2017

Richmond Law Magazine: Summer 2017

University of Richmond

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarship.richmond.edu/law-magazine

Part of the Other Law Commons

Recommended Citation
http://scholarship.richmond.edu/law-magazine/66

This Magazine is brought to you for free and open access by the School of Law at UR Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Richmond Law Magazine by an authorized administrator of UR Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact scholarshiprepository@richmond.edu.
Richmond Law

The University of Richmond School of Law Alumni Magazine • Summer 2017

Case for Clemency
The D.C. Pipeline
Why Marshall Matters

DESTINATION EDUCATION

Richmond Law students step outside the classroom
Scope of instruction
Ever wondered what courses Richmond Law students took in 1908? Or wanted to revisit one of former dean William T. Muse’s torts exams? The Law Library’s new digital archive has you covered. Historic documents span more than a century — and archivists will add more as the school approaches its 150th anniversary in 2020. Check it out at scholarship.richmond.edu/lawschool-archives.

Photograph by Gordon Schmidt
5,000 hours of deliberate practice

Dear friends,

Legal education has long been known for teaching students to think like lawyers, but here at Richmond Law, we recognize that it is important for students to learn to be lawyers. Being a lawyer requires not only lawyering skills, but also the mindset of a professional with the character, judgment, empathy, and confidence that this entails. And developing those skills and mindset requires practice — lots of practice.

In his book *Outliers*, author Malcolm Gladwell argues that it takes about 10,000 hours of practice to become an expert. By my estimate, over the course of three years of law school, law students will have spent about 5,000 hours going to class, studying, doing co-curricular activities such as moot court and law review, and working at summer internships. This means that even the most engaged law students still need more hours of practice after graduation before they can function at their full potential as lawyers.

While we can’t add 5,000 more hours of skills-building to our students’ schedules, what we can do — and have done — at Richmond Law is make the best possible use of the 5,000 hours we have to assure that students get what Gladwell calls “deliberate practice.”

In this issue of the magazine, we highlight a few of the many opportunities our students have to practice being a lawyer. Students studying international corruption spent a week in South Korea interviewing government officials in preparation for writing a comprehensive report on corruption in connection with the upcoming Olympics in that country. Students in the Institute for Actual Innocence not only learned about the presidential clemency procedure, but also spent hundreds of hours preparing a clemency petition. Students studying international law did a research project for the Codification Division of the United Nations and then presented their conclusions in person at the U.N. to lawyers in the legal office of the U.N. Secretariat. In each of the cases, students were put in challenging situations, were guided by dedicated faculty, and were then held to the highest standards. It is this type of deliberate practice that helps our students fast-track their way to becoming expert attorneys.

As always, I encourage you to come visit us back at the law school to meet some of these exceptional students, reconnect with faculty and staff, take advantage of one of our free CLE events, or just take a stroll around campus. We’re always ready to welcome you back.

Wendy C. Perdue
Dean and Professor of Law
Features

Destination education

A trip to the health clinic around the corner or a 7,000-mile flight to South Korea can hold valuable lessons about the legal profession.

By Emily Cherry

Land of the lawyers

Every year, many Richmond Law graduates set out on a 100-mile journey up I-95 to Washington, D.C., to join an influential, growing cohort of alumni in the land of opportunity for lawyers.

By Rob Walker

The case for clemency

When President Barack Obama announced expanded criteria for clemency petitions, tens of thousands of prisoners submitted applications. Dujuan Farrow was one of them.

By Kim Catley

Departments

4 For the Record
23 Faculty Briefs
26 Student News
28 Alumni News
29 Class Notes
Richmond Law professor Kevin Walsh curated an exhibition to show Chief Justice John Marshall’s legacy as a key nation builder.

Richmond Law professor Kevin Walsh argues that three people were most critical to building and shaping America: George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Chief Justice John Marshall.

“Washington was the indispensible man for the founding, and Lincoln was essential to the union we have now,” he said. “Marshall is the bridge between the two. He learned his politics by admiring Washington and, through his writings as a justice on the Supreme Court, he would influence Lincoln and his Gettysburg Address.”

Walsh hopes visitors to the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia will start to understand his argument thanks to an exhibition he curated on the life and legacy of the fourth chief justice. Here, Walsh explains Marshall’s crucial role.

Why should people be interested in John Marshall?

If you asked someone 10 years ago to name the greatest American nation builders, only a few would have named Alexander Hamilton. Now everyone’s heard of Hamilton, but he was always that important. Marshall’s in a similar spot. When we think of nation builders, we don’t think of a judge. But we still look
to those Marshall opinions as speaking to the Constitution. We understand the judiciary to be a co-equal branch. A lot of that had to do with his leadership.

How are you reframing his story with this exhibition?
Marshall led a fascinating life. He fought in the Virginia militia. He was in the Culpeper Minutemen with “liberty or death” literally on his shirt. He was in the Continental Army and fought at Valley Forge with Washington and Hamilton. He served in the Virginia legislature. He was a diplomat to France. He was a congressman and secretary of state. All of this before he was 45. We wanted to make sure that people saw all of his contributions and how those fit together to shape his political, legal, and intellectual outlooks, to then shape his jurisprudence.

You’re also trying to show his human side. Why is that important?
When Marshall was in his mid-70s, he had bladder stones. The morning of the surgery, he’s facing this horrible, painful ordeal — one he’s not sure he’ll recover from — and the doctor’s assistant said he seemed philosophical and calm. It makes you think, “That guy is tough.” Strangely enough, those stones still exist at a museum of medical oddities. We included them to show the earthy, human side of someone who is easy to mythologize. When you mythologize, you neglect the virtues that contribute to someone flourishing in their profession.

What do you hope visitors take away?
Too often we highlight individuals, but building the nation was a group effort, too. Marshall was really good at work- ing as part of a team — whether it’s a military unit or a legislative body or the judiciary — and people may be inspired by the fact that someone can be so successful and be a nice, likable, sociable person. Marshall was not a doormat, but he had this character trait that I’ve started to call “disagreeability,” which is the ability to disagree without being disagreeable.

Not your typical law school reading list
Law school comes with a heavy reading load — and the books aren’t generally what you’d curl up with on a quiet Sunday afternoon.

 Unless you’re in Tamar Schwartz’s Law and Literature course.

 Her reading list ranges from Shakespeare’s The Merchant of Venice and Noon Wine by Katherine Anne Porter to Franz Kafka’s The Trial and the Art Spiegelman graphic novel series Maus.

 The class isn’t reading strictly for pleasure, though. Schwartz hopes these stories about the law — often involving people in minority groups who aren’t equally represented in the legal system — push students to consider the issues they’ll have to face in their legal professions.

 “Fictional stories provide opportunities for us to explore ambiguity and ambivalence in our legal system,” she said.

 “The characters’ plights allow students to experience some of the harm and loss and the unfairness of the legal system and to ask ourselves, ‘If we were the lawyers in these roles, what would we do?’”

 One assignment takes that question a step further, asking students to pick a character from one of the class texts and develop a client counseling plan. In another, Schwartz gets them to think about the role of narrative in an opening statement.

 “It gives them insight into how to craft a story,” she said. “How do you grab someone’s attention, get your point across, and be effective?”

International students get support from new staff
When Su-Jin Hong left South Korea for law school at Penn State, the culture shock was stronger than she expected. It was challenging to read cases at the pace of her American classmates. The lecture-style courses she was accustomed to were replaced by the Socratic method. Even the change in weather affected her mood and academic performance.

 She’s now helping international students at Richmond Law navigate similar experiences as the school’s first director of international programs.

 “These students are away from their home country, their friends and family members,” Hong said. “They are very ambitious, but they are lonely. I understand where they are emotionally as well as academically.”

 Hong started working at Richmond in January, but she’s already designing courses to give international students the language skills and legal context they need for law school. For example, a two-week pre-semester course introduces U.S. legal culture, government structure, the judicial structure, and common law analysis.

 She’s also working to build the Richmond brand abroad in hopes of recruiting more international students.

 “Richmond Law isn’t as well known in foreign countries,” she said. “By visiting countries and having strategic partnerships with universities, law firms, and courts, I can show the special and good-quality education we’re providing.”
Entrepreneurial spirit

Topping the list of reasons Heidi Field-Alvarez created a business were her love of textiles, her recognition of a market niche, and her desire to help a good cause.

But her knowledge of trademark protection? That was for another list, the one of critical legal issues with which she had no experience. That’s why a nonprofit that provides mentoring and education to small-business owners connected her with Richmond Law’s Intellectual Property and Transactional Law Clinic.

Field-Alvarez’s company, Lottie Belle, sells active wear lingerie for young adults. She funnels 20 percent of the profits to Sylvia’s Sisters, a nonprofit that helps girls living in extreme poverty stay in school by providing free hygiene products.

Field-Alvarez spent the initial months of her company launch identifying small-quantity manufacturers and vendors for online transactions. Throughout the process, “trademark protection was key for me,” she said, “because we were developing our marketing and branding. I wanted to make sure we were protected for that.”

At the Richmond Law clinic, students help clients anticipate their legal needs, said Ashley Dobbs, the clinic’s director.

“Regardless of where a business is in its lifecycle, the clinic’s student attorneys assist with typical transactions and IP issues,” Dobbs said. “Student attorneys handle all drafting, reviewing, negotiating, researching, and advising for our business and individual clients.”

In addition to helping Field-Alvarez through multiple trademark issues, students helped draft and review sales representative agreements, contractor agreements, and a website privacy policy.

But the benefits of the student-client interaction flow in both directions. “You can think of it like a teaching hospital for lawyers,” said Dustin Knight, L’17, one of the clinic’s students. “It’s really neat, from our perspective, to go into the UR bookstore and see [Lottie Belle merchandise] and think, ‘We had a hand in helping her secure her IP rights on that.’”

Life, liberty, and the pursuit

During his address at Richmond Law’s commencement in May, Donald Lemons, chief justice of the Virginia Supreme Court, shared his advice for finding happiness.

“Money, fame, and power — don’t necessarily bring happiness, he said. Instead, he encouraged graduates to identify the values and relationships that hold significance and to “fiercely protect this aspect of your life.”

“The size of the gap between what you believe and know to be important and how you are actually living your life is the measurement of discontent,” he said.

Lemons also advised making time for their interests outside the law — be they art, cooking, hiking, or travel — as well for leadership and public service.

“Provision of legal services to those who would otherwise not be able to afford them is a privilege and a duty of the profession as well,” Lemons said.

“I urge you to find the access-to-justice initiatives in your community and to do your share of pro bono work.”

Many graduates are well on their way. Twenty percent of the Class of 2017 earned the Carrico Center Pro Bono Certificate for completing 120 hours of service throughout their three years. Their contributions totaled more than 6,000 hours.

For the Record

Service to the public

This summer Halley Taylor, L’19, is getting a crash course in public interest work.

She spent the early weeks with the public defender’s office in Fredericksburg, Virginia, conducting case research, visiting clients at the Rappahannock Regional Jail, and sitting in on court sessions. Then she swiftly switched gears to work on policy with the disAbility Law Center of Virginia.

Taylor said the two internships could be seen as polar opposites but were chances to see multiple possibilities in public interest law.

“One of the first things I learned when I started working is that the public sector attracts all different kinds of people,” she said. “While everyone I have encountered works day in and day out to ensure that justice is served equally for all people, I learned that there are countless approaches to reaching that goal.”

Richmond Law’s Summer Public Service Fellowships, which provide up to $3,500 for students to pursue unpaid work in the public sector, are designed for this kind of exploration. Taylor was one of 141 fellows this summer who interned with federal and state courts, commonwealth’s attorneys and public defenders, the military, and nonprofits.

“It’s so important for students to have practical experience before they graduate,” said Janet Hutchinson, associate dean for career development. “It goes beyond theory and the classroom, and makes them ready to get out in the real world.”
Making history

The Honorable Robert Wilkins is the author of Long Road to Hard Truth about opening the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. As the 2017 Emanuel Emroch Speaker, he detailed the 100-year journey to making the museum a reality. The following is an edited excerpt of his speech.

1865
To understand how this museum came to be, you have to go back to May 23–24, 1865, the end of the Civil War. There was a grand review of the armies, and 200,000 Union soldiers marched from the Capitol to the White House. No black troops were part of the assemblage.

1915
Fifty years later, the Grand Army of the Republic held a re-enactment of the grand review. Black veterans were invited but had to make separate arrangements for balls and banquets. African-American citizens in Washington, D.C., formed the Colored Citizens Committee to raise money to organize everything. With the money that was left over, they formed a nonprofit, the National Memorial Association, to construct a permanent memorial to honor Negro soldiers and sailors.

1929
The NMA later said, “We’ve done more than contribute by serving in the military. We’ve contributed in the arts, sciences, education, music, business, inventions. We should have a memorial building that has exhibits about those achievements and contributions.” A bill passed to create this memorial, but the funding was stripped out. Then the stock market crashed, and it was the worst possible time to be engaging and embarking on a venture like this.

1968
Museums were being formed around the country to encourage the study of African-American history. There was a movement to create a national museum. There was a hearing on a bill to do this in March 1968. The bill didn’t pass.

2003
Congress passed legislation for a museum, and President George W. Bush signed it into law. It took another couple of years to get a site because we wanted the museum on the National Mall, and that was very controversial. But that decision was approved.

2016
The soldiers who inspired the movement to create this museum were treated as second-class citizens. When the museum opened, an African-American man was commander in chief. The fight to create this museum shows the perseverance, the grit, the determination, and the passion for justice, for recognition, and for equality that the African-American community has always fought for and striven for in this country.

The case for business

Whenever she has the chance, corporate law professor Jessica Erickson asks alumni what they wish they had learned at Richmond. One answer is consistent: Alumni wish they knew more about business.

Starting this fall, law students will have that chance in a new course developed by Erickson and Jonathan Whitaker, a professor in the University’s Robins School of Business. Students will take a semester-long online course developed by Cornell University to learn fundamental concepts of accounting, finance, and operations. Then they’ll spend a week digging into case studies involving Forbes Global 2000 companies.

“During class, we’re going to talk about the analysis and potential decisions without knowing the outcome of the case,” Whitaker said, “just like a manager wouldn’t know the outcome of their decisions.”

Erickson expected a payoff for corporate lawyers like herself. As she developed the course, she was surprised to learn how knowledge of business principles might benefit students in a wide range of fields, from family law to wills and trusts.

She hopes students will be more equipped to offer solutions to their clients.

“A business person might say, ‘Can we do this?’ and a lawyer will say, ‘No, you’re not legally permitted to do that,’” Erickson said. “Instead, they could figure out what the business person cares about and how they can use the law to help them achieve it. That’s being relevant to their client.”
EACH YEAR, MANY RICHMOND LAW GRADUATES set out on a 100-mile journey up I-95, heading north to Washington, D.C. There, they join an influential, growing cohort of alumni in the land of opportunity for lawyers.

They go for many reasons: to work in a vibrant, challenging marketplace of ideas, to build their résumés, to perform public service, to make a good living, to break into a particular field, to promote a specific cause. They go to do something meaningful with their lives in the law.

“Students see D.C. as a place where they can have real impact,” says Janet D. Hutchinson, associate dean for career development.

After Richmond, the district is the most popular destination for recent graduates, she adds. About 10 percent of recent classes have landed there. And they’re not alone — Washington has the highest per capita number of lawyers of any U.S. city.

“D.C. offers a robust legal market with tons of legal work related to government, as well as opportunities in litigation, corporate — just about any field,” says R. Kenon Poteat III, L’06. He went to Washington nine years ago after clerkships with a U.S. District judge in Virginia and the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

He was looking at private firms with an interest in litigation, and Williams & Connolly, “one of the best,” made him an offer. He’s been there since. “You can do a lot of things here with a law degree.”
When you think of Washington, you think of the U.S. government, and Richmond Law is well represented among the professionals who work in important positions there, outside the hype and glare, to keep things on track for the benefit of the country.

Shelley Hanger Husband, L’98, is chief of staff and general counsel to the House Judiciary Committee, one of the busiest, most important committees in Congress. The committee has jurisdiction over such issues as criminal law, intellectual property, immigration policy, the judiciary, and the Constitution, as well as oversight of the departments of Justice and Homeland Security, the federal courts, and law enforcement agencies such as the FBI.

Husband keeps an eye on the committee’s budget, manages its staff, and works with the chair to set and implement its priorities through its legislative and oversight agenda. She is an adviser and counsel to the chair and is the committee’s staff liaison to House and Senate leadership and the White House.

Husband’s ties to Washington began in college when she interned with Virginia Rep. Bob Goodlatte. After law school, Goodlatte brought her back to work as a district representative. She moved through a series of assignments there for more than 18 years, rising to her current post after Goodlatte became committee chairman.

Now, with the change of administration, Judiciary, which has primary jurisdiction over immigration policy and surveillance laws, is at the forefront of the public debate over these issues.

“Any time there is a change in the administration, but particularly when the administration switches to the other party, it’s an especially interesting time in Washington,” Husband says.

“Working in Washington, and especially on Capitol Hill, is fast-paced, challenging, and no two days are ever the same,” Husband says. “I appreciate having the ability to impact the process and effect policy change.”

Washington is home for Jay Khosla, L’05, who grew up in Northern Virginia and returned after graduation to pursue a fellowship on Capitol Hill.

“Luckily, I went to work for [Tennessee Sen.] Bill Frist, who was majority leader of the Senate,” he says.

Today, Khosla is policy director for the Senate Finance Committee, a job he describes as “incredibly challenging.” His dual degree — a J.D. from Richmond and a master’s in health administration from Virginia Commonwealth University — prepared him well for the work.

On the way to the Finance Committee, Khosla worked for Frist, then for Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, who was Senate Budget Committee chairman. He went on to be chief health adviser to Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah during the debate over the Affordable Care Act.

Khosla’s career took a memorable detour in 2008 when he served as chief health policy adviser to Sen. John McCain of Arizona during his presidential run.

“That was a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” Khosla says. “One day I’d find myself in Silicon Valley, the next day in a cornfield in Iowa.”

When Hatch became the top Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, Kholsa landed with “the committee that has the widest jurisdiction in the U.S. Congress.” International trade, the tax code, federal health care programs, and Social Security all fall under its jurisdiction. “Almost anything that moves comes through us.”

In 2013, Khosla became policy director for the committee. The job means “a lot of long hours. It’s very demanding. But it’s well worth it. I interact with the entire Senate. I work with a lot of smart people. I’ve had great bosses.”

And he’s always busy. “I may be figuring out a problem in the Medicare program or meeting with foreign dignitaries on international trade issues. Right now we’re neck deep in health care and tax reform.”
SHAUN FREIMAN, L'15  
Subcommittee counsel  
House Committee on Ways and Means

Shaun Freiman, L’15, followed a circuitous route to his current post as subcommittee counsel at the House Committee on Ways and Means — but D.C. was where he always wanted to be.

“I had worked between undergraduate school and law school on the Hill and as a congressional relations staffer for an executive branch agency. My goal was to return to D.C. as counsel.”

The proximity to Washington was a factor in his choice to come to Richmond Law from Michigan.

Freiman spent his 2L summer working for a Senate committee with the help of a summer fellowship for public sector positions from Richmond Law.

At Ways and Means, he interacts with committee and subcommittee members and their staffers.

“Interesting people come through the door all the time — and not just from government,” he says. Sports stars and celebrities show up to promote pet projects. Meeting astronaut Buzz Aldrin was fun.

“It’s exciting work, incredibly fast-paced,” Freiman says. “I have to respond quickly but accurately to changing events. And there are always questions of law.

“There’s structure to my day, but that can fly out the door any minute. I have to be on top of what happened the day before and understand how that might affect my boss’s policy initiatives.

“As the day progresses, I do what has to be done.”

Staying on top of so many things is a challenge, he says, and because Congress is a deliberative body, you don’t always see where your work is going: “You’ve got to keep your eye on the ball.”

Even if you don’t intend to make a career in Washington, Freiman says time there is valuable.

“It’s great to have an understanding of how government works, to know the processes and the players. And it’s a great place to be. There’s a lot of energy in this city.”

JACQUELYN BOLEN, L’15  
Health Subcommittee, House Energy and Commerce Committee

Working in government relations between college and law school gave Jacquelyn Bolen, L’15, her first taste of life in Washington.

“Richmond was attractive in that I could be in the state capital,” she says. An internship at the Virginia Poverty Law Center was a powerful experience, “but I loved D.C. and wanted to get back.”

Today, Bolen works for the Health Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

These are “interesting but difficult times,” she says of her work on health care during the transition between starkly different administrations.

“Health care is an interesting, thorny issue,” she says. “Part of the reason I got involved was I was a proponent of the Affordable Care Act. What I saw with the Virginia Poverty Law Center increased my awareness of how health care affects every person.”

She focuses on women’s health issues like family planning at a time when advances under ACA are threatened, she says. “We are working to make sure protections for women aren’t rolled back,” she says. “We’re playing defense a lot of the time. It’s great to apply my law skills in an area of interest.”

...  

Husband quotes the maxim often attributed to President Ronald Reagan: “There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don’t care who gets the credit.” While Washington and humility may not always seem compatible, she says, many people working there seem to live by this creed.

As for the contentious environment the public sees, Kholsa says, “the pendulum swings. It’s never as good or as bad as people think. There are a lot of people here who are devoted to public service. We all work for the good of the country. Anyone who has been here long enough knows patience is a virtue, and we will work our way through it.”
Richmond’s proximity to Washington, D.C., brings top students who are interested in working in the nation’s capital. A growing number of them are participating in the D.C. Externship Program, now in its third year.

This August, nine Richmond Law students will begin externships with agencies including the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Federal Communications Commission. That’s an increase from four in the program’s first year and six in its second.

Students who land the four-month, unpaid placements earn 13 credit hours for 500 hours of substantive legal work, says Stephen Allred, University professor and director of the program. “They can use these externships to find out what it’s like to work in government, with interest groups and nonprofits,” he says. It’s also a chance to network as they look ahead to careers in D.C.

Grayson Orsini, L’18, landed a rare externship with the U.S. State Department that will put him in the middle of the action in Washington as the Trump administration promises sweeping changes in foreign policy.

“I really had to learn to think fast on my feet. It was such a great experience. This is where I want to be.”

The externship program was one of the reasons Lindsay Lehmen, L’18, chose Richmond Law. “I wanted real-world experience in D.C.,” she says. As an undergraduate, she interned in the U.S. Justice Department and wanted to get back. “People seemed driven toward the best outcomes.”

Her placement with the department’s Office of Human Rights and Special Prosecutions is “my dream job. This pushes me toward my goal.”

Last year, Celtia van Niekerk, L’17, who came to Richmond from South Africa, tacked a fall externship onto a summer internship with the Washington office of the Attorney General, which handles misdemeanors, housing code, driving violations, juvenile offenses, and gun crimes, among others, in the district. The combined six months provided “a better experience than I could have ever imagined,” van Niekerk says.

After being trained in the busy office, she found herself in court handling cases and making charging recommendations.

“I really had to learn to think fast on my feet,” she says. She applied for a full-time job with the office after graduation. “It was such a great experience. This is where I want to be.”

The externship program is a response to the increasingly competitive marketplace for lawyers and to shifts in what employers want in new hires.

“Employers are looking for people with skills that make them useful from the beginning,” says Allred, who holds classes for the externs weekly in Washington as part of the program’s academic component.

Those meetings are held in a conference room at the Williams & Connolly firm through the courtesy of R. Kenon Poteat III, L’06, a partner at the firm. Poteat is part of the growing Richmond Law alumni network in Washington.

The D.C. Externship Program had not begun during his law school years, but Poteat took advantage of clinical experiences. He saw the legal profession from top to bottom, working in the Virginia Supreme Court and in a county prosecutor’s office.

“These programs are what separates Richmond from a lot of other good law schools,” Poteat says, “and it’s invaluable to employers to get people with that experience.”

As for working amid the D.C. tumult, Orsini says, “I love that kind of environment. That’s where I want to be.”

Rob Walker is a writer and editor who lives in Richmond. He was a writer for the Richmond Times-Dispatch and is the former editor of Richmond Law magazine.
DESTINATION EDUCATION

For students at Richmond Law, learning doesn’t stop in the classroom. Innovative classes with off-campus experiences — at a health clinic around the corner, or a boardroom in Seoul, South Korea — hold valuable lessons about the world of law.

By Emily Cherry

More and more, Richmond Law students are stepping outside the classroom to enhance their curricular experiences, working with real clients in legal clinics, offering pro bono services, or participating in courses with simulated legal activities, some very far from campus.

Call it “experiential,” call it “community-based learning,” or call it putting law into practice. The end result is students who are exposed to valuable work — and life — experiences that they can put to use at their first post-graduate job and throughout their careers.

SPORTS AND SCANDALS IN SOUTH KOREA

For his Corruption in International Sports course, Andy Spalding has his sights on the biggest international sporting event of all, the Olympics.

Global sporting events such as the Olympics and the World Cup can be a critical launch point for anticorruption reform. With the whole world watching, host cities and countries have to consider the laws, practices, and cultural norms that surround the event — and enact policies that may endure well
after the games are over.

The 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea provided a backdrop for examining anticorruption reforms on a broad scale as the class researched and discussed bribery, money laundering, bank secrecy, and tax evasion. But, as Dustin Knight, L’18, put it, “You can get up to a certain point, and then you have to be on the ground to really appreciate some of the laws that you’re researching.”

Eight students got that ground-level view when the class flew to South Korea for a week in March.

Take, for example, the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act, known colloquially as the Kim Young-ran Act. Students read all about how the bill introduced tougher punishments for bribery — but nothing compared to the experience of sitting down at a table at Songang University with Kim Young-ran, the former Korean Supreme Court justice who authored it.

“You can read a statute, and you can understand its provisions, but it’s very difficult to understand the implications — until you talk to the drafter,” Knight said.

This is the second time Spalding has taken a group of students abroad to study anticorruption and the Olympics. In 2015, a Richmond Law team visited Brazil to study reform efforts in the lead-up to the 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro and published an e-book with their findings. Spalding is following a similar model for the students examining the 2018 Winter Games in Pyongchang.

Conversations with South Koreans, like the one with Kim Young-ran, led to a better sense of the cultural implications of anticorruption reform. “It’s a fundamental cultural pivot in the way [South Koreans] think about government, business, human relations, even appropriate expressions of affection,” Spalding said.

He explained that giving gifts — to government officials, professors, even journalists — is a common cultural practice to show respect. The Kim Young-ran Act, however, makes such gifts illegal. “To hear people speak ... with real emotion about the way this law is changing the way they live and the way they interact with each other, it makes an impression on you that the law as written on the page does not,” Spalding said.

The visit to South Korea came at a tumultuous time in the country’s history: the impeachment of then-president Park Geun-hye following a corruption scandal. Amidst protests and celebrations, students also saw citizens collapsing on the sidewalk in tears, “not just about the removal of the president but of the vulnerability they felt to attack from North Korea,” Spalding said. “That is something you can’t feel, you can’t understand, until you have felt it from people.”

And, added Knight, “You realize that you’re a part of a historic moment in Korea as a complete outsider” — a realization that couldn’t take place in a classroom in Virginia.

Beyond the international experience, the year-long course and book project are a perfect opportunity for building both legal knowledge and soft skills, Spalding said. Law schools have a reputation for not emphasizing or valuing interpersonal skills — an impression Richmond is working to reverse. “Because we recognize how important those interpersonal and teamwork skills are to the practice of law, this class is a very concentrated opportunity to
develop those skills,” said Spalding.

The result is pretty impressive. “These are real legal issues that exist in the world, and the students are putting their skills to use to understand these issues and to suggest reforms,” explained Spalding. “A number of ideas that I think will get some traction in the reform debates have come directly from the students.”

**REPORTING RESEARCH AT THE U.N.**

Skill-building is at the heart of Chiara Giorgetti’s new international law practicum course. Students tackled four research projects for international clients, ranging from a judge of the International Court of Justice in the Hague (who requested a report on how tribunals use expert witnesses) to the World Bank’s International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (which sought research on the code of conduct for arbitrators in foreign investment disputes).

“All four of the projects made us feel like we’re not just law students,” said Kate Desai, L’18. “We’re actually interacting with international law in the real world.”

One project connected the class with the United Nations, where Giorgetti had previously worked as a program officer. During a partnership with the Codification Division of the U.N.’s Office of Legal Affairs, students reviewed a questionnaire distributed by the International Law Commission, which asked member states to identify their sources of customary laws — those “unofficial laws” established by custom. Their goal was to identify not what the legal principles were, but where they could be found.

They began by looking at 14 countries (such as Eritrea, Comoros, and Pakistan) and a number of international organizations (including the International Olympic Committee, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the Caribbean Community). Students were matched with countries by language abilities and interest.

Each country’s archives, government structures, social media use, and more were all taken into account and examined as sources of customary law. For example, if a student was looking at customary law surrounding a country’s use of force in humanitarian interventions, one source she might examine is the equivalent of that country’s Supreme Court rulings.

For most, this meant a series of web searches: finding sites, chasing links, sometimes translating the page’s content into English. When the web search yielded unfruitful results, the students turned to print resources.

The end result was a presentation of their findings to U.N. officials in person in April — and they were the only research team from the United States to participate in the project. The visit to New York “was this surreal experience,” said Kendra Smith, L’17, that “pull[ed] the U.N. out of books and TV” and made it real.

“We weren’t just visitors,” Desai added. “They were looking at us as the authorities on the countries [we researched].”

The projects not only taught the students research skills and exposed them to principles of international law, but also gave them a sense of what a career in the international law field might look like.

“If you work for the United Nations, this is an example of what you could do,” Giorgetti said.

Grayson Orsini, L’18, added, “I think it grounded me in what international law really is and what it entails.”
A BACKYARD BACKDROP

While South Korea and the U.N. offer exciting backdrops to legal learning, Richmond Law students have plenty of opportunities for outside-the-classroom learning closer to home.

Tara Casey, director of the Carrico Center for Pro Bono and Public Service, had considered teaching a poverty law course for some time. But she kept running into one key problem: “I don’t think you can teach poverty law in this building,” she said.

Part of that mistrust was based on the nature of poverty law itself. In her research for the class, Casey kept coming upon a course book that cost $200. “That just seems too ironic,” Casey said. Of course, many law school courses require expensive books — but this one made Casey think about what sets the study of poverty apart in a law school setting: “Poverty law is not its own, freestanding subject. It’s really the influence of poverty in all other areas of law. That’s not something necessarily that you can just read about.”

Being out in the community, though, “didn’t lend itself to a traditional semester schedule,” Casey explained. So she came up with an innovative format: Students would spend their weeklong spring break in an intensive study of poverty law in the city of Richmond. Each day, they toured different sites around the city and concluded with a class discussion with an expert lecturer at UR Downtown. The week ended with a student memo putting forth a proposal for how the city of Richmond could address poverty.

“One of the trends we are seeing is faculty thinking in really creative ways about how they can engage students in the life of the community outside the campus,” said Terry Dolson, manager for community-based learning at Richmond’s Bonner Center for Civic Engagement. “They are digging into the questions, ‘How does the content of this course matter? Where is something related to these concepts happening right now?’”

One day found the class touring the I-95 corridor that divides the Jackson Ward community. Another took them to health clinics, a mobile home community, and local schools on different ends of the city of Richmond. The students quickly found that the format of the learning experience was just as important as the subject matter.

“It is easy to look at statistics surrounding poverty and imagine them as just numbers on a page,” said Benjamin Dessart, L’17. “These numbers translate to desks at a school, meals on a table, or a roof over someone’s head.”

Still, the course was about more than witnessing poverty. Casey wanted students to better understand the roles law and policymaking can play in creating, sustaining, or ameliorating that poverty. That’s not a small task: “You have to dig deeper in order to understand how these laws and policies affect people living in poverty,” Casey said.

In the course, students looked at how schools take on those policies and procedures through the lens of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which guarantees students a free and appropriate education. “What does that mean in a school where you have
such disparate economic indicators, or in schools where those economic indicators also intersect with a higher percentage of students with learning disabilities?” Casey asked. “There’s not a clear line between law and poverty, because poverty is just as complex as the law.

After visiting local schools, students participated in a discussion about education led by Rachael Deane, ‘10, legal director for the JustChildren program at the Legal Aid Justice Center.

“The site visit made the course richer,” Deane said. “It’s important for lawyers and law students to witness not only the landscape of poverty in Richmond, but also the vast differences in access to education, housing, employment, banking, and public transportation based on where one resides.”

Focusing on the local community and making Richmond the focal point for the course of study were important goals to Casey.

“We study so much about these issues and these policies and these laws, but we take them on a national perspective,” Casey said. “We don’t necessarily look to our own community for the representation of these policies.”

But by traveling one mile from the law school to see discrepancies in education, or by visiting the City Hall Observation Deck to look at neighborhoods in a five-mile radius where there’s a 20-year mortality difference, that opportunity gap “is impossible to ignore,” Deane said.

The course also connected the dots between theory and practice. Bridging that gap, Dolson said, is the entire point of taking teaching out of the classroom.

“Complicated, real-life problems test the boundaries of theory,” Dolson said. And in the end, “students are amazed that what they had considered ‘just academic’ can provide them with the skills and knowledge they need to participate in civic and professional life.”

“One of the trends we are seeing is faculty thinking in really creative ways about how they can engage students in the life of the community outside the campus.”

Emily Cherry is director of communications for Richmond Law.
When President Barack Obama announced expanded criteria for clemency petitions, tens of thousands of prisoners submitted applications, hoping for relief from harsh and outdated sentences. But even perfect candidates — first-time offenders with impeccable behavior during incarceration — stood a slim chance of being released.

By Kim Catley | Illustrations by Richie Pope

In 2014, Dujuan Farrow, an inmate in a Pennsylvania prison, received a letter from Mary Kelly Tate, a law professor at the University of Richmond.

President Barack Obama’s administration had just announced its Clemency Initiative, inviting qualified federal inmates to petition to have their sentences commuted. Pro bono organizations around the country were banding together to help submit petitions — including the Institute for Actual Innocence at the University of Richmond School of Law.

In the letter, Farrow read that this law professor he didn’t know had reviewed his case and believed he stood a chance. She asked to take on his case and submit a petition on his behalf.

She offered no promises, but this was Farrow’s last hope, his last shot at a life outside the prison walls that had surrounded him for 12 years.

He decided to take it.

‘THIS IS SIMPLY NOT RIGHT.’

In 2010, when President Obama signed the Fair Sentencing Act to address disparities in sentencing for offenses involving cocaine, thousands of people had already been sentenced to harsh punishments under the previous mandatory minimum guidelines. In response, the White House announced new clemency criteria that would allow some of them to qualify for reduced sentences.

“There are still too many people in federal prison who were sentenced under the old regime — and who, as a result, will have to spend far more time in prison than they would if sentenced today for exactly the same crime,” then-Attorney General Eric Holder said in an April 2014 video message announcing the Clemency Initiative. “This is simply not right.”

Following Holder’s announcement, lawyers around the country jumped into action. The American Bar Association, the National...
Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the Federal Defenders, the American Civil Liberties Union, Families Against Mandatory Minimums, and other volunteer lawyers and organizations formed a national network to identify qualifying candidates and offer pro bono legal assistance.

Richmond Law’s Institute for Actual Innocence was one of those organizations. Mary Kelly Tate, founding director of the innocence clinic, reviewed at least 25 potential cases. Along with a group of law students enrolled in the clinic, she identified three candidates whose sentences they considered too severe. One was released through another form of sentencing reform. Another case had elements that were beyond the resources of the innocence clinic. And then there was Farrow.

Farrow was sentenced to life in prison in April 2015 after he was found guilty of conspiracy to distribute and possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of cocaine. Tate believed the evidence showed Farrow had a drug addiction but wasn’t a drug dealer — he was simply in the wrong place at the wrong time. At the time of his arrest, he was a passenger in a car that contained cocaine. The driver, a childhood friend, had secured the drugs.

Farrow’s friend, who Tate says was more culpable, took a plea deal and received a 10- to 15-year sentence. Farrow, believing he was innocent, opted for a jury trial and was hit with a mandatory life sentence — a punishment that would never be given under today’s standards.

“What struck me about the case is, I felt it was a humanitarian problem,” Tate says. “There was such a gap between the conduct that he was charged with versus the punishment.”

Farrow didn’t have a violent history and was a model prisoner throughout his incarceration. His history, combined with a sentence that would be considered too harsh if he were convicted today, made him a strong candidate for clemency.

“There was basically a six-point test — six factors that Attorney General Eric Holder set forth for the Obama administration in terms of who would be worthy of a commutation,” Tate says. “Mr. Farrow perfectly fit all six factors.”

Still, more than 33,000 inmates submitted petitions for clemency during Obama’s presidency. By January 19, 2017, his last full day in office, only 1,715 individuals would receive it.

‘THIS INNATE SENSE OF WANTING THINGS TO BE RIGHT’

“I’ve always been interested in the institutional aspects of the justice system — the rules and rights that make it as great as I think it is,” says Carter Nichols, L’16, a student in the innocence clinic who was assigned to Farrow’s case. “I have this innate sense of wanting things to be right and for decisions to be right.”

That drive was at the heart of Nichols’ work with a Virginia delegate trying to change the state’s writ of actual innocence process — where he first met Tate — and his decision to sign up for Tate’s Institute for Actual Innocence once he enrolled at Richmond Law.

The clinic comprises a small group of second- and third-year law students who spend a semester reading cases and case law, and forging an understanding of the structural components that may lead to faulty outcomes in criminal trials. They study legal theory and the many causes of wrongful convictions. Then they partner with attorneys and community leaders to seek post-conviction relief for a wrongfully convicted prisoner in Virginia.

Much of that preparation went out the window when they took on a clemency case.

Actual innocence and clemency cases are in the same arena of post-conviction work, but the processes and purposes are wildly different. In wrongful convictions and actual innocence cases, lawyers look for problems with the case itself, like DNA evidence, improper interrogation and confession, prosecutorial misconduct, or ineffective counsel.

With clemency, there’s no argument about the merits of the case or the conviction. Rather, it’s an equity-based plea for leniency. No one questioned whether Farrow was guilty, only whether the penalty levied against him was too harsh. Students had to quickly learn the complexities of federal sentencing — an area of the law that wasn’t covered in Tate’s seminar.

There’s also no guarantee that meeting the qualifications for clemency will lead to release. Lawyers have to weave a narrative that tells a human story about the individual, his circumstances, and his potential life after release.
“You have to show the client as the fully fleshed out human being that they are, rather than the crime that was committed,” says Brandon Benchoff, L’15, another student in the clinic.

As Tate and the students set out to build that narrative, they began with a comprehensive review of Farrow’s case: his criminal indictment from the very beginning, his pre-sentencing report, and his post-conviction appeals for relief. They looked at how he spent his time while incarcerated, including his behavior, his communication with family, and the technical classes he completed.

“It took me days, if not weeks, to read every piece of paper in his files,” Benchoff says. “By the time I closed the file, I had a hard time thinking anything other than, ‘This guy would be a perfect candidate for clemency.’”

One of the biggest differences between actual innocence and clemency cases involves the petitioner’s post-release plan. These plans aren’t relevant to decision-makers in innocence cases and, as a result, weren’t an area of focus in the first semester. When they took on Farrow’s case, Tate spent a great deal of time communicating the absolute necessity of a compelling post-release plan in a clemency petition.

Developing the plan required students to interview Farrow and his family members and detail his support structures should he be granted clemency. “It’s not only that there are legal justifications for granting clemency,” Nichols says, “but that it’s the right thing to do because Dujuan is the type of person who would take this second chance at life and use it to become a contributing member of society.”

In the fall of 2015, Tate submitted their petition, hoping Farrow’s story would break through the thousands of cases making their way to the Department of Justice.

And then, they waited.

‘MARY, THE PARDON OFFICE CALLED.’

As 2016 came to a close and the January days began ticking by, Tate had a sinking feeling. President-elect Donald Trump was building his cabinet, and the political landscape was shifting.

Every few weeks, Obama would announce a new list of people whose sentences were commuted. But Farrow’s petition had been met with only silence. “When each batch would come, and his name would not be in it, I would just feel sick to my stomach,” Tate says. “My heart would be heavy with that knowledge that time was running out. Once Barack Obama left office, it was unclear what another administration would do.”

She began rehearsing the conversation she expected to have with Farrow. It would be one of the hardest in her career, comparable only to the conversations she had with a death row inmate in the 1990s. The U.S. Supreme Court had ruled against him. Tate, then a young lawyer, was with him for the journey, from learning the news of the ruling to spending his last day with him in a Virginia death house.

“Twenty-one years later, this conversation [with Farrow] would have a similar despair,” Tate says. “It has the feel of palliative care. I would be telling a client, ‘There’s nothing more we can do.’

“Sometimes I think of post-conviction work in terms of oncology, where there are certain cancers that don’t have a high success rate. Those conversations never get easy for doctors, and they certainly never become easy for post-conviction attorneys.”

In the final days of Obama’s term, on Jan. 17, Tate walked into the clinic office after a day of meetings. Margie Zapata, the clinic’s administrative assistant at the time, called out, “Mary, the pardon office called.”

“My heart leapt,” Tate says. “I knew that they would not be calling for any other reason than to say that relief had been granted. With three days left, Mr. Farrow made it, very deservedly, across the finish line.”
Pardon office protocol allowed representing attorneys to deliver the news to their clients. Farrow was brought to a private room and told only that he would be getting a call. At 3:30 that afternoon, Tate dialed the phone.

“That was one of the most joyous phone calls I ever got to make,” she says. “It was so humbling to hear his joy and how thrilled he was and how grateful he was. It’s really been one of the treasures of my 26-year legal career to have that moment.”

That same afternoon, at his desk in Norfolk, Va., where he works as a federal law clerk, Carter Nichols opened his email to find a message from Tate with a nondescript subject line. In carefully measured words that come from years of working in uncertainties, Tate told the clinic students about the outcome. “I was just floored,” Nichols says. “It was surreal to think that we had checked all of the right boxes and gotten his story in front of the right people — and they saw what we saw.”

Brandon Benchoff was “overjoyed” at the outcome, but says the credit belongs to Farrow. “He’s the one who led this life. He’s the one who’s been sitting in prison all this time,” Benchoff says. “All we did was tell his story.”

Still, Nichols says the process crystalized the role that lawyers can play outside of the courtroom. Any inmate can file a clemency petition on their own behalf, he says, but the process is cumbersome and time-consuming. It takes legal training to navigate it successfully.

“[Farrow] and many others around the country had teams of lawyers and law students poring over documents, making sure every small procedural requirement is met and every administrative box is checked,” Nichols says. “You just get a sense of the value of yourself and your education and training.”

Benchoff is now an assistant prosecutor in Morgantown, West Virginia, and says his experience with the actual innocence clinic makes him a better prosecutor. It reinforced his belief that both defense and prosecuting attorneys should be working toward the same outcome: a just result.

“I want to treat everyone I interact with as a human being,” he says, “and do what is fair and just under the law.”

After 12 years in prison, staring down a lifetime to go, Farrow is scheduled to be released at the conclusion of a re-entry program, approximately a year in length. He is in his early 40s. Actuarial calculations say he could — and Tate hopes he does — live for another 40 years.

“To be given back four decades by President Obama must have felt like something otherworldly,” Tate says. “I think there’s a tremendous bravery to opening yourself up to hope. I think that there’s a vigorousness to a person’s character who can, in the face of extraordinary odds, maintain hope.

“Mr. Farrow was that kind of person.”

Kim Catley is the editor of Richmond Law magazine.

EXONERATING THE INNOCENT

Students in the Richmond Law Institute for Actual Innocence take a lead role in investigating and litigating Virginia felony cases in which there is credible evidence of a convicted person’s innocence. They also handle other post-conviction matters.

Under the direction of law professor Mary Kelly Tate, students learn about crime laboratory protocols, false confessions, eyewitness identification, and indigent defense. They put that knowledge into action on actual cases, interviewing witnesses, analyzing records, talking with experts, and developing case strategies. In addition to Dujuan Farrow’s case, the clinic used DNA to exonerate a Woodbridge, Virginia, defendant after he served 36 years for a triple abduction he didn’t commit.

Clinic students have proposed legislative reform for wrongful convictions; written briefs for litigation in the Virginia Supreme Court; and sought cutting-edge DNA testing through a motion to a Virginia circuit court.

“They are encouraged, through the clinic experience, to see that the work they do matters,” Tate says. “I think it’s hugely important that a criminal justice system has actors within it who see the importance of the work they do and see that the work they do needs to have integrity, needs to be high-quality, needs to be human-centered, and needs to see the big picture rather than a win-loss mentality.”
Hamilton Bryson contributed chapters on Sir Francis Bacon and Frederic William Maitland to The Formation and Transmission of Western Legal Culture: 150 Books That Made the Law in the Age of Printing. He wrote a chapter on law books in the libraries of colonial Virginians to Esteemed Bookes of Lawe.

Jud Campbell’s article “Natural Rights and the First Amendment” was accepted for publication by The Yale Law Journal. He presented on that topic at the Constitutional Law Colloquium at Loyola University Chicago and on judicial review and enumeration of rights at the Georgetown Center for the Constitution’s Salmon P. Chase Faculty Colloquium. Campbell also joined a panel at the University of Richmond’s International Center to discuss President Trump’s travel ban.

Tara Casey was a presenter at the AALS Conference on experiential learning in legal writing programs. She was appointed by the president of the Virginia State Bar to serve on the Study Committee to Revise the Unauthorized Practice of Law.

Dale Cecka’s article on Virginia custody orders was solicited for publication in the University of Richmond Law Review. She will be the co-author of Virginia Practice — Family Law: Theory, Practice, and Forms with Larry Diel. Cecka was a panelist at the AALS Conference on feminist judgments and at the Mid-Atlantic People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference on underserved children in family court.

Hank Chambers was quoted by U.S. News in an article about the Supreme Court’s “campaign season.” On how the court might approach voter ID cases, he said, “Even though there is no serious evidence of serious voter fraud, if the public is afraid of voter fraud, the state may have the right to put the laws in place.” Chambers also presented at the Old Dominion Bar Association Meeting.

Chris Cotropia and Jim Gibson hosted the 10th Evil Twin Debate during the AALS Conference.

Joel Eisen accepted a publication offer from the Utah Law Review for his article “Free Trade in Electric Power.” He spoke on his paper “Demand Response’s Three Generations: Market Pathways in the Electric Grid” at the North Carolina Journal of Law & Technology Symposium and on clean energy issues in the Trump administration at the meeting of the Richmond Bar Association’s Environmental and Energy Law Section. Eisen was in the top 10 percent of SSRN downloads for April.

David Epstein was nominated for membership in the International Insolvency Institute and was a presenter at the Annual International Conference on Contracts.

Jessica Erickson was elected to the executive committee of the AALS Section on Business Associations in January.

Bill Fisher’s book Corporate Governance: Overview, Case Studies, and Reforms was published by West Academic.

Jim Gibson’s article on boilerplate and contract law was accepted for publication in Georgetown Law Journal in 2018.

Chiara Giorgetti was elected to the American Law Institute, and she joined a panel at the University of Richmond’s International Center to discuss President Trump’s travel ban.

Ann Hodges was a co-presenter in a Knowledge Group webinar about class action waivers.

Corinna Lain participated in a conference at Harvard Law School on capital punishment.

Her op-ed on chaos theory and shock events was published by the Richmond Times-Dispatch. “I know you are tired, that’s the very
point,” Lain wrote. “But even in our highly polarized polity, what unites us is still much greater than what divides us. We are in the twilight moment, shaken by shock events and fearful of the shadow they are casting. Our task now is to recognize that fact and come together to avoid becoming unwitting victims of the dark.” In April, Lain was in the top 10 percent of SSRN downloads for her paper “Soft Supremacy,” forthcoming in *William and Mary Law Review*. She was a guest blogger on PrawfsBlog in April.

**Julie McConnell** was honored with the YWCA Outstanding Women Award in the field of education for her work in the Children’s Defense Clinic. She presented a CLE on transforming Virginia’s juvenile justice system at the Virginia State Bar’s Criminal Law Seminar and was promoted to associate clinical professor of law.

**Shari Motro** presented on transformative learning at the AALS Conference.

**Amy O’Connor** was elected treasurer of the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries.

**Kristen Osenga** was invited to write a chapter for the American Intellectual Property Law Association. She was the moderator for a Federalist Society Teleforum on the law of patent exhaustion and was quoted by *Forbes* regarding an FTC report on patent assertion entities. “It’s totally flawed,” the *Forbes* article read. “The design is bad, particularly the way [the FTC] identified who it would send questions to. It’s basically directed towards one type of patent licensing firm.”

**John Pagan** contributed a chapter on law books in the libraries of colonial Virginians to *Esteemed Bookes of Lawe*. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Historical Society for his historical scholarship work.

**Wendy Perdue**’s book *Procedure and Private International Law (Volume II)* was published by Elgar.

**Jack Preis** has been quoted extensively regarding transgender bathroom lawsuit stories. His op-ed on bathroom bills was published by the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*. In a CBS Moneywatch article on Apple’s response to changes to transgender policies, Preis said, “When Apple speaks, its message is more likely to be heard than, say, the local grocer down the street. But it’s not at all clear to me that a tech company based in California will have much sway with local school superintendents in middle America who are now charged with deciding what to do.”

**Kimberly Robinson** presented at the Old Dominion Bar Association Meeting and was a speaker at the American Enterprise Institute. She was quoted in an ABA article on the Detroit right-to-literacy lawsuit. “If your state supreme court says you have a robust right, like in New Jersey, you could get some significant reforms,” she said. “But a Texas child has no other options. So if this case is fully successful ... a child anywhere in the United States would be able to access the right to literacy.”

**Noah Sachs** was quoted in *The Guardian* for an article about chemical safety health concerns. “Every company that manufacturers BPA or uses it as a raw material has a responsibility to workers to prevent such excessive BPA exposures,” he said. “Business-as-usual is putting BPA workers at risk.” Sachs was also quoted in *The Hill* about the head of the Environmental Protection Agency.

**Roger Skalbeck** presented at the AALS Conference on using technology to increase access to justice.

**Andy Spalding** was featured in the documentary *Planet FIFA*. On Bloomberg radio, he discussed why a U.S. judge ordered Odebrecht, Latin America’s biggest construction company, to pay a $2.6 billion fine for bribing officials across the world. He was also quoted in a Huffington Post article on the Rolls Royce bribery scandal. “Although the United States has been the undisputed leader in foreign bribery enforcement, it actually has been somewhat uncomfortable in that role and has wanted to encourage other countries to follow its lead — to join in the crusade,” he said. Spalding’s tenure and promotion were confirmed by the University’s board of trustees.
Jonathan Stubbs helped organize the Old Dominion Bar Association Conference here at the law school in February. At the AALS Conference, he discussed leadership development and presented, with Mary Heen, in a session about preparing for life after a lengthy legal education career.


Mary Kelly Tate was promoted to associate clinical professor of law.

Carl Tobias’ article “Confirming Judge Restrepo to the Third Circuit” was published in the *Temple Law Review Online*. He’s been quoted extensively on such topics as President Trump’s travel ban and Supreme Court nomination in publications including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, Politico, and the Huffington Post.

Kevin Walsh is curating an exhibit on John Marshall’s life and legacy for display at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia. Read more about the exhibit on Page 4.

**New faculty**

Hayes Holderness and Daniel Schaffa will join the Richmond Law faculty in fall 2017.

Holderness comes to Richmond from the University of Illinois College of Law, where he was a visiting assistant professor and Ribstein Fellow. His scholarship focuses on state and local taxation and has been accepted for publication in *University of Chicago Law Review* and *Florida Tax Review*. Holderness received his J.D. and L.L.M. degrees from New York University School of Law and his bachelor’s from the University of North Carolina. He has worked as a tax policy fellow for the United States Congress’ Joint Committee on Taxation and as an attorney at McDermott Will & Emery.

Schaffa comes from the University of Michigan, where he recently completed his doctorate in economics. Schaffa will teach corporate law and tax law. His research focuses on optimal taxation, with works in progress on tax evasion and tax complexity. Schaffa earned his bachelor’s in economics; master's degrees in mathematics, economics, and accounting; and a J.D., all from the University of Michigan.

You might say that Ashley Dobbs walked the walk before she talked the talk. When Dobbs joined the law school faculty in 2015 as director of the Intellectual Property and Transactional Law Clinic, she came with a background in intellectual property commercialization and trademark work, as well as extensive experience in business and startup enterprises. Looking back, “It’s as if I planned a career to be able to talk to [the students] about all the options that are out here,” Dobbs said.

Before law school, Dobbs worked in corporate communications, started her own business consulting firm, worked at an advertising promotions agency, and started and sold a pet services business. Her interactions with the legal system piqued her interest in the law.

She decided on Richmond Law to launch her legal career and found her first post-graduate job at Hogan & Hartson (now Hogan Lovells). “They thought I was a perfect fit for the IP commercialization group,” Dobbs said. Dobbs thrived doing trademark work with major firms, software licensing for big media, litigation, and more. She also put her passion for animal welfare to good use through the firm’s generous pro bono policy (including the time she worked with Jane Goodall on her trademarks).

After Hogan & Hartson, Dobbs tried her hand at opening her own practice before joining and building up an intellectual property practice to become a shareholder at Bean, Kinney & Korman in northern Virginia. Dobbs describes her career trajectory as a Goldilocks-type experience: “I went to the big firm, and it was too big,” said Dobbs. “I started my own firm, and it was too small. And then I went to the mid-size firm, and it was just right.”

Now, 15 years after she started at Richmond Law, Dobbs has found a new “just right” balance at her alma mater.

“One of the frustrating things about practice … is that I never really got to teach people,” Dobbs said.

She also found an outlet for her other passion: Dobbs is a faculty adviser for the Animal Law Society.

—Emily Cherry
Police ride-alongs bring perspective

When law students review police decisions, they typically have the benefit of hindsight. But Lauren Ritter, L’17, wants students to understand the critical, in-the-moment decisions officers make.

Through Spider Riders, law students get the opportunity to ride along with the officers from the University of Richmond and City of Richmond police departments while out on patrol. The program was launched about 10 years ago by Corinna Lain as a byproduct of her Criminal Procedures course. This year, Ritter worked with Chris Daniels, L’17, and the Criminal Law Society to engage more law students in the program.

“If I can understand how an officer investigated and charged the offense,” said Ritter, who plans to pursue a career in criminal law, “I believe I’ll be better suited to prosecute or defend the case in the next stage.”

Ritter joined an officer in the Richmond Police Department’s 4th Precinct for a midnight shift. “I was able to talk to [him] about the hardest parts of his job, his favorite moments as a police officer, and his understanding of the case law that I was learning in my criminal law and procedure classes,” she said.

A typical ride-along on campus with the URPD begins with a tour of its facilities, which include a small evidence lab and dispatch desk. While patrolling, officers lend support to other officers making traffic stops or investigating reports of disorderly conduct.

Though students on a ride-along may not experience a patrol akin to an episode of Law & Order, they do get a chance to see, in real time, the split-second decisions officers have to make.

“It’s a stark contrast to the way we evaluate those decisions in class,” said Daniel.

In-house experience

Three Richmond Law students who found summer positions in the Association of Corporate Counsel National Capital Region Corporate Scholars Program have one thing in common: They’re looking for variety. Take Camila Conte, L’18, who’s pursuing her two-year J.D. and has “a limited amount of time to get experience,” she said. She secured an in-house position at Markel that exposes her to fields ranging from contracts to tax law.

The program matches students with in-house counsel positions — and a generous stipend. It’s also competitive and diversity-based; only 10 or fewer candidates are selected each year.

For Shannon Kapadia, L’18, the “ability to become fully immersed in a company’s business and legal issues” attracted her to explore the role of corporate counsel, landing her a placement at New Market Corporation, she said. Sarah Tandy, L’19, thought the program would fit her interest in employment law and was matched with Apex Systems. Tandy identified one of the program’s biggest draws: the ability “to have the corporation be your client and to understand and get to know all the aspects of one client.”
Community at the heart of women’s law group

Women can face a range of challenges in the legal profession. One group of students is working to change that through workshops, mentor partnerships, and community engagement.

“Richmond Women’s Law focuses on an area of the law that is often ignored,” said Kate Miceli, L’18, president. “We focus on pay discrimination, sexism in the workplace, sexual assault, and domestic violence. Those are all legal and social issues that affect the majority of law students.”

RWL’s programming is as varied as the issues they work to combat. Last year, they organized a self-defense class and commemorated Equal Pay Day with calls to local legislators. Students developed professional skills in a salary negotiation workshop and a discussion with female judges about their paths to the bench. And Noorain Khan of the Ford Foundation spoke about understanding implicit bias and its effect on the workplace.

The group also has a long-standing partnership with Metro Richmond Women’s Bar Association that matches students with local attorneys for mentoring and networking.

One annual event in April brought the two groups to the Supreme Court. There, they met Justice Clarence Thomas for a tour of the court and sat in as Justice Neil Gorsuch’s heard his first oral arguments.

“Justice Thomas took them to private chambers where tour groups aren’t allowed and talked with the students for about two hours,” Miceli said. “Everyone agreed it was one of the most memorable experiences they’ve had in law school.”

New clinic trains future prosecutors

“Prosecutors care deeply about serving justice,” said law professor John Douglass. “The best way to transmit that sense of commitment to the next generation of prosecutors is to get students in the same room with experienced prosecutors and consider difficult issues arising in real cases.”

The Prosecution Project gives students that chance. The semester-long policy clinic is a partnership between Richmond Law and the Justice and Professionalism Committee of the Virginia Association of Commonwealth’s Attorneys. The collaboration is among the first of its kind in the nation.

In the clinic, law students were introduced to the professional roles of prosecutors, their ethical responsibilities, and the challenges they face in today’s criminal justice arena. In addition, students conducted research and analysis on topics of importance to prosecutors and the public, which they presented to an audience of about 300 Virginia prosecutors at the VACA Spring Institute in April.

“The presentations all dealt with prosecutors’ constitutional and ethical duties to disclose information favorable to defendants,” said Douglass, who teaches the course. “We explored that obligation in connection with guilty pleas and sentencings, and also looked at contemporary disclosure issues arising from police use of body cameras and social media.”

This was the second year the Prosecution Project was offered. Douglass said it was rewarding to see former students at the VACA Institute — this time as assistant commonwealth’s attorneys.
The news that a pair of Spiders at one boutique law firm — MercerTrigiani in Alexandria, Virginia — are also the current heads of two of Virginia’s most important professional associations raises an obvious question: Why? David Mercer, L’73, and Pia Trigiani, L’83, are presidents of the Virginia Bar Association and the Virginia Law Foundation, respectively. It’s believed to be the first time that principals of a firm who are also alumni of the same law school have led two of Virginia’s prominent legal organizations, according to Patricia Hassard, who manages the firm’s communications.

One answer to the why question is the one you’d expect. They want to serve their profession. “You don’t just take; you give, too,” said Trigiani. “This is a way to give back to our profession.”

Under Mercer’s leadership, for example, the VBA will open a new headquarters in Richmond this fall within easy walking distance of state and federal courthouses, the legislature, and state agency offices. At least half of its 7,300 square feet will be devoted to a member business center with space for attorneys to work and socialize.

But the why question’s other answer is less obvious: The time they take away from their firm improves the time they spend at it. Leading these external organizations is often an exercise in collective problem-solving and consensus-building. “It’s teamwork,” Mercer said.

“We take what we see and try to duplicate that for our team back in the office.” “It’s a lot of work,” added Trigiani. “It’s an investment, but the rewards are phenomenal.”

Leaders in legal innovation

Still, sometimes the two worlds overlap, like the day Nance got a call that six ABC officers were on their way to the distillery. Their 500-gallon copper still had just been delivered. “We were under the impression that we could have the still; we just couldn’t have it running,” Nance said. “Evidently, that was not correct.”

Nance and his partners worked to submit the necessary legal paperwork that afternoon. Felony charges were averted. With that hurdle cleared, Nance is back to managing the distillery’s brand, finding distributors — and sipping on bourbon while looking out on the central Virginia mountains.


Pia Trigiani, L’83, and David Mercer, L’73, were recently named presidents of the Virginia Law Foundation and the Virginia Bar Association, respectively.
We want to hear from you. Send us your note via the “Submit a Class Note” link at lawmagazine.richmond.edu; email us at lawalumni@richmond.edu; or contact us by mail at Law Alumni, University of Richmond School of Law, University of Richmond, VA 23173, or at 804-289-8028.

1960s

Ebb H. Williams III, R’61 and L’64, was elected and inducted as a lifetime charter member of Top American Lawyers. Fewer than 1 percent of attorneys achieve this invitation.

Andy Nea, L’66, received the Community Pro Bono Advocate Award from CancerLINC. Andy is the pro bono partner at Williams Mullen.

The Hon. Archie Yeatts, L'67, serves as a recalled judge after serving as a general district court judge for 18 years. He and his wife, Elaine, have two daughters (one of whom works in the Richmond Law career development office) and five grandchildren.

1970s

Robert F. Rider, L’71, was named the leading criminal defense attorney in Roanoke, Virginia. His practice focuses on criminal defense, including traffic violations, DUI, and tax debt settlement.

David S. Mercer, L’73, and Lucia Anna “Pia” Trigiani, L’83, are listed as Best Lawyers in Real Estate in the 2017 listing of The Best Lawyers in America, the 12th consecutive year that both attorneys received this professional recognition. Their firm, MercerTrigiani, is also a Tier I Best Law Firm in real estate for metropolitan Washington, D.C., in the 2017 listing of Best Law Firms.

Pamela Heflin Sellers, W’75 and L’77, was promoted to special assistant attorney general at the University of Virginia, where she is also associate general counsel. Her husband, David Sellers, R’74 and G’77, teaches English in the Commonwealth Governor’s School. The Sellerses celebrated the first birthday of granddaughter Evelyn.

The Hon. Joel P. Crowe, L’76, was elected to the circuit bench in Portsmouth, Virginia. He previously served in the Portsmouth Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

The Hon. W. Chap Goodwin, L’78, was elected to serve as a circuit court judge for the counties of Augusta and Alleghany in Virginia. He previously served as a general district court judge.

1980s

Steve Baril, L’80, will manage the new government relations consulting arm of Kaplan Voelker Cunningham & Frank. He is a shareholder of the law firm.

Robert Chambliss “Cham” Light Jr., L’80, retired from Nationwide Insurance after more than 30 years. He continues to do legal consulting and serves as an expert witness. Cham is chair of the Library of Virginia, vice chair of the Lynchburg Planning Commission, and vice chair of the Jones Memorial Library.

Michael HuYoung, L’82, was recently elected to the board of directors of the Virginia Law Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Virginia’s practicing bar. He recently completed his tenures on the board of governors of the Diversity Conference of the Virginia State Bar and on the board of governors of the Virginia Bar Association. Michael is an attorney at Barnes & Diehl in Richmond.
Lucia Anna “Pia” Trigiani, L’83, and David S. Mercer, L’73, are listed as Best Lawyers in Real Estate in the 2017 listing of The Best Lawyers in America, the 12th consecutive year that both attorneys have received this professional recognition. Their firm, MercerTrigiani, is also a Tier I Best Law Firm in real estate for metropolitan Washington, D.C., in the 2017 listing of Best Law Firms.

The Hon. Claire Cardwell, L’84, was named a judge in the Richmond General District Court in Virginia’s 13th Judicial District.


Kurt Winstead, L’88, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the Tennessee Army National Guard. He has been a practicing attorney for more than 28 years and is a founding member of Rudy Winstead Turner in Nashville. He is also an adjunct instructor at Belmont University.

Mike Caudill, L’89, was elected commonwealth’s attorney for Goochland County, Virginia.

Stewart Leeth, R’85 and L’89, joined the board of visitors of North Carolina A&T State University. He will assist the board and chancellor as the university works to achieve its mission and strategic priorities. Stewart is vice president of regulatory affairs and chief sustainability officer for Smithfield Foods Inc.

1990s

C. Coleman Edmunds, L’90, was named executive vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary at AutoNation in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He previously was acting general counsel.

The Hon. Christopher Papile, L’91, was elected to the Newport News Circuit Court. He previously was a general district judge.

Judi Chartier, L’92, was promoted to general counsel of the National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians, a sector of the Communications Workers of America.

M. Duncan Minton, L’92, was elected to the Chesterfield County (Virginia.) Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Duncan formerly was a Chesterfield County prosecutor.

Linwood “Lenny” Rogers, L’92, was promoted to deputy chief counsel of Defense Logistics Agency Aviation. Lenny married Fred Wickham in 2016.

Zenji Nakazawa, L’93, was appointed acting public safety and consumer protection adviser for the Federal Communications Commission.

Robert L. Wise, L’97, was named managing partner of the Richmond office of Bowman and Brooke.

Matthew Crow, L’98, was recognized as a 2017 North Carolina State Bar board-certified specialist in consumer bankruptcy law.

2000s

Christopher DiFusco, L’02, was named chief investment officer of the city of Philadelphia municipal retirement system.

Sarah Lane, L’02, concluded 11 years in the Army National Guard. She is general counsel for the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs.

Rebecca Royals, L’04, received the Krista Latshaw Pro Bono Award from CancerLINC. She is a founding member of Butler Royals in Richmond.

Amandeep Sidhu, L’05, was part of a team at McDermott Will & Emery selected for the National Law Journal’s 2017 Pro Bono Hot List for its work supporting the Sikh Coalition.

John T. Farnum, GB’06 and L’06, was promoted to partner in the commercial litigation and bankruptcy practice group of Linowes and Blocher in Bethesda, Maryland. John focuses on bankruptcy, creditors’ rights, business disputes, and real estate. Before joining the firm, he was clerk to the Hon. Ross W. Krumm, U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Virginia. John lives in Arlington, Virginia, with his wife and two children.

Antoinette Morgan Walker, L’06, relocated to Philadelphia to serve as in-house counsel for Subaru of America. She focuses on intellectual property and data privacy matters.

Michael Goldman, L’07, was promoted to partner at Hunton & Williams. He focuses on corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions.
Seth M. Land, L’07, was elected partner at PennStuart in Abingdon, Virginia.

Joanna Suyes, L’07, married Jimmy R. Ogle Jr. in April at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond.

K. Matthew Long, L’09, was named a 2017 Super Lawyers Rising Star in personal injury. He practices at Bowen Ten Cardani in Richmond.

2010s

Faith Alejandro, L’10, was named a 2017 Super Lawyers Rising Star in the area of business litigation. She was also profiled by Virginia Business for her recognition as a member of the 2016 Virginia Legal Elite. She practices at Sands Anderson in Richmond.

Robert D. Michaux, L’10, joined the law firm of Thorsen Hart & Allen in Richmond, where he practices with James B. Thorsen, L’78, Mary Kathryn Hart, L’94, Robert J. Allen, L’03, and Jesse A. Roche, L’11. Robert focuses on complex civil litigation and intellectual property matters.

Jenna Ellis, L’11, wrote The Legal Basis for a Moral Constitution, a book exploring the roots of America’s founding document and her belief that it has been in crisis since the 1950s.

Joel Hermsdorfer, L’12, recently celebrated the acquittal of a defendant in a murder and kidnapping trial in Monterey County, California. His client was released after nearly five years in custody.

In November 2013, Johnny Bennett was in dire straits. He was facing the death penalty, but his state court lawyer had stopped practicing law. He needed a new lawyer.

So he went to Lindsey Vann, L’12.

Vann is a staff attorney for Justice 360, a non-profit resource center for attorneys representing people who are facing the death penalty. She didn’t hesitate to take Bennett’s case.

“I technically did have a choice of whether to take the case or not,” Vann said, “but it often does not really feel like a choice when someone’s life is on the line.”

Vann was taken aback by the racial biases she saw in Bennett’s case.

“He was sentenced to death in the ’90s, and his death sentence was overturned,” Vann said. “But then he was re-sentenced in 2000. It was an all-white jury, and the solicitor used racially coded language. He called my client ‘King Kong,’ and he referenced that my client had an interracial relationship, for example. In post-sentencing hearings, one of the jurors said he thought Johnny committed the crime because he was just a ‘dumb n-word.’”

After re-sentencing, Bennett moved for a new trial, but the court denied his request. In 2008, he sought post-conviction relief and was again denied. Throughout the process, the courts attempted to dismiss the racially coded language.

“[They said] ‘King Kong’ could mean he’s a big guy,” Vann said, explaining the courts’ reasoning. “[And they said] ‘The juror, yeah, that might show he’s racist, but it doesn’t prove he was racist during the sentencing.’”

Vann was appointed to present a subsequent appeal to the federal district court in South Carolina. For only the second time in the modern era, the Fourth Circuit affirmed habeas relief in a South Carolina capital punishment case. They ruled the state court decisions were unreasonable in light of the racially coded language used.

But Vann knows, in spite of her successful case, that there is more work to be done combating injustices. Racial comments, she says, undermine Americans’ trust in the criminal justice system.

“We’ve done research on implicit bias,” Vann said. “We think that decision-makers in the justice system everywhere are making decisions based on racial bias that they might not even recognize. And the story we laid out in Johnny’s case demonstrates that we’re not making this up.”

—Damian Hondares, ’17
Holly K. Pratt, L’12, joined the law firm Kane Jeffries in Richmond and focuses her practice on business, real estate, and estate planning.


J. Walton Milam III, L’15, joined the Richmond office of Woods Rogers, where he focuses on helping businesses resolve commercial disputes efficiently. Walton previously clerked for the Hon. Michael F. Urbanski in the Western District of Virginia.

Charles Calton, L’16, joined the Roanoke, Virginia office of Gentry Locke as a trial lawyer, representing clients in medical malpractice, wrongful death, and personal injury cases.

In Memoriam

Jesse R. Overstreet Jr., L’52, of Clarksville, Virginia
June 7, 2014

Ralph M. “Rim” Dillow Jr., L’58, of Bristol, Tennessee
Oct. 15, 2016

The Hon. Joseph Spruill Jr., R’55 and L’58, of Tappahannock, Virginia
March 17, 2017

Robert M. “Bucky” Yacobi, L’59, of Williamsburg, Virginia
Jan. 17, 2017

John A. Fox, B’64 and L’67, of Richmond
Dec. 23, 2016

Kermit Marshall Cook, R’71 and L’74, of Manakin-Sabot, Virginia
April 14, 2017

Edward M. Eakin Jr., L’75, of Richmond
Oct. 5, 2016

Dennis Belcher, L’76, of Richmond
April 27, 2017

John E. Ely, L’78, of Midlothian, Virginia
Nov. 16, 2016

Donald T. Floyd, L’92, of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Jan. 1, 2017

Esther J. Windmueller, L’92, of Richmond, March 16, 2017
Esther was an adjunct professor at Richmond Law.

Ruby Joyner Chappell, R’86 and L’87, of Richmond
March 19, 2017

In his first job after law school, Michael Abejuela, L’03, sometimes had to identify the people or business entities lurking behind websites. For this, he turned to WHOIS, a service offered by the American Registry for Internet Numbers. ARIN is a nonprofit that provides internet service providers and end users with the internet number resources they need to gain access to the internet; only five regional internet registries exist worldwide.

Years later, Abejuela is now associate general counsel for ARIN. “This is the best job I’ve ever had,” he says. “It’s a balance between doing cutting-edge, thought-provoking work without killing myself. I have a well-rounded life with time for other pursuits.”

The job is a comfortable blend of tasks, Abejuela says. For nearly two years, as he handled general in-house issues relating to contracts and human resources, he also worked on an international oversight issue involving the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, or ICANN, and its stewardship of the internet domain name system technical functions, known as the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority. Until recently, IANA functions were managed by the U.S. Commerce Department’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration, or NTIA. As these functions transitioned to the private sector, ICANN worked with global stakeholders to submit a proposal for a new governance model that met strict criteria set forth by the NTIA.

“The internet community had to come up with a clear proposal as to how, post-transition, the oversight of the IANA functions can be managed and operate well,” he says.

While the project took him to far-flung locales — Singapore, Mauritius, Buenos Aires, Helsinki — he said his contributions weren’t as technical as some might expect. “The big thing is picking up the legal issues: strategy, issue-spotting, troubleshooting,” he says. “There was a lot of successful collaboration with people from all over the world.”

In January, Abejuela participated in a panel discussion hosted by the career development office exploring the role of in-house counsel. “Initially, the idea of public speaking freaked me out,” he says. “I was never a speaker or a social person.”

He says he was happy to return because he credits Richmond Law for helping him become a more rounded person both personally and professionally. Becoming involved in the client counseling and negotiating competition and the law fraternity Phi Alpha Delta made a huge impact.

“Any school is going to teach you about constitutional law, but to me it was all the other stuff I got from UR,” he says.

—Paula Peters Chambers
Thank you for making an impact.

Did you know that tuition only covers 65 percent of the actual cost for a student to attend law school? Past and current gifts make up the difference — which means that every gift has a direct impact on our students.

Want to see what we mean? Here are just five examples of how five gifts can help shape the opportunities for a Richmond Law student.

- **$100** provides one library book that can be accessed by hundreds of students.
- **$300** funds a campus visit for a prospective student to experience Richmond Law.
- **$1,000** allows one student to travel to a moot court competition.
- **$3,500** funds one Summer Public Service Fellowship for a student internship.
- **$8,000** gives one recent grad a Bridge to Practice Fellowship to help launch her career.

Learn more about recurring gifts, matching opportunities, and bequests. Call 804-289-8029 or give online at uronline.net/GivetoURLaw.
Looking for more stories that make you proud to be a Richmond Law alum? Check out Spider Pride, the encyclopedia of bragging rights for Spiders everywhere.