '92)** as treasurer for the 2017-18 term.

Both Vath and Iannarone served on the board last year, with Vath as president-elect and Iannarone as secretary. At the end of the term, Vath will turn over her duties as president to Iannarone.

"Maggie is a talented leader, and I look forward to working with her. When she passes the torch, there is no question that meeting the high bar she establishes will be a challenge, but I know her hard work will most certainly create the best possible infrastructure from which to do so," Iannarone said.

Cleland, of Ogeltree Deakins Nash Smoak & Stewart, is an adjunct faculty member at Georgia State Law, teaching courses in complex litigation and employment discrimination law.

"I'm proud to teach at a law school that leads in more than scholarship and teaching. While Georgia State Law does both exceptionally well, our relationship with and involvement in the bar sets us apart," Iannarone said. "We showcase law in its theory and actual practice, and being an active part of the practicing legal community gives us the ability to do so."

Bright joins college, center

Stephen B. Bright joined the faculty and the Center for Access to Justice this spring. A longtime champion of indigent defense, Bright has built a national reputation for representing people facing the death penalty at trial and on appeal and advocating for the right to counsel for poor people accused of crimes.



Bright worked with the Southern Center for Human Rights (SCHR) in Atlanta for 35 years, most recently serving as president and senior counsel.

"I have long admired the law school and members of the faculty. Many Georgia State Law students interned at the SCHR, and I have been tremendously impressed by them and by their legal education," Bright said. "The law school is a dynamic, exciting center of learning from which to continue to be an active member of the Georgia and Atlanta legal communities."

Bright is teaching a course this summer on the prosecution and defense of capital and other criminal cases. He will also collaborate with fellow Center for Access to Justice faculty, advising on the center's initiatives, programming and curricular development.

"One of the center's goals is to offer support and guidance to students planning to pursue a career in the public interest," said **Lauren Sudeall Lucas**, faculty director. "It is hard to think of a lawyer more dedicated to that cause or someone whose life better embodies the notion of service than Stephen Bright."

American Association of Law Libraries' annual meeting.

Mary Radford, professor of law, was a panelist on "Ethical Challenges in Elder Law" at the Pennsylvania Academy of Elder Law Attorneys' annual meeting. She also presented "Recent Developments in Georgia Fiduciary Law" at the Estate Planning Institute; "Special Needs, Special Cases" at the Special Needs Alliance Forum; "Ethical Challenges in Representing Clients with Diminished Capacity" at the Estate Planning Council of Metropolitan Detroit Annual Fundraising Dinner; and "Ethical Challenges in Acting as and Representing Fiduciaries" at the Colorado Bar Association's 37th Annual Estate Planning Retreat.

Charity Scott, Catherine C. Henson Professor of Law, presented on "Conflict Resolution and Mediation Skills for Health Care Leaders" to the participants in the Fundamentals of Health Care Leadership Program offered to health care providers and administrators practicing at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta. She was a co-trainer in the Conflict Resolution Training for Health Care Professionals program

sponsored by the Center for Conflict Resolution in Health Care in Memphis. She presented "Fundamentals of Negotiation" to attorneys with Lawyers for Equal Justice in Atlanta.

Shana Tabak, visiting assistant professor of law and global studies, spoke at a Georgia State University Global Studies Institute Conference, "Emerging Issues in Forced Migration, Immigration, and National Security" and at the Columbia University School for International Policy's Workshop on Women and Gender in International Affairs. She was also an invited panelist at the AALS Conference in San Francisco, where she presented on "Non-State Actors and Asylum Law."

Jonathan Todres, professor of law, gave the keynote address at a human trafficking conference at Savannah State University; presented at a congressional briefing on bullying prevention in Washington, D.C.; and was a guest lecturer at the University of Georgia School of Law.

Anne Tucker, associate professor of law, presented her impact investment scholarship at the American Association of Law Schools' annual meeting, the University of Pennsylvania School

of Law, the Journal of Business Law Symposium on Impact Investing and Transactional Law and at a social enterprise symposium at the Notre Dame Law School. Tucker presented her new empirical scholarship on mutual fund investment time horizons to the faculty at the University of Florida Levin College of Law. She also hosted the Seattle University School of Law's Adolf A. Berle Jr. Center on Corporations, Law & Society's Ninth Symposium on Investor Time Horizons at the College of Law in June.

Patricia J. Zettler, associate professor of law, presented various aspects of her work on FDA regulation at the University of Tennessee College of Law, the Drug Information Association Medical Affairs and Scientific Communication 2017 Annual Forum and the Law and Biosciences Conference at Stanford Law School.

PUBLICATIONS

Charlotte Alexander published "Misclassification and Antidiscrimination: An Empirical Analysis" in the *Minnesota Law Review* and co-wrote "When Timekeeping Software

Undermines Compliance" in the *Yale Journal of Law and Technology*.

Lisa Radtke Bliss, clinical professor, associate dean of experiential education and co-director of HeLP Legal Services Clinic, co-wrote "Measuring the Impact of Social Justice Teaching: Research Design and Oversight," published in the *International Journal of Clinical Legal Education*, with **Sylvia Caley**, clinical professor, director of Health Law Partnership and co-director of HeLP Legal Services Clinic, and **Leslie E. Wolf**, professor of law and director of the Center for Health, Law & Society.

Andrea Curcio published an article, "Institutional Failure, Campus Sexual Assault and Danger in the Dorms: Regulatory Failure and the Promise of Tort Law," in a symposium issue of the *Montana Law Review*.

Erin C. Fuse Brown published "The Double-Edged Sword of Health Care Integration: Consolidation and Cost Control" with Professor Jaime King in the *Indiana Law Journal* and "Empowering and Protecting Consumers: ERISA Thwarts State Innovation" with executive director Trish Riley for a publication of the National Academy for State Health Policy.

Nicole G. Iannarone published "Crafting Comment Letters: Teach Policy, Develop Skills, and Shape Pending Regulation" with co-author Benjamin P. Edwards in the *Tennessee Journal of Business Law*. Iannarone and Edwards also commented on the Department of Labor's proposal to delay implementation of the fiduciary rule and the president's examination of the rule.

Paul A. Lombardo published a review/essay entitled "Chemistry: The Hidden War" in *Nature*.

Lauren Sudeall Lucas published "Keeping Gideon's Promise: Using Equal Protection to Address the Denial of Counsel in Misdemeanor Cases" (co-written by Brandon Buskey) in the *Fordham Law Review*; "An Empirical Assessment of Georgia's Beyond a Reasonable Doubt Standard to Determine

Faculty receive tenure

Lauren Sudeall Lucas, Erin C. Fuse Brown, and Charlotte Alexander have been promoted to associate professor with tenure and associate professor **Robert Weber** was awarded tenure.



"I feel fortunate to work among a group of faculty members who are not only collegial, but have been incredibly supportive of my work," said Lucas, the founding faculty director of the Center for Access to Justice. Her scholarly work focuses on the relationship between rights and identity and the intersection of constitutional law and criminal procedure.

Fuse Brown is a faculty member of the Center for Law, Health & Society. An area of her research includes the Affordable Care Act, and she's joining West's Health Law casebook as an author.



"It is both challenging and exciting to teach and write about the Affordable Care Act in this time of national debate, due to the incredible uncertainty and upheaval in the U.S. health care system," she said.

Alexander, assistant professor of legal studies in the Department of Risk Management and Insurance at the J. Mack Robinson College of Business, holds a secondary appointment at Georgia State Law, where she focuses on the employment relationship as a source of legal and economic risk for both workers and employers.



"What a privilege that my job allows me to think and write about the issues and problems that I care about, while helping students learn the law and — I hope — learn something about themselves and the kind of contributions they want to make in the world," she said.

Weber's recent scholarship explores how legal-regulatory regimes can best promote regulatory objectives in complex, dynamic and unstable financial markets. He's also working on a series of writing projects that attempt to open up lines of communication between administrative law scholars and financial regulation scholars.



"With a quick walk down the hallway, I have the opportunity to be inspired by all sorts of colleagues, many of whom are among the most committed legal scholars, teachers and advocates I've ever met — including some who combine all three of those attributes," Weber said.

Intellectual Disability in Capital Cases" in the *Georgia State University Law Review*; and "Proportionality Skepticism in a Red State" in the *Harvard Law Review Forum*.

Timothy D. Lytton published "The Taming of the Stew: Regulatory Intermediaries in Food Safety Governance" in the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*.

Charity Scott published an article, "Resolving Perceived Maternal-Fetal Conflicts through Active Patient-Physician Collaboration," in the *American Journal of Bioethics*. She also published "Incorporating Lawyers on the Interprofessional Team to Promote Health and Health Equity," in the *Indiana Health Law Journal*.

Jonathan Todres published "Physician Encounters with Human Trafficking: Legal Consequences and Ethical Considerations" in the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*.

Anne Tucker co-wrote the article "In Pursuit of Good and Gold: Data Observations of Employee Ownership & Impact Investment" in the *Seattle University Law Review*.

Patricia J. Zettler published "Pharmaceutical Federalism" in the *Indiana Law Journal* and "tDCS Research in a World with FDA Regulation" in the *American Journal of Bioethics Neuroscience*.

LECTURES ABROAD

Douglas Yarn, professor of law and director of the Consortium on Negotiation and Conflict Resolution, spent the spring semester in residence as a visiting fellow in the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law at the University of Cambridge. In April, he taught ADR at the University of Warsaw.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Charlotte Alexander, along with Mohammad Javad Feizollahi at the Robinson College of Business, was awarded a \$247,745 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to study federal district court misclassification decisions.

Erin C. Fuse Brown received the College of Law's 2017 Patricia T. Morgan Award for Outstanding Faculty Scholarship.

Kendall Kerew received the College of Law's 2017 David J. Maleski Award for Teaching Excellence.

Mary Radford and **Anne Tucker** were selected by third-year students as the 2017 College of Law's "Teachers of the Year."

Leslie E. Wolf received the College of Law's inaugural Steven J. Kaminshine Award for Excellence in Service.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Charlotte Alexander co-wrote an amicus brief in *State of Nevada v. U.S. Department of Labor*.

Lisa Radtke Bliss was elected chair of the AALS Section on Clinical Legal Education.

Mark Budnitz, professor of law emeritus, is a member of the American Law Institute's Consultative Group for the Restatement of the Law of Consumer Contracts. He was actively involved in comments to the Reporters' Restatement Drafts. He serves on the Advisory Committee of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society and is a member of the board of directors of the National Consumer Law Center, where he serves on its Finance and Audit Committee.

Jessica Gabel Cino, associate dean for academic affairs and associate professor of law, partnered with a federal crime laboratory to research and implement more comprehensive and accurate terminology in forensic reports in order to reflect the current state of the science.

Clark D. Cunningham has been appointed by Georgia Chief Justice P. Harris Hines to the committee charged with searching for the next executive director of the Chief Justice's Commission on Professionalism. He serves as the Georgia State representative to the board of directors of Lawyers for Equal Justice and is a member of the board's executive committee. Cunningham also served as a

member of a committee that recommended many of the changes implemented by a new law substantially changing the structure and procedures of the Judicial Qualifications Commission.

Andrea Curcio continues to work with the Society of American Law Teachers as it responds to proposed changes in the ABA's accreditation standards. She also continues her work as a community mentor to underserved students at Decatur High School.

Julian Juergensmeyer, Ben F. Johnson Chair in Law and director of the Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth, was appointed to the Atlanta Regional Commission's Global Advisory Panel. He has also been elected chair of GSU's Council for the Progress of Cities. In December, he and **Ryan Rowberry** traveled to Hong Kong to meet with researchers, lawyers and city planners to learn about the city's metropolitan growth challenges and to establish partnerships for future collaborations. They also visited Macao and Singapore to connect with researchers there.

Kendall Kerew was elected to the Clinical Legal Education Association's board of directors. She also serves as chair of CLEA's Advocacy Training Committee and is a member of its ABA and Bar Standards and Externship Committees. In addition, she helped launch LexternWeb, a website that promotes information sharing and collaboration among externship faculty nationwide and internationally.

Tameka Lester facilitated three four-hour substantive tax law sessions for the United Way of Greater Atlanta's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program to assist volunteers with preparing for the VITA tax law certification exam. Learn more at law.gsu.edu/Lester-UnitedWay.

Lauren Sudeall Lucas completed her term as chair of the AALS Constitutional Law Section and was invited to serve on the Justice for All Strategic Action Plan Working Group, which was formed to implement a grant awarded to Georgia by the National Center for State

Courts and the Public Welfare Foundation. She also was appointed to serve on the Better Together Advisory Board for the City of Decatur.

Timothy D. Lytton was elected to the board of the Section on Torts and Compensation Systems of the Association of American Law Schools.

Kristina L. Niedringhaus was elected vice president/president-elect of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries.

Mary Radford was appointed to the Faculty Development Committee of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys.

Shana Tabak, as co-chair of the Women in International Law Interest Group of the American Society of International Law, introduced Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the U.S. Supreme Court as she presented an award to Judge Rosemary Barkett. Tabak also serves as a consultant to the Southern Poverty Law Center, where she has worked to launch the Southeastern Immigrant Freedom Initiative.

Patricia J. Zettler is a consultant to the National Academies of Sciences Committee on Pain Management and Regulatory Strategies to Address Prescription Opioid Abuse. She also continues to serve on the editorial advisory board for the *Food and Drug Law Journal* and as an ad hoc peer reviewer for that journal and others.

MEDIA COMMENTARY

Jessica Gabel Cino discussed the scientific shortcomings of forensic evidence and the legal and privacy issues related to facial recognition software for two articles in *The Conversation*. She also wrote an opinion article about the Trump administration's decision to dismantle the National Commission on Forensic Science for *Newsweek*.

Clark D. Cunningham was quoted by the *Huffington Post*, *Newsday*, and lawnewz.com concerning the legality of the warrant obtained by the FBI to search emails belonging

to Hillary Clinton aide Huma Abedin. Cunningham's analysis of the recent amendments to Georgia's Constitution regarding the Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC) was the basis of the article "Does new judicial commission in Georgia even exist? Law prof raises doubts," published by the *ABA Journal*, and he was also extensively cited in two articles about the JQC in the *Fulton County Daily Report*.

Andrea Curcio was interviewed for articles about campus sexual assault by the GSU student paper, *The Signal*, and the Ball State University student paper, *The Ball State Daily News*. She also was interviewed by the Agnes Scott alumnae magazine for an article featuring Georgia State Law student Grace Starling (J.D. '19).

Nicole G. Iannarone was quoted in "Elder Abuse Prevention by Advisers Depends on Their Firms' Response to New Rule" in *InvestmentNews*.

Paul A. Lombardo was quoted in "Historians seek reparations for Californians forcibly sterilized" in *Reuters Health News* and *Scientific American*; "Wrestling with a legacy of eugenics" in the *New York Times*; and "California Needs to Do More than Apologize

to the People It Sterilized" in the *Los Angeles Times*. His work was also featured in two new books: *The Gene Machine*, by Bonnie Rochman, and *The New Eugenics*, by Judith Daar.

Lauren Sudeall Lucas was quoted in the Associated Press article "Plea in murder case from unlikely spot: the victim, a priest."

Timothy D. Lytton was quoted in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in an article about the liability of app makers for distracted driving and in an article about the Pepsi commercial controversy. He was also quoted in the *Bloomberg Daily Environmental Reporter* in an article about the rise of public nuisance litigation and in *Legal Intelligencer* about the Walmart ammo lawsuit.

Shana Tabak discussed immigration and refugee law at an NPR WABE Live Event, "The State of Immigration."

Jonathan Todres was interviewed about human trafficking on Roundhouse Radio in Vancouver, Canada.

Patricia J. Zettler was quoted on various FDA and regulatory issues in *Slate*, *STAT News*, *Politico Pro*, and *The Verge*.

Timm receives Sparks Award

Bill Timm (A.B. '65), associate director of the Philip C. Cook Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, was recognized for his work with a Georgia State University George M. Sparks Award.



Fourteen students, alumni and staff nominated Timm for the award, many citing his supportive and helpful attitude. He teaches Basic Federal Income Tax and plays an instrumental role in mentoring the student attorneys in the clinic. "Mr. Timm is the epitome of the unsung hero," said **J.W. Chris Chitty (J.D. '09)**, who worked in the tax clinic as a student attorney and GRA. "He exemplifies what it is to be an unselfish and humble leader.

"He was always available to speak with students, other faculty and clients. The long hours and always positive and helpful attitude he displayed were, to me, very impressive and set an example for the rest of us in how we should approach our responsibilities in the clinic and, further, in our careers."

Tips for practitioners | *Essential leadership skills*

As a lawyer, you are called upon to be a leader in many settings: in your firm, in corporate settings, in courtrooms or as a community or bar association volunteer. Whether or not you see yourself as a leader, you are perceived by others as one in these contexts. Here are some essential leadership skills that you can apply today. *by Kirsten Meneghello (J.D. '95)*



Foster a high-trust environment

Google recently hired researchers to study 180 of its teams to find out why some soared while others crashed and burned. The researchers studied behavioral norms and found teams that were the most engaged and successful were the ones that listened to one another and showed sensitivity toward others' needs and feelings. There was a climate in which people felt safe being themselves, because there was respect and trust.

This means you need to create conditions where trust and respect are present to be an effective leader. When we display genuine caring and concern for others, they assume we have good intentions. Once people believe we have good intentions, they will trust us and will be motivated to work, knowing we have their best interests at heart.

Facilitate rather than direct

As lawyers, we have been trained, and get paid, to provide answers. That same dynamic, however, doesn't work so well when we lead teams. Experienced leaders know that a command-and-control approach is not nearly as effective as a facilitator approach. But that can be challenging territory. You may be thinking, "If I don't provide the answers as a manager, what value do I provide?"

A good leader "holds the space" during meetings and asks probing questions to solicit answers from their team. As a facilitator, you should frame the issue for the group, then ask open-ended questions to encourage discussion and problem solving. Allow others to provide answers instead of rushing to fill the void by telling them what to do.

By using observational language ("I am hearing ..."; "It sounds like ..."), you summarize what you are hearing from the group and solicit confirmation or correction until there is general agreement and buy-in from the participants. It's a continuous cycle of acknowledging what you are hearing and asking questions. At the end of the meeting, you should summarize the decisions made and confirm action items.

Get feedback on your leadership

It's a good idea to get feedback from others on your leadership strengths and areas for improvement. You may find it beneficial to obtain a 360-degree assessment to get feedback from your managers, peers and direct reports. Also, you can review your most recent performance reviews for clues about your leadership. At a minimum, you should solicit feedback directly from people you trust at work, asking three simple questions:

- What are my strengths as a leader?
- Where could I improve as a leader?
- How will you know in six months whether I'm making progress?

You will be a sought-after leader if you create an atmosphere of trust and respect, shift from a directive to a facilitative style and continue to get personalized feedback on what you are doing well and how you can improve. Improving your leadership skills is a constant process of refining and learning through real-life application.

Kirsten Meneghello (J.D. '95), ACC, is the founder of Illumination Coaching. She helps others transform their teams as a coach and facilitator. She is passionate about bringing individual talents together and maximizing team effectiveness. Visit www.illuminationcoaching.com for more information.

Class actions

1991



Judge **Barbara Swinton** was appointed to the Oklahoma Court of Civil Appeals.

1995

Amy Wolverton, based in Washington, D.C., is now associate vice president–U.S. government affairs for Advanced Micro Devices (AMD).

1999

Christopher T. Wilson joined Taylor English Duma as a partner.

2002

Brian Sumrall is celebrating eight years as a workers' compensation attorney with the Law Office of Brian H. Sumrall. He also recently served as the chair for the Advanced Workers' Compensation Seminar for the Atlanta Bar Association.

2006



Jessica Reece Fagan, a partner in the Hedgepeth, Heredia & Rieder family law firm, was named a Rising Star in family law on *Atlanta Magazine's* Super Lawyers list.

2007



Matthew Kaynard was named COO and general counsel of Ornstein-Schuler Investments, an Atlanta-based real estate investment firm.

2011



Carli (Mingus) McDonald was promoted to partner-in-charge of Aprio's R&D Tax Credit practice.

2015



Brett M. Adams was elected president of the Troup County Bar Association. He currently serves as an assistant district attorney in the Coweta Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office.

2016



Marie Wilcox, a law clerk at the Wiggam Law Firm, had an article entitled "The Federal Student Loan Bubble" published in the February issue of *American Bankruptcy Institute Journal*.

Share your news at law.gsu.edu/class-actions.

Lester (J.D. '05) wins Corporate Counsel Award



Elizabeth Lester (J.D. '05) received the specialist counsel award at the 2017 Corporate Counsel Awards, which are sponsored by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* and the Association of Corporate Counsel Georgia Chapter. The award honors an outstanding corporate counsel who specializes in employment, tax, privacy, intellectual property (IP) or real estate.

As IP counsel for Equifax Inc., Lester manages and implements its global IP strategy.

"I am honored and grateful to receive this award," she said. "I believe that my success is largely attributable to the fact that I am so passionate about what I do, and my company supports my involvement with professional and community activities."

Lester is a member of the Georgia State Law IP Advisory Board and co-chaired the Giles Sutherland Rich Memorial Moot Court Competition. She enjoys the opportunity to give back to Georgia State Law.

"I was very fortunate to have wonderful mentors when I was a law student," Lester said. "It's great to be able to pay it forward to the school that helped launch my career by mentoring law students and young attorneys. Being engaged with the law school and professional community also helps me stay better informed of ongoing legal developments."

Two views | *Two alumni on the next dean*



Robert Watts (J.D. '14)

GEORGIA STATE LAW is driven by a commitment to students and the community. The college offers a first-class, practice-based curriculum to its students while bestowing an immense benefit on Atlanta and Georgia in the form of pro bono services to those most in need. Just two years ago, it opened the doors to a state-of-the-art educational complex built to engage students, alumni and the legal community at large. Graduates are leaders at the highest levels of legal practice, government, business and philanthropic endeavors.

The next dean must continue to develop the school's dedication to its core constituencies. Faced with an evolving legal market tied to an economy still suffering from the Great Recession, Georgia State Law must further enhance its practice-based curriculum to educate students in the art of adding value for their clients. The College of Law also has a unique opportunity to supplement legal services for those who cannot afford them, growing educational opportunities for its students while doing good in the community.

The next dean must also strengthen the national brand. After a mere 25 years in existence, Georgia State Law is firmly established in the fabric of Atlanta and Georgia. Some of our programs, such as the Center for Law, Health & Society, are nationally recognized. Georgia State Law is consistently ranked as one of the best-value law schools in the nation. The next dean should build on these accolades and develop a strategic plan to launch the college into a new tier of legal education that continues to attract the highest legal talent, in professors and students, and propels the institution into the national spotlight.

Robert Watts (J.D. '14) is an associate at Jones Day in Atlanta, focusing his practice on complex commercial litigation. He is also a class representative on Georgia State's Law Alumni Council.



Trish Treadwell (J.D. '02)

GEORGIA STATE LAW needs its next visionary. The strides that the law school has made with our esteemed Dean Steven J. Kaminshine leading the way have been phenomenal. We very much still considered ourselves an "upstart" 15 years ago. But that is not what the law school is now, and we need to ensure that our next leader continues moving us forward so that we do not waste a single year being stagnant or thinking of ourselves as that "little engine that could."

We want to be able to maintain the unyielding determination that has fueled us from time to time as an underdog, but we also need to develop our identity as a leading institution for law, policy and preparedness for the workplace.

We need someone who is looking at trends for the future and able to translate those into expanded clinics and centers of study and new development dollars. The dean must inspire and command the respect and loyalty of the faculty and senior staff. The dean will need to continue to build effective relationships with those leading the larger university and its other professional and distinguished colleges.

But more importantly, the new dean will have to be outside of our campus campaigning in Atlanta, across Georgia, throughout the South and nationally and internationally. We will not get to the next level by being a great Atlanta law school, the students of which are employed by great Atlanta companies. We must have our sights set higher and broader, and we need a dean that understands how to set that strategy in motion, a dean who possesses the firepower to make it happen.

Trishanda L. Treadwell (J.D. '02) is a partner with the Parker Hudson Rainer & Dobbs litigation and employment practice group. She is on Georgia State Law's Board of Visitors.

Bragging rights



TRIAL ADVOCACY TEAMS

Ryan Brown (J.D. '17), Lacey Wheeler (J.D. '17) and Brandon Reed (J.D. '18), pictured above, advanced to the semifinals in the South Texas Mock Trial Challenge, the country's largest invitational mock trial competition. Brown won the Outstanding Advocate award and Reed's brief was named Outstanding Brief. The team was coached by **Tom Jones** and **Cheryl Champion (J.D. '93)**.

Audra Lynn (J.D. '19) and Samuel Mullman (J.D. '18), coached by **Will Story (J.D./M.B.A. '18)**, advanced to the semifinals of the Cardozo BMI Entertainment and Communications Law Moot Court Competition. They won best brief overall and Lynn was named best oralist runner-up.

Georgia State Law Moot Court President **Chris Guthrie (J.D. '17), Ethan Smith (J.D. '18) and Peter Skaliy (J.D. '17)** advanced to the quarterfinals at the Duberstein Bankruptcy Competition.

Katherine Krouse (J.D. '18), Thomas Johnson (J.D. '18), William Enfinger (J.D. '18) and Meghan Gordon (J.D. '17) were coached by **David Grant Coyle (J.D. '17) and Phillip Kuck (J.D. '17)** for the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. The team's brief placed seventh in the South Regional group.



RANKINGS

7TH

Center for Law, Health & Society, *U.S. News & World Report* 2018, the 11th consecutive year it has been named one of the top 10 health law programs.

11TH

part-time program, *U.S. News & World Report* 2018

30TH

for clinical training, *U.S. News & World Report* 2018

65TH

overall, *U.S. News & World Report* 2018

50TH

on the *National Law Journal's* "Go-To Law Schools" list. The annual report ranks law schools that sent the highest percentage of graduates into associate jobs at the largest 100 U.S. law firms.

A-

in *National Jurist's* annual assessment of diversity in the nation's law schools, published in *preLaw* magazine's Winter 2017 issue.



\$17,000

raised at the 25th annual Public Interest Law Association (PILA) auction to sponsor students working in unpaid public interest jobs this summer.

#ThankYouSteveK

Alumni and friends gathered to celebrate Steven J. Kaminshine, dean and professor of law, at a reception in May. Kaminshine is stepping down as dean to return to the faculty in July. He joined Georgia State Law in 1985, serving as interim dean and dean from 2004–2017.



Christopher "Sutton" Connelly (J.D. '09)



Bobby Lee Cook, Dean Kaminshine, Judge Kris Cook Graham



Tunde Akinyele (J.D. '00), Robert Bozeman (J.D. '01),
Dean Kaminshine, Mawuli Davis (J.D. '02)