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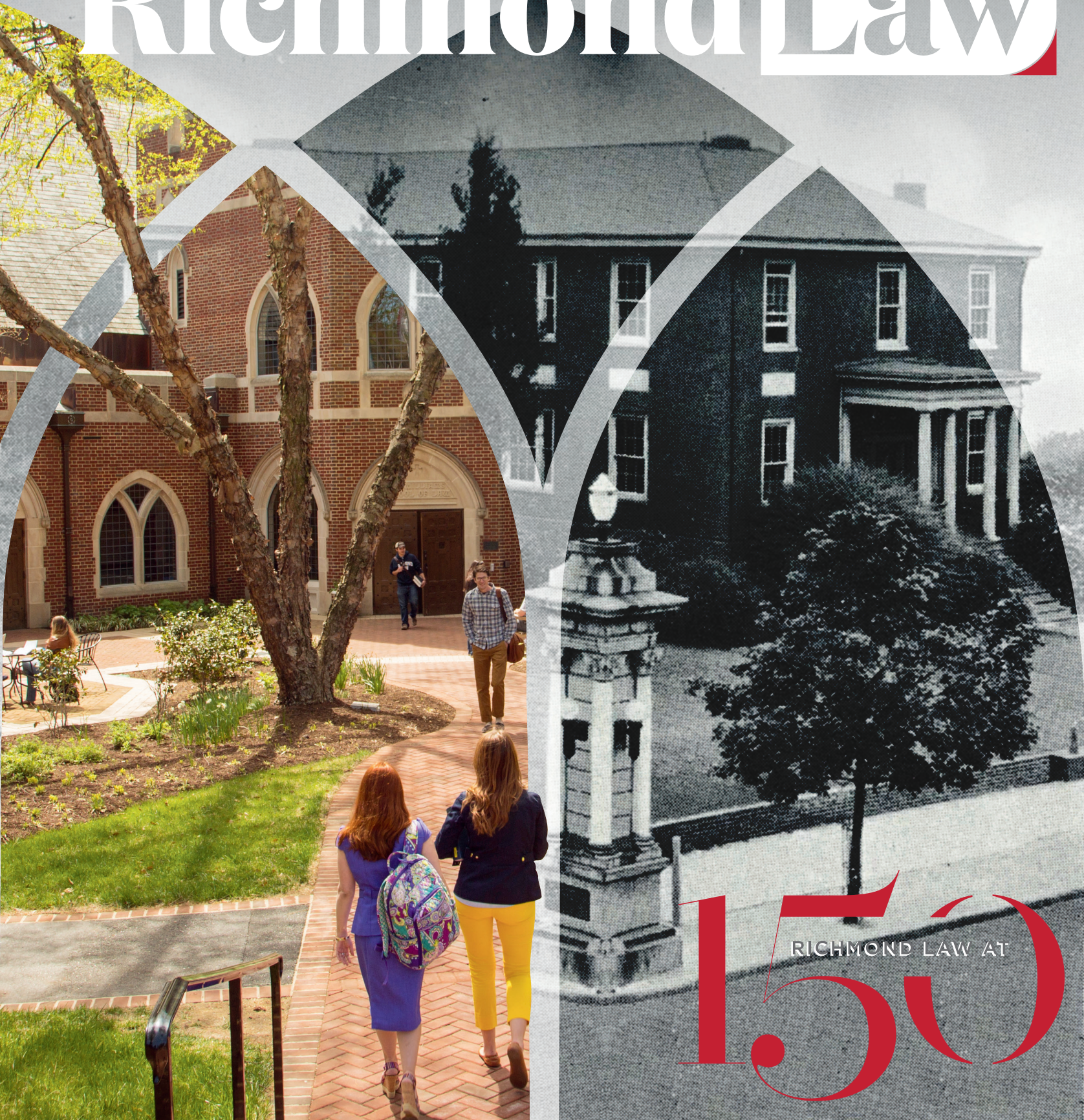
THE UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2020

IN THIS ISSUE: *Building a tech-savvy lawyer* • *Merhige's 1972 desegregation ruling* • *Alumni remember their professors*

Richmond Law



150
RICHMOND LAW AT

150 YEARS OF LEGAL EDUCATION

This year — and in this issue — Richmond Law celebrates its 150th anniversary by looking back at its history and looking forward to its future.



Photograph by Tony Sylvestro



DEAN'S LETTER

INSPIRED TO SERVE



Dear friends,

The past months have been marked by uncertainty and anxiety in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, the appalling killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and others have shocked our collective conscience. Combined, these events have created a turbulent background in which to celebrate our 150th anniversary.

Yet now, more than ever, is a vital time to honor an institution that works to advance the cause of justice. After all, justice is at the heart of all we do as a law school. And together, we've accomplished something pretty remarkable. We've built a community of lawyers who are fierce advocates for their clients; who give back to their communities; and who think critically and act ethically to serve our profession. The world needs great lawyers — and Richmond Law lawyers have risen to meet that need for the past 150 years.

The next 150 years will no doubt demand even more of our graduates, and we continue to innovate while maintaining our core excellence. We'll launch two new signature programs this year in legal entrepreneurship and professional identity formation to provide our students with an even broader foundation of skills to tackle modern legal challenges. The two new professors leading these programs will join a faculty team that responded beautifully to the sudden challenge last semester of transitioning to an online learning environment. They supported our students and provided an exceptional legal education during trying times.

It's people like these committed faculty members — and our loyal alumni, our hard-working staff and, of course, our exceptional students — who have made the Richmond Law community the special place it has been for the past century and a half.

In an end-of-year letter to our students this spring, I noted that the months ahead will continue to require great resilience and good will. We'll need to be able to adapt quickly to changing situations, to offer creative solutions to new challenges, and to show grace and fortitude as we support one another. And we'll need to work toward justice in our society and in our institutions. Luckily, I know that Richmond Law is more than prepared to meet the challenges ahead. Thank you for being a part of this community.

Here's to the next 150,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy C. Perdue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wendy C. Perdue
Dean and Professor of Law

Richmond Law

DEAN

Wendy C. Perdue

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COVER

The photo illustration, by
Katie McBride, combines
images of the entrance to
the law school's current
home with a historic image
of the Columbia building
in Richmond's Fan District,
the law school's location
from 1917 to 1954.



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For the Record



150 years of excellence

With the start of classes in August, Richmond Law will hit a milestone anniversary celebrated throughout this issue: its sesquicentennial. For 150 years, the University of Richmond School of Law has offered legal education in Virginia's capital city, preparing generations of practitioners, public servants, judges, politicians, and advocates advancing the causes of justice, fairness, and equality before the law.

A lot has changed in the law school since Richmond College, as the university was then called, launched its law program in 1870 as part of a broader rebirth of the institution after the Civil War. The initial class of 30 students mirrored the college as a whole — all male and white — and they worked toward undergraduate degrees. The new school skittered along on shaky footing until a gift from the estate of T.C. Williams solidified the school's finances in 1890.

As notions of enfranchisement expanded in the U.S. during the 20th century, so did they expand within the law school, sometimes quickly and other times haltingly. The first woman, Jane Brown Ranson, graduated in 1923. The first tenured African American faculty member, Okianer Christian Dark, took her position in 1984. When Wendy Perdue came to campus in 2011, she became the first female dean ever to take the helm of a law school in Virginia. The student body has continued to become more diverse, as the statistics show on Page 6, and the law school today identifies diversity and inclusion a strategic priority.

The school's living graduates now number more than

7,000. The highest-profile alumni include Virginia's current attorney general; the U. S. representative of Virginia's 6th Congressional District; two justices on Virginia's Supreme Court; and one of the senior executives of GV, Google's venture capital arm. Graduates populate benches around the state and beyond; indeed, it's said that more of Virginia's judges hold degrees from Richmond Law than from any other law school. Richmond Law graduates serve the profession and their clients and communities in extraordinary fashion everyday — at criminal hearings and corporate negotiations, from within a company or nonprofit, or as an independent practitioner.

Richmond Law's advantages have been there from the beginning — notably, local access to every level of court except for the Supreme Court, a short 90 miles away, and the emphasis on excellence, the very focus of the ceremonial address opening the school in October 1870.

Today, Richmond Law places a significant focus on professional skills development, particularly writing, and on the expansion of justice, particularly for marginalized groups. Robust clinics focus on the needs of children, families, the wrongly convicted, and others. It is all aimed at developing what Richmond Law has become best known for: developing lawyers who are experts in their fields, distinctly collegial in their interactions, and committed to justice and service.



**SHARE YOUR
SPIDER LAW
PRIDE**

Under the "Swag" tab on law150.richmond.edu, you'll find Richmond Law-themed wallpapers, Zoom backgrounds, and other free images and gifs perfect for your social media profile, phone, and desktop.

COMMUNITY

Elder law and COVID-19

This year's pandemic added urgency to the work of students focused on elder law. Through professor Leigh Melton's elder law practicum, students provide medical and social services to low-income and disabled residents of Dominion Place independent living facility in Richmond as part of the Medical-Legal Partnership with VCU Health.

When the clinic's work started in 2018, fewer than 5% of residents had advance medical directives and power of attorney, Melton estimated. The team now completes around 20 such documents each semester.

Typically, Melton and her students meet weekly with residents on-site, but when the coronavirus hit, Dominion Place closed its doors to guests. Many residents lacked high-speed internet access, making digital meetings difficult.

"We had to figure out how to pivot," Melton said. She and her students turned to the phones, enlisting the help of a social worker who slipped

notes under residents' doors urging them to contact the practicum team for legal needs. Students responded to new inquiries and made wellness calls to check on past clients.

"I think students have worked harder since" the switch, Melton said.

Residents' concerns included updating advance medical directives in response to the coronavirus and other circumstances, like a resident who recently found out that lung cancer was spreading in her body.

"She was hellbent on getting things done very quickly, and we wanted to accommodate her," Melton said. Within 24 hours, the team had spoken with her family and prepared a will, power of attorney, and advance medical directive documents.

The application of legal expertise during the COVID-19 crisis is a valuable service, Melton explained. It allows Richmond Law students to "improve the circumstances of an at-risk population and improve their quality of life."

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

Classes in the Zoom age

When the university announced a transition to online classes as a result of the pandemic, faculty had one week to prepare: one week to learn how to use online meeting software, adapt their syllabi to a digital format, and explore best practices in remote teaching. Students, meanwhile, found themselves unable to return to campus following spring break as they prepared for a new way of learning.

In the weeks that followed, students and faculty adjusted to the "new normal" of classes conducted via Zoom meeting software.

"The entire Richmond Law community has responded with such determination, empathy, and grace," said Dean Wendy Perdue. "I'm so



proud of how faculty and students alike have adapted to make this new learning environment a successful one, even in such challenging circumstances."

HISTORY OF RICHMOND LAW

MILESTONES



1870

The School of Law is founded as part of Richmond College, with an inaugural class of 30 students. Professor James Neeson, seated in the center of the front row with the Class of 1873, is one of Richmond Law's first faculty members.



1890

After a period of hardship, classes at the law school continue as a result of a \$25,000 donation from the family of Thomas C. Williams Sr., which established the T.C. Williams Professorship of Law. Pictured: The Class of 1890.



1893

The law library is established in Jeter Hall with a donation of 700 books from Harriet Purcell. Pictured here is the law library reading room in 1928.

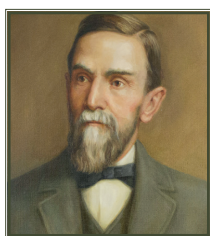


HISTORY OF RICHMOND LAW



1917

The law school relocates to Columbia Hall on the corner of Grace and Lombardy streets in the Fan District of Richmond.



1920

The law school is named in honor of Thomas C. Williams Sr.



1923

Jane Brown Ranson is the first female graduate.



1954

The law school joins the university on the Westhampton Campus.



THEN & NOW

Long-term change

When the law school opened in 1870, three faculty taught 30 students. Today, 58 faculty members and 36 adjunct professors, with the support of 39 staff members, educate 392 students.

While students of color weren't represented early on, they made up 23% of the most recent incoming class, the most racially diverse class in the law school's history. When the first woman graduated in 1923, she and a fellow female student accounted for 4% of the student body. Women constitute more than half of the student population today.

What law students study has also undergone significant evolution.

"The 1920 curriculum was almost entirely focused on private law," said Jack Preis, associate dean of academics. "Today's required courses in constitutional law, administrative law, and legislation reflect the fact that since the New Deal in the 1930s, government plays a much larger role in daily life than it did at the turn of the 20th century."

"Law schools came to see lawyers not just as private professionals like dentists and accountants, but as a type of statesman."

ORIGIN STORIES

'Here's my experience'

When Nadine Marsh-Carter, L'95, remembers her law school days, her thoughts turn to the relationships she built with classmates and faculty. For her, some of that grew out of being active in the Black Law Students Association at a time when Richmond Law had only a handful of students of color.

"We really enjoyed the social supports that provided the connections in terms of experiences and backgrounds and just the cultural commonalities that we all shared, although our backgrounds were very different," she said.

Marsh-Carter is one of a growing number of alumni taking part in Richmond Law's Oral Archive Project, which the school launched as part of its 150th anniversary celebration. Through the project, alumni throughout the decades are sharing their stories of how the law school shaped them and, in turn, how they shaped the Richmond Law community.

Recordings from the project then become part of the collections of Muse Law Library. Learn more at law150.richmond.edu/alumni/share-your-story.html.



Photograph by Gordon Schmidt

Photograph by Keystone-France/Gamma-Rapho via Getty Images



Postwar justice

IN BRIEF Approximately 75 years ago, David Nelson Sutton, a 1915 graduate of the university's law program, wrote the editor of UR's *Alumni Bulletin* to describe his ongoing work as a prosecutor during the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, the Pacific theater's counterpart to the Nuremberg Trials. The following is an excerpt from that 1946 letter:

We are now in the midst of the trial of 27 top-ranking Japanese. The indictment returned after some months of investigation and intensive study charges them with planning, initiating, and waging wars of aggression and wars in violation of treaties, agreements, assurances, and of international law. It charges the defendants with crimes against peace, conventional war crimes, and crimes against humanity. ...

In addition to working with other counsel on several different phases of the war against China, I am solely responsible for the section dealing with "Atrocities against Civilians and Others by Japanese Troops in China." I have already put on the stand some of the witnesses who have described the conduct of Japanese soldiers in Nanking following the fall of that city on December 13, 1937, commonly called "The Rape of Nanking." Other witnesses ... as well as evidence of alleged atrocities in all parts of occupied China covering the period from 1937 to 1945 will be introduced next week. One witness has also testified to the shooting of prisoners of war by Japanese at Hankow in October 1938.

The proceedings are necessarily slow. Seventy copies

of each document offered in evidence must be made and copies served on the defense counsel 24 hours before it is offered. When a witness testifies in the Chinese language, the question is asked in English, repeated in Japanese and then in Chinese. The answer is in Chinese, and then is repeated in English and then in Japanese.

There is enough hard work to keep you out of mischief, but it is intensely interesting.

We are trying to get the facts straight and are more interested in what historians a century hence will say of the trial than what the American people and some of the citizens of the other countries taking part in the trial may say of it at this time. We hope to establish as a precedent the principle that a person or group of persons who lead a nation into a war of aggression or a war in violation of treaties and assurances is an ordinary criminal and may be dealt with as such. We also cherish the hope that this cooperative effort on the part of many nations seeking to administer equal justice under law may prove one step forward in the closer cooperation of all nations in the maintenance of world peace and order. It is the long view that keeps the daily task from being tedious and routine.

How long will the trial last? No one can say, but it will very likely be in progress the remainder of this year.

I was walking along a street in Shanghai, China, one afternoon the first part of June when a familiar voice called out, "Nelson Sutton, what are you doing here?" It was Jesse M. Johnson, '22, of Richmond, then an officer in the Army on duty in China. You find Spiders everywhere.



FURTHER READING

After Sutton's death, his family donated his personal papers to Richmond Law's Muse Library.

Among them are approximately 200 letters he exchanged during his time in Japan as he continued to manage his personal interests, community relationships, and law practice in West Point, Virginia. He frequently describes his work in Japan in these letters.



A very special anniversary

Q & A Dean Wendy Perdue reflects on Richmond Law's history, legal education, and the legal profession.

WHAT DO YOU THINK EXPLAINS THE SCHOOL'S LONGEVITY?

150 years is a long time, but it's also just the beginning. We've always had dedicated faculty and terrific students. We have always been a school that teaches students about the law and how to be great lawyers. That's reflected in the success of our graduates, including the number of our alums who are judges. We've long had a reputation as a school that's a great place to go if you want to learn how to be a terrific lawyer.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PROFESSION THEN AND NOW?

The biggest difference is that we are a more diverse profession — not nearly as diverse as we should be but dramatically more so than 150 years ago. In that era in Virginia, there were very few women and African

American lawyers. For example, the 1880 census lists a single African American woman lawyer, and she was a clear exception. Today, over half of U.S. law students and 40% of law deans are women, and about 30% of students and 20% of law deans are people of color. That's dramatically different than even when I was in law school. We're making progress, but there is still more work to be done.

WHAT REMAINS THE SAME?

The qualities that make terrific lawyers haven't changed: judgment and character and commitment to service; the ability to communicate effectively and problem-solve.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE MAJOR RECENT CHANGES IN LEGAL EDUCATION?

When I became dean in 2011, we were in the midst of the Great Recession. From 2009 to 2011, legal education was feeling the impact of that pretty dramatically. One of the effects was that law schools became even more focused on skills training and assur-

ing that their graduates were really ready to practice law when they graduated. That was something which we were already doing well, but we, like all law schools, focused even more attention on that area. We focused in particular on our legal writing program and hired five full-time legal writing faculty. As a result, every first-year student gets terrific hands-on training in writing, and this has become a signature strength for us.

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO UP-AND-COMING LAWYERS?

Stay curious and stay connected. Stay curious because there are always new laws, new fields, new issues, and also stay curious about the clients and everyone you're dealing with. You'll be a much better lawyer because you'll be responsive to what's really at stake. But also stay connected. Law is a people business, and all lawyers are better off if they are connecting with their fellow lawyers and their communities and everyone around them.

—Interview by Sunni Brown, GC'18



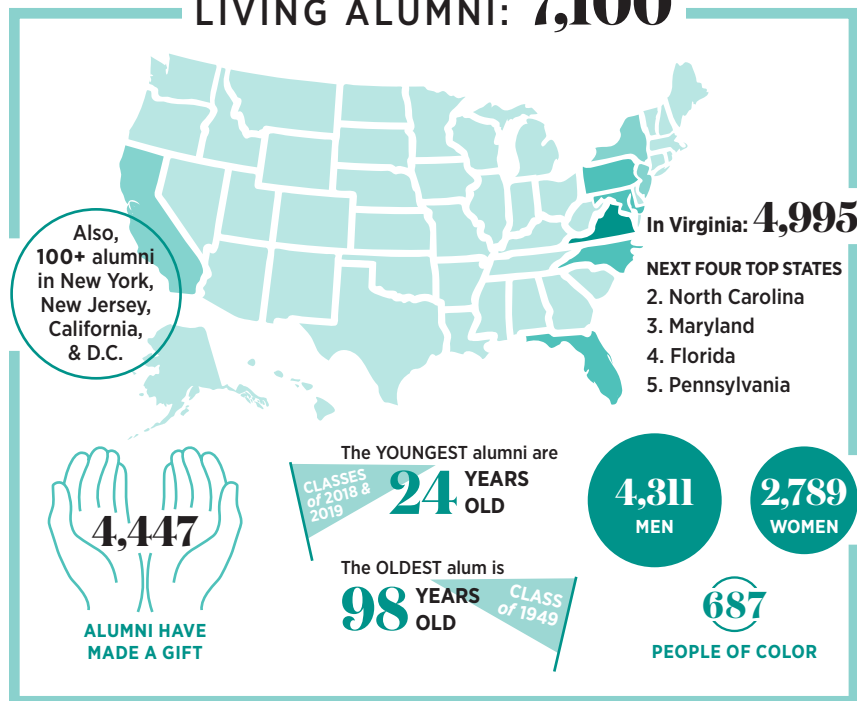
» THE DEAN'S C.V.

- B.A., Wellesley College; J.D., Duke Law School
- Former clerk of the Hon. Anthony M. Kennedy, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals
- Former professor and associate dean at Georgetown Law
- Former president of Association of American Law Schools

ALUMNI

Your fellow graduates

LIVING ALUMNI: **7,100**



ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

A degree within reach

Thanks to a foundational gift from Dean Wendy Perdue and her husband, David, a new scholarship fund will make a Richmond Law education affordable and accessible to deserving students in need. The Dean's Opportunity Scholarship Fund will support students on the basis of financial need, academic excellence, perseverance in the face of adversity, and potential for leadership in the profession.

"Our students graduate with an average debt approaching \$100,000," Perdue said. "That debt burden deters some students from the legal profession and makes it harder for students who want to devote themselves to public service to do so. The goal of this fund is to open the door to deserving students who have significant need — and significant potential to contribute to the profession."

All told, Richmond Law students demonstrate a total need of \$18 million per year. With support from the university and endowment funding built by generations of donors, the law school can meet \$8 million of that need — leaving a gap of \$10 million.

"We have to chip away at that unmet need if we want to make a difference in the lives of our students," said Courtney Curry, associate dean for development. "A gift of \$10,000 per year for three years can sponsor one Dean's Opportunity Scholar."

After Perdue's initial pledge of \$100,000, the fund has already grown to nearly \$750,000 with the support of alumni and others.

To help further build the fund, contact Curry at 804-289-8029 or [ccurry@richmond.edu](mailto:c Curry@richmond.edu).

HISTORY OF RICHMOND LAW



1979

The law library is named in honor of Dean William Taylor Muse.



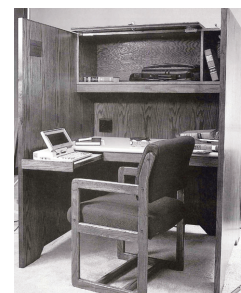
1984

Okianer Christian Dark is the first African American tenured faculty member.



1991

The building is renovated and expanded to its present-day size and configuration.

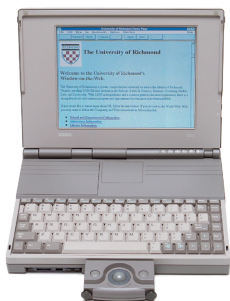


1992

Student carrels are installed in the law library, providing a dedicated study space for every student.



HISTORY OF RICHMOND LAW



1994

1L students at Richmond Law are the first in the nation to be required to use laptops.



1995

The *Journal of Law and Technology* launches as the first exclusively digital law journal in the country.



2011

Wendy Collins Perdue is named the first female dean of the law school.



2020

The Law School celebrates 150 years.

SPIDER FAMILY

Close to home

Richmond Law graduates have pursued careers in legal education throughout the school's history. For some alumni, the right place for that career path is at the place where their legal careers began to take shape.

Here's a quick look at alumni who are an integral part of Richmond Law's excellence today:

- **Aaron Campbell, L'09**, is director of public service careers.
- **Ashley Dobbs, L'05**, is director of the Intellectual Property and Transactional Law Clinic.
- **Margaret Ivey, L'79**, is director of the clinical placement program.
- **Joyce Janto, L'89**, is deputy director of the Muse Law Library.

- **Rosanne Ibanez, L'12**, is assistant director of admissions.
- **Elizabeth Jones, L'09**, is director of career development for alumni advising and employer outreach.
- **Julie McConnell, L'99**, is director of the Children's Defense Clinic.
- **Brandon Metheny, L'14**, is assistant director of admissions and enrollment analytics.
- **Doron Samuel-Siegel, L'01**, professor, teaches legal writing and analysis and restorative justice.
- **Margaret Ann Walker, L'89**, is a visiting assistant professor in the academic success program.

REPUTATION

A place of influence

One of the highest tributes for legal academic research is a citation by the Supreme Court of the United States. In the latest batch of Supreme Court opinions, justices cited three Richmond Law professors on four occasions.

In his May 2020 concurring opinion in *U.S. v. Sineneng-Smith* — a case about a provision of the Immigration Nationality Act of 1952 — Justice Clarence Thomas cited professor Jud Campbell's 2017 *Yale Law Journal* article "Natural Rights and the First Amendment," in which Campbell wrote that there is "no evidence [from the founding] indicat[ing] that the First Amendment empowered judges to determine whether particular restrictions of speech promoted the general welfare."

In the same opinion, Thomas also quoted an earlier opinion citing professor Kevin Walsh's 2010 *New York Law Journal* article "Partial Unconstitutionality." In July, Thomas cited Walsh's same article a second time in his opinion

on *Selia Law v. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau*, which found that the structure of the CFPB was unconstitutional due to its violation of the separation of powers.

Finally, Justice Samuel Alito cited professor Corinna Lain's 2015 *Stanford Law Review* article "God, Civic Virtue, and the American Way: Reconstructing Engel" in *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue*. Alito referred to Lain's scholarship — which explores the 1962 decision that put an end to public school prayer — in his concurring opinion in the case that found that state-based scholarship programs can't discriminate against secular schools.





New grad, legal longtimer

Looking back, Chris An, L'20, realizes he probably started practicing law sometime around fourth or fifth grade.

"It's a typical trope for children of immigrants to play the role of an attorney, even at a young age," An said. "I remember being 10 years old and trying to navigate this unfamiliar world for my parents — reading letters out loud to help them overcome language barriers and deciphering complex terms as we did their taxes."

"Lawyers are advocates for others. They serve as a bridge between 'regular citizens' and seemingly impenetrable legal institutions. If you grow up as an advocate, the natural progression is to become an attorney."

A child of Cambodian refugees, An excelled in high school, becoming the first person in his immediate family to earn a diploma, and went on to the University of Central Florida in Orlando, his hometown. During a gap year to help his parents start a small business, he first heard about Richmond Law at a law conference in Washington, D.C.

"Dean [Michelle] Rahman [former dean of admission] gave a presentation that really resonated with me," said An. "I approached her afterwards and asked if Richmond was a place where someone like me would feel comfortable — a bleeding heart who didn't necessarily have the

same background as everyone else. She said, 'absolutely.'"

An thrived at Richmond Law. He joked that he had "worked every desk in the law library," and described his three years as a "whirlwind of amazing experiences."

"One day I'm in Europe researching anti-corruption, and the next day I'm right back in the books," An said. He completed an internship at the U.S. Department of State, led the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association, served as an editor of *Richmond Public Interest Law Review*, and played saxophone in the UR Wind Ensemble. An now works at the U.S. Government Accountability Office, where he served as a summer associate.

When his 3L classmates chose him as the class's commencement speaker, An was perhaps the only person surprised. He will deliver his pandemic-postponed remarks at a ceremony celebrating the Class of 2020 that is now scheduled for May 1, 2021.


"First and foremost, my speech will be a thank-you note to my parents and two brothers," he said. "This is their graduation as much as it is mine. Then to my peers and professors, who gave me a chance, and a law school where we all belong. It will be a discussion in gratitude."

—Suzanne Hofmann



DEAR Prof

ALUMNI REMEMBER
THE FACULTY MENTORS
WHO MADE A LASTING
IMPACT ON THEM



By Emily Cherry
Photograph by Jamie Betts

THREE FACTORS, WHEN COMBINED, DOUBLE STUDENTS'

chances of being engaged in their careers, according to a 2015 pilot study by Access Lex and Gallup: having professors who care about you as a person, having professors who make you excited about learning, and having a mentor who encourages you to pursue your goals and dreams.

Effective, caring professors and mentors are at the heart of a strong legal education. And Richmond Law has no short supply of such educators. Known for their careful balance of academic rigor and individualized support, faculty lay the groundwork for the Richmond Law experience.

To celebrate the role that these professors have played in shaping generations of Richmond Law lawyers, we reached out to a handful of alumni and asked them one question: *What professor had the greatest impact on you?*

Rachel Lugay, L'19

The most important question that Rachel Lugay remembers answering in law school had nothing to do with case law: "Are you sleeping?"

Professor Doron Samuel-Siegel, L'01, always asked the question whenever they met.

"That was something I really needed in law school," Lugay said. Amidst the stresses and pressures of law school, Samuel-Siegel provided a safe haven.

"She was someone that I could just confide in about how difficult law school was. She always left her door open for me to come and connect with her."

Part of that connection centered on offering advice that was at once candid and supportive. "Any ideas I brought to her, she invested time in really reviewing them and giving thoughtful feedback," Lugay said.

For the first two years of law school, Samuel-Siegel was something of a personal mentor for Lugay. It wasn't until her third year that she experienced her mentor as a classroom professor, when she enrolled in Samuel-Siegel's restorative justice course. "In her role as the leader, she made it a space where people felt comfortable because we were going to be talking about difficult subjects," Lugay explained. "She made it a safe place for us to express our views."

Their connection has continued after law school. Samuel-Siegel served as adviser to Lugay during bar exam studies. And when Lugay passed the bar and secured her first job at Richardson Bloom & Lines in Atlanta, Samuel-Siegel was on her list of people to call. "It's nice to always have somebody checking in, especially with my legal career," Lugay said. "Somebody to be there and support you and genuinely invest their time into your growth."

Jackie Kraeutler, L'83

There's one professor who gets an invite to every Class of 1983 reunion — and he always shows. Jackie Kraeutler says that it's no surprise that Dan Murphy has stayed so connected with members of her class. It's a relationship with strong foundations.

Murphy joined the law school as an associate professor of law in 1976 and went on to become associate dean in 1981. It was in this role that Murphy made the biggest impact on Kraeutler and her class. When he wasn't in class or in his office, Murphy could be found out and about in the halls, interacting with students. "He knew every student," Kraeutler said. "Every student's strengths, weaknesses, concerns."

“

IN HER ROLE AS THE LEADER, *she made it a space where people felt comfortable because we were going to be talking about difficult subjects.* SHE MADE IT A SAFE PLACE FOR US TO EXPRESS OUR VIEWS.

”

—Rachel Lugay, L '19

That approachable nature earned him an affectionate nickname from the Class of '83: Dean Dan.

"He had a tremendous impact in that role, not just on me, but I would say on our class as a whole," said Kraeutler. "He was good at mentoring. He had a sense of humor. He would always show up for our social functions."

Murphy helped counsel Kraeutler as she explored job options. She eventually landed at Morgan Lewis in Philadelphia, a large law firm with one of the best labor and employment practices in the country. She went on to build a successful career in that field — and throughout those years kept in contact and built a friendship with Murphy and his wife, Joan. Kraeutler said she's not the only one from the Class of '83 who has stayed close to Murphy.

"It's an unusually close class, and we have all stayed in touch," she said. "I think Dean Dan was a part of facilitating that. I think we were very fortunate."

Russell Williams, L'84

The Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) of 1974 is "a bit abstruse, even for lawyers," said Russell Williams. But a class that covered it, taught by Janice Moore, L'81, proved transformational for him. "Janice treated us like we were associates at her law firm," Williams said.

Moore was senior counsel for Mobil Oil before going on to positions at Enron, McGuireWoods, and Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal. She also served on the University of Richmond Board of Trustees and still serves on the Richmond Law Advisory Board. But before all that, she served for three years as an assistant professor at Richmond Law.

Williams said Moore's practical experience enhanced her classroom approach. "We could go at a problem with the code and our own nascent mental processes, tease out the applicable principles, and feel somewhat at home with ERISA problems," he explained.

Funnily enough, "I never practiced one lick of tax or ERISA," said Williams, who is now president and CEO of Hanover Shoe Farms Inc. in Hanover, Pennsylvania. But that doesn't mean it didn't play a role in his career.

"After I'd gone from law practice into business, I detected an ERISA problem in a company that I think could have been catastrophic," he said. "After wrangling with two separate law firms that took two quite different approaches, I was able to involve the firm that worked up the better solution."

And he had Moore's class to thank for it.

"Janice's guidance back in my law school days made achieving a good result possible a long time afterward."

Christina Parrish, L'09

Christina Parrish, like everyone else in her class, knew Professor Peter Swisher's name. But for her and the rest of her class, he was Tort Man, vanquisher of ambiguity in legal doctrines about harm.

"He was like the tort superhero," Parrish said. As Tort Man, Swisher would act out cases to give students a better understanding of the different types of wrongful acts that might end up in civil court — and in doing so brought a dense legal topic to life.

"It was his big personality that stole the show," said Parrish, who remembers Swisher's lessons to this day in her role as a legal operations analyst for the Virginia Department of Transportation. "Torts are applicable in everyday life. You never escape them."

Swisher's engaging and accessible manner helped facilitate learning for Parrish. "He made learning easy," she said. Plus, his approach "made law school less intimidating."

A mainstay at Richmond Law for 42 years, Swisher specialized in family law and insurance law. Although he died in 2016, his legacy lives on — and not just as Tort Man.

"Pete literally wrote the book when it comes to both torts and family law in Virginia, authoring dozens of

“

**EACH OF THESE PROFESSORS, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS A UNIT,
helped me put more focus on myself AND WHAT MY LIFE
WOULD LOOK LIKE WHEN I GRADUATE.**

”

—Vidal Torres, L’03

casebooks, articles, and chapters,” Corinna Lain, his faculty colleague, said not long after he died. “He’s also one of the most beloved professors I have seen in my 15 years at Richmond Law.”

Parrish agrees. “Professor Swisher resonated with my learning style,” she said, “and I am a better lawyer for the confidence that his approach built in me.”

Vidal Torres, L’03

Chasing a little blue ball wasn’t part of the curriculum, but it was key to how Vidal Torres got to know the three professors who are still shaping his legal career today. “There were a few different professors who formed a unit for me, a base for asking questions and advice,” explained Torres. That unit included Wade Berryhill, John Paul “JP” Jones, and Rod Smolla.

“They had a racquetball group, the three of them together,” Torres said. “And if you were a student and you were there at the time, you could jump in with them. They needed a fourth.”

That type of engagement with his professors helped Torres “really understand that there was more to law school than just studying,” he explained. As a dual J.D./MBA student who also held a job and served as an editor for the *Journal of Law and Technology*, finding downtime was an important priority.

That’s not to say it was all fun and games. Torres took classes with each of the three professors, and each brought something different to the table. From Berryhill, he learned to explore more deeply the real-life impact and implications of regulatory laws. Torres described Jones’ approach as “much more black-letter law” — but, he added, “there was a skill to learn there, to be precise, to get through the details.” And with Smolla, Torres learned to value thinking outside of the box.

And, it turns out, “a little bit of each of them has rubbed off in my current role” as associate general counsel at Genworth Financial, whether it was Jones’ lessons in contracts, Smolla’s experience in property and intellectual rights, or Berryhill’s regulatory lessons in environmental law.

“Each of these professors, individually and as a unit, helped me put more focus on myself and what my life would look like when I graduate,” Torres said.

John Nowak, L’00

“I tell my kids to do what you love,” John Nowak said. That lesson in pursuing passion is one that Nowak said Professor Azizah al-Hibri reinforced in her law students.

In his pre-law life at an investment management company in Boston, “the president of that company took me under her wing and guided me in terms of my career path.” There, he became interested in the Securities and Exchange Commission and set his mind on law school as the entry point to that field.

From the start, al-Hibri understood Nowak’s career passion, and she shared it. “She really understood what I was trying to do, to work for the SEC, to get to New York, to work in the securities industry,” said Nowak. “I appreciated her passion for the subject matter and how she taught and engaged the students in her class.”

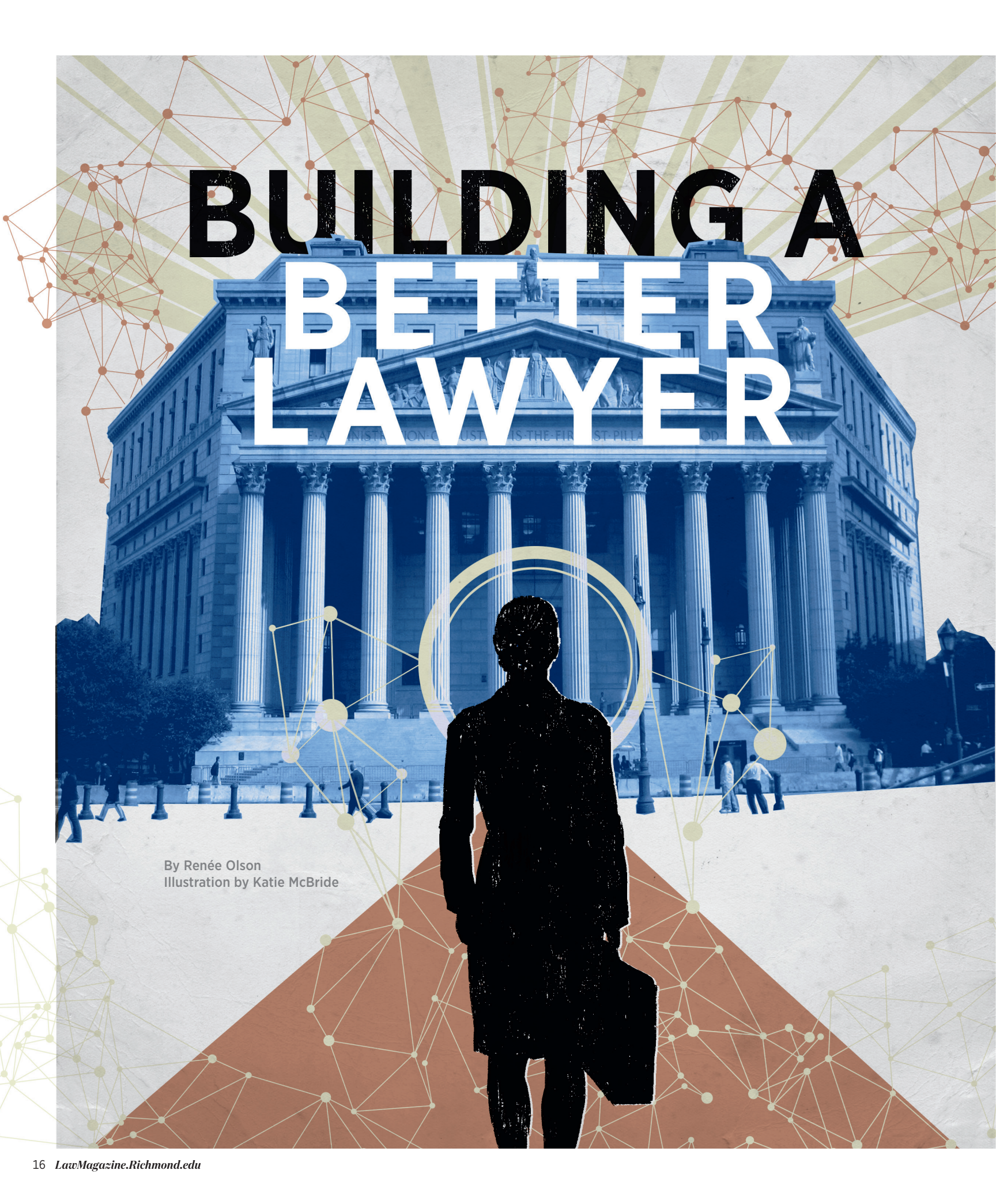
That passion showed through in topics as seemingly mundane as due diligence, for example. “She thought that was a critical piece because that’s the client’s opportunity to learn as much as it can about an entity to uncover any potential issues,” Nowak said.

Plus, he added, she brought a level of energy to the topic. “It had a real impact on me,” he said.

Al-Hibri retired from Richmond Law with the title professor emerita in 2012 and has continued her work as founder and chair of Karamah: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights. Nowak, meanwhile, received an offer right out of law school to work at the SEC, where he served as branch chief of the enforcement division before moving on to a role as deputy chief of the business and securities fraud section for the Eastern District of New York U.S. Attorney’s Office. Today, he’s a partner in the litigation department of Paul Hastings in New York. ■

Emily Cherry is assistant dean for communications and strategic initiatives at Richmond Law.

BUILDING A BETTER LAWYER



By Renée Olson
Illustration by Katie McBride



THE NEXT WAVE OF ATTORNEYS
INCLUDES *TECH-SAVVY CODERS*
WITH BUSINESS ACUMEN.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS HAVE
ON THEIR PLATE TODAY
MIGHT SURPRISE YOU.



When Matthew Donovan, L'20,
started law school, he already had under his belt a year
of working at GitLab, an open-source collaboration plat-
form. For the uninitiated, Git allows coders to track all
revisions made to code.

It didn't take long for Donovan to see applications for
Git in legal work. "You can make minor modifications to a
contract over and over again, or have a centralized hub of
all laws and regulations where modifications to the legal
code could be done using an open-source software model,"
he said. "If you decided that a change doesn't work, you
can go back to any version that's ever been made and iso-
late whatever changes you want to fix."

By spring semester, Donovan's initial impulse had
organically sparked a four-credit course with the Vir-
ginia Poverty Law Center "to use technology to try and
solve a problem in access to justice," said professor Roger

“WE WANT *new uses of technology* TO MAKE OUR STUDENTS *more effective lawyers* AND BETTER ADVOCATES.”



Skalbeck, associate dean of library and information resources, who co-taught the course with professor Paul Birch, computer services librarian.

“Initially, the team was two students, then three, and we grew to seven because the more people found out about it, the more they wanted to participate in something related to innovation in legal services,” Skalbeck said.

The end result? A Git-based information hub called NetWit that tears down barriers between self-represented litigants, who file the vast majority of cases in civil court, and the scattered universe of Virginia’s often challenging legal forms.

The student collaborators, most of whom learned to code on the run for this project and ended up working together via Zoom due to COVID-19, started with housing law, imagining a resident embroiled in a tenant-landlord dispute. Adding common-sense navigation to existing legal information, the team created pathways in five languages geared to how a layperson would likely try to get their chronically broken water heater fixed or avoid eviction. Making it open-source, of course, meant that everyone on the team — or for that matter, eventually anyone in the world — could improve upon the project through iterations.

Later in the semester, the NetWit team became one of 10 taking part in Georgetown University’s first open Iron Tech Lawyer Invitational, competing against teams from schools such as the University of Hong Kong, University of Pennsylvania, and Georgetown itself. Richmond made it to the final round, and the University of Hong Kong took the top prize.

The technological expertise that the NetWit team afforded the Virginia Poverty Law Center is another part of this success story. As part of vetting new digital platforms for its web content, the center is now seriously looking at an open-source model like Git. “We were really impressed with what the students created for the competition,” said Valerie L’Herrou, L’06, the center’s family advocacy lawyer. Open-source software has the advantage of making it “much easier to both update the content to respond to changes in the law and to make it relevant and understandable to users,” she said.

As lawyers in general continue to be late adopters of technology, the end-all and be-all of projects like this, said Skalbeck, is simple. “We want new uses of technology to make our students more effective lawyers and better advocates.”

It dovetails with what legal tech entrepreneur Valentin Pivovarov expressed in a 2019 *Forbes* article titled “Future Law School: What Does It Look Like?”

“We are at the beginning of a gigantic world trend in law schools investing major resources in technological solutions to ensure that future lawyers will exhibit competitiveness and a high level of training,” he wrote. “Law students need to learn programming skills to understand how technologies can optimize their work and make the process of providing services easier.”

Jessica Erickson, associate dean for faculty development, sees it even more broadly. “Law school has been teaching a traditional and somewhat narrow toolbox for a long time,” she said. “We teach students legal doctrine and skills. We teach legal analysis; we teach them legal writing. And we do a pretty good job at that. But not enough lawyers understand how to actually design a practice that serves their clients, the profession, and their own vision for what it means to be an effective lawyer.”

One way to ensure that the newest Richmond graduates are better equipped for success is a partnership with the Institute for the Future of Law Practice (IFLP, pronounced I-flip), a nonprofit that invited Richmond and Erickson, as its faculty supervisor, to participate at its inception in 2019. IFLP’s helping-hand structure means that its 18 law school partners, like Richmond, run three-week summer modern practice boot camps for their students on topics ranging from project management and artificial intelligence to technology tools such as HotDocs, which automates legal document creation, and Intapp, the legal modernization cloud. After that, law firm and corporate legal department partners, such as Cisco and DHL, offer 10-week or seven-month paid internships, which often function as a talent pipeline.

The law school is taking innovation a step further, not by concentrating solely on specific tools, per se, but by teaching students how to evaluate technologies. “We want students to be able to ask what tools would be help-

ful in their practice design and then evaluate them to figure out which ones would be the best for the particular objective they have,” Erickson said.

The through line from that goal to achieving it? “The Legal Innovation and Entrepreneurship program that we’re launching this fall,” Erickson said. The new signature program will be directed by Joshua Kubicki, former chief strategy officer at Seyfarth Shaw and owner of a business design studio. “He will be working with our students on broader questions around practice design and innovation” that range from design thinking and finance to data analytics and project management.

For Kubicki, the program is essential. “Now, more than ever, law students must understand the real business impacts and pressures within the legal economy,” he said. “They must learn to operate and design legal business and service models, regardless of whether they are in private practice, government, legal aid, or in-house.”

A second, related signature program also begins this fall: the Professional Identity Formation program, designed to develop the habits of mind and character associated with excellence in the field of law. Janice Craft will direct the new initiative on the heels of leading legal services at the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance.

The program’s thrust is straightforward. “It’s about helping students understand their own values and be client-centered in their representation, as well as helping them to develop those critical interpersonal skills,” Erickson said.

Richmond’s tandem approach to growing a lawyer’s toolkit is unique. “There are a few schools with a legal innovation program and a few that have started to experiment with professional identity formation, but I’m not aware of any schools that have both,” Erickson said. “We don’t believe that either program on its own is sufficient. We’re trying to educate the whole lawyer.” ■

THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL LEGAL RESEARCH

Artificial intelligence is significantly changing how we gather legal information, according to Roger Skalbeck, associate dean for library services and technology. The upside? As more than one observer has put it, technology will not replace lawyers; it will instead replace tasks that lawyers despise doing in the first place.

YOUR KEYWORD SEARCHES WILL DWINDLE

“When a lawyer writes a legal brief, it’s like any scholarship,” Skalbeck said. “You’re going to have arguments that are supported by citations to things the Supreme Court said or statutes that Congress passed.”

A relatively new tool called CARA from Silicon Valley startup Casetext searches your brief itself, eliminating the need to type terms into a search box. “You upload the document citing authorities, and it comes back with a report saying, ‘You know, people who typically cite these also cite the following that aren’t in your argument’” Skalbeck said. Similar technology is already being used by other companies; students will have access to it through Westlaw starting this fall.

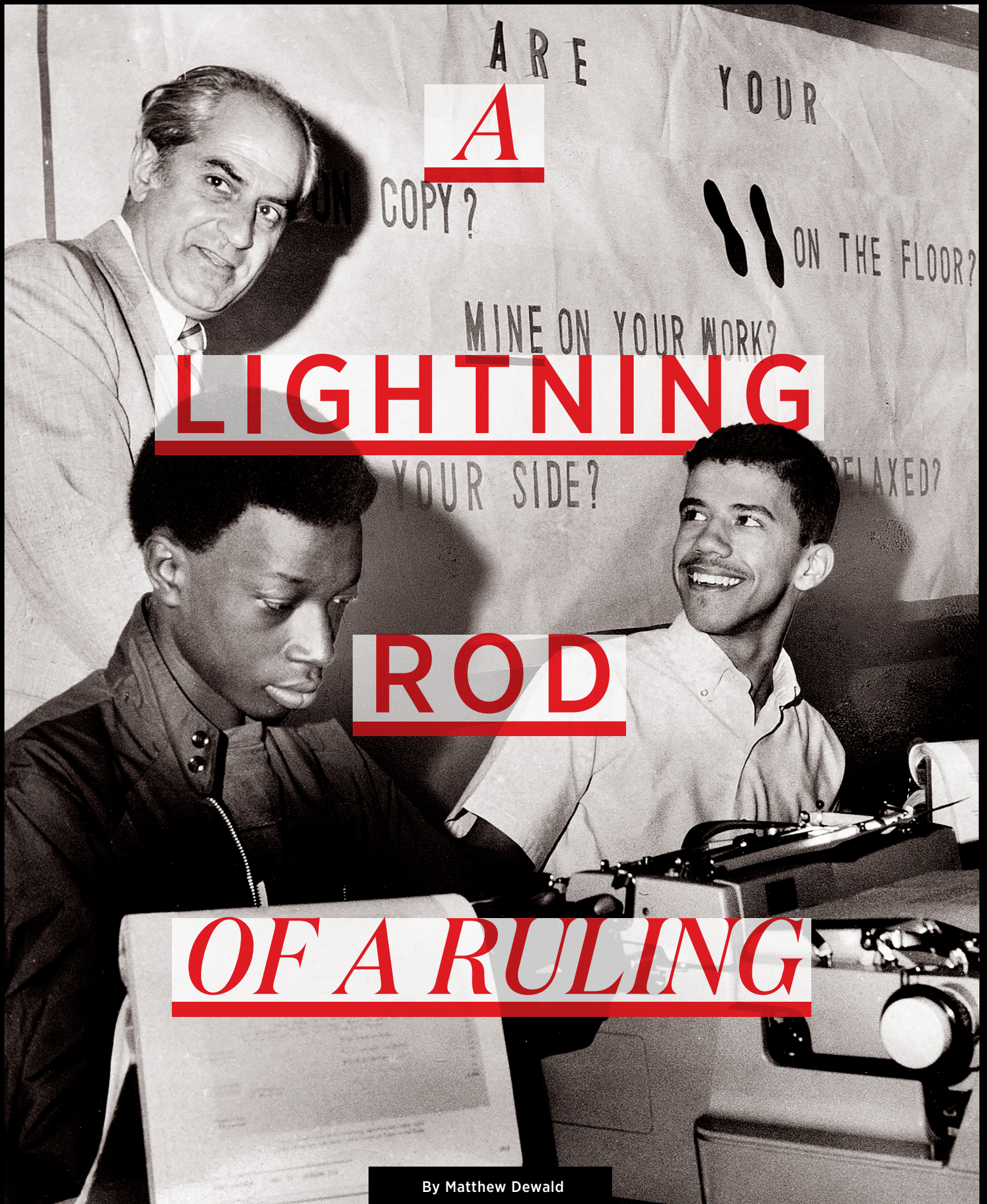
STRUCTURED DATA WILL HAVE A HUGE IMPACT

A growing trend in legal services and information is data analytics, which falls under the umbrella of big data. The process involves searching massive amounts of court and docket data to find new meaning pertaining to judges, courts, law firms, attorneys, and case types.

Example 1: Suppose you want to know how long a product liability case typically takes to finish so you know what kind of commitment you’re making and how to best budget your time. To find the answer, structured data companies mine state and federal dockets.

Example 2: “On a deeper level, analytics can be used to determine a judge’s past rulings,” Skalbeck said, posing a likely scenario. “I am now before Judge Smith, and I want to know how often Judge Smith grants motions to dismiss. Or whether Judge Smith has ever been involved in a case like mine or how often he/she is overturned on appeal.” Click on the judge’s name and a couple more buttons, and you’ll automatically receive charts showing details.

There are many examples of finding new meaning through collections of cases and codes. The challenge for law students and lawyers alike is to understand these relationships and consider what kind of bias these may contain or amplify. While legal research resources have changed dramatically, lawyers and law students still have to know the law and decide how to best apply it.



A

LIGHTNING

ROD

OF A RULING

By Matthew Dewald

FEDERAL JUDGE ROBERT H. MERHIGE JR.,
L'42, ISSUED A BOLD RULING IN 1972 —
OR, TO HIS CRITICS, OVERREACHED
— IN AN ATTEMPT TO UNDO SCHOOL
SEGREGATION IN THE RICHMOND REGION.
The public reaction came swiftly.

The Hon. Robert R. Merhige Jr., L'42, decided dozens of nationally significant cases and countless routine ones during his 31 years on the federal bench. But one case is usually mentioned first in descriptions of his career and legacy: his January 1972 decision requiring the merger of Richmond City Schools with the districts in surrounding Henrico and Chesterfield counties. It was one of 40 school desegregation cases he decided over his career, but it was the defining one.

In his decision, he ruled that the commonwealth of Virginia's obligation to integrate its schools in light of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision overrode local jurisdictional lines. The highly controversial ruling — which ordered a regional, city-county busing plan — was designed to neutralize the effects of white flight to the suburbs in response to a busing program within the Richmond City Schools that he had ordered several years earlier.

Merhige's docket attracted high-profile cases throughout his career. Among the most notable: He ordered the admission of women to the University of Virginia in 1970, presided over cases of Klansmen and Nazis accused of killing political opponents, fined Allied Chemical for polluting the Jamer River with an insecticide, tossed out the appeals of G. Gordon Liddy and other Watergate defendants, and oversaw the bankruptcy reorganization of the A.H. Robins Co. and the creation and administration of the Dalkon Shield Claimants Trust.

Merhige had aimed for a life in law from a very young age. "I have no recollection of ever wanting to be anything but a lawyer," he told his biographer, Richmond Law's Ronald J. Bacigal, now a professor emeritus. He took a winding path to get there.

Although he became one of Richmond Law's most notable graduates, he came to the school almost by happenstance, according to Bacigal. A native New Yorker and self-described lackluster student, Merhige attended High Point University on a basketball scholarship, paying little attention to academics. After graduation, he relocated to Richmond to coach at a local prep school and figured he'd go to law school at William and Mary.

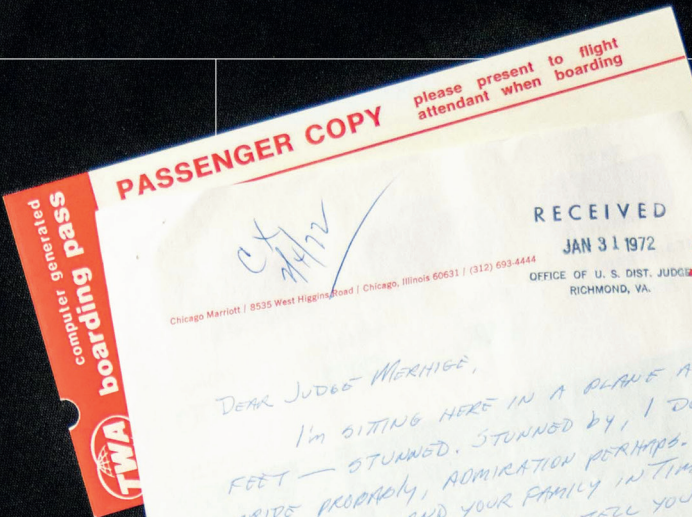
"You can't do that," his new boss told him, pointing out the 120-mile roundtrip commute. "I think there may be a law school over at the University of Richmond."

Thirty years after graduation, when Merhige made the 1972 desegregation ruling, he was "the most hated man in Richmond," *The Washington Post* wrote in his 2005 obituary. He and his family required round-the-clock protection from U.S. Marshal Service for a time, were subjected to threats and arson by segregationists, and endured weekly protests outside their home.

The public reaction reportedly perplexed and disappointed Merhige. "I thought people would say, 'We don't like the little S.O.B., but he's following the law,'" he later told the *Richmond-Times Dispatch*. "That didn't happen."

Merhige's 1972 ruling was ultimately not the groundbreaking step supporters hoped it would be. It was reversed after six months, a rarity in a career in which Merhige's rulings were overturned less than 5% of the time. The U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals rejected it in June 1972 and later invalidated most busing across city-county boundaries, according to the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, preserving the conditions that led to worsening de facto school segregation that endures today.

Merhige's papers, many of which are held by Muse Law Library, capture some of the public reaction to his 1972 ruling through the letters that he received. As the following sampling shows, citizens reacted in a range of ways, from admiring support to accusations of hypocrisy because his younger son attended a private school and would not have been affected by his ruling.



RECEIVED
JAN 31 1972
OFFICE OF U. S. DIST. JUDGE
RICHMOND, VA.

DEAR JUDGE MERHIGE,
I'M SITTING HERE IN A PLANE AT 35,000 FEET — STUNNED. STUNNED BY, I DON'T KNOW, PRIDE PROBABLY, ADMIRATION PERHAPS. I JUST READ OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN TIME AND I HAD TO IMMEDIATELY WRITE TO TELL YOU HOW IMMENSE I THINK YOU ALL ARE — THE ROCK-PRINCIPLE, THE ENORMOUS COURAGE, THE DIAMOND-HARD CONVICTION THAT FEW EVER GOT THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXERCISE IN THEIR LIFETIMES, — LET ALONG THE STRENGTH! WHEN I GET HOME TO COVINA MY 4 BOYS AND I ARE GOING TO SET DOWN AND READ AND RE-READ THOSE 7 PARAGRAPHS. THEY ALL LOVE ALL OUR HEROES — JEFFERSON AND TEDDY AND LINDY AND LINCOLN AND ALL THE REST, — COREY, MY 9 YR. OLD IS RIGHT NOW READING "RICKETBACKER", JONATHAN, THE 13 YR. OLD AND REAL HISTORY BIG WHIPS THROUGH A COUPLE OF BOOKS A WEEK (BEING 8, 9, 11 AND 13 YOUR STORY WILL, I'M SURE, STAY WITH THEM A LIFETIME!). I FEEL BADLY KNOWING MY BOYS CAN PLAY FOOTBALL AND TO THE LIBRARY AND TO THE GYM AND TO CHURCH AND WHEREVER ... WITHOUT GUARDS AND WITHOUT THE OMNIPRESENT FEAR

ACAPULCO / ATLANTA / BOSTON / CHICAGO / CINCINNATI / CLEVELAND / COLUMBUS / DALLAS / FT. WAYNE / HOUSTON / LOUISVILLE / MINNEAPOLIS / BLOOMINGTON / MIAMI / NEW ORLEANS / PHILADELPHIA / SADDLE BROOK, N.J. / SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA / WASHINGTON, D.C. / DENVER '73 / LOS ANGELES '73

I'm sitting here in a plane at 35,000 feet

— stunned, stunned by, I don't know, pride probably, admiration perhaps. I just read of you and your family in *Time* and I had to immediately write to tell you how immense I think you are — the rock-principle, the enormous courage, the diamond-hard conviction that few ever get the opportunity to exercise in their lifetimes, — let alone the strength! ... If we could only take your gigantic belief in "... just follow the law ...", and cut it up into little pieces, spreading it around to all our citizens, what a wonderful utopia this world of ours would be.

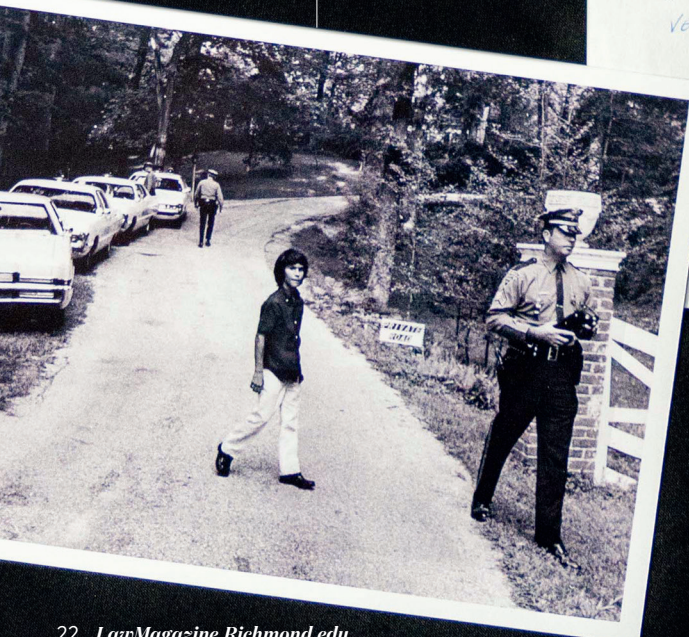
AT FEAR. IF WE FLIER IN "... JUST UP INTO LITTLE ALL OUR CITIZENS, WORLD OF OURS, THE NEXT ME USE TO ER THE LORD OR YOUR LIFETIME, BLE TO SAY, WELL, I JUST OLD WIDOWER WHO KNOW

HOPEFULLY A LITTLE BIT OF YOUR GREATNESS WILL RUN OFF ON THEM AND FROM THEM TO OTHERS, — AND TO OTHERS AND TO OTHERS. WHAT BETTER VEHICLE OF IMMORTALITY?

GOD BLESS YOU — AND MAY HE KEEP YOU YOUR FAMILY IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND.

GEORGE
COVINA, CALIFORNIA

Judge Merhige's son Mark and a U.S. marshal watching an anti-busing demonstration outside the Merhige home in 1971

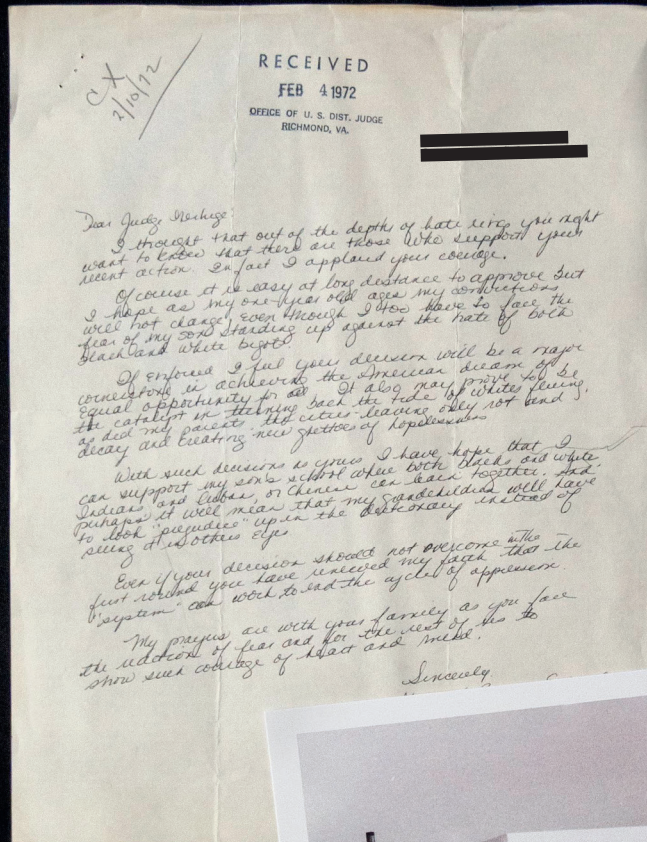


I thought that out of the

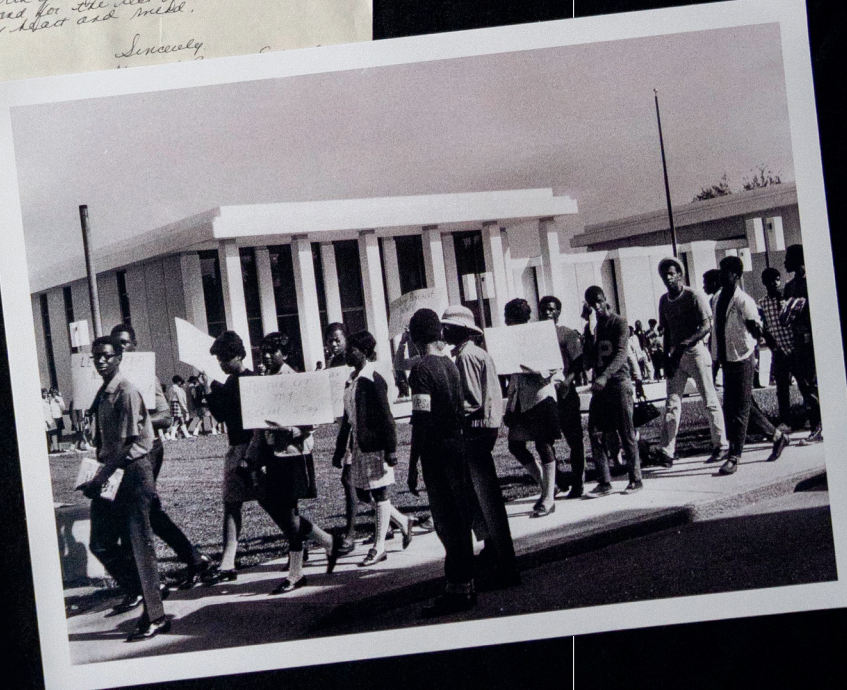
depths of hate rings you might want to know that there are those who support your recent action. In fact I applaud your courage.

... If enforced I feel your decision will be a major cornerstone in achieving the American dream of equal opportunity for all. It also may prove to be the catalyst in turning back the tide of whites fleeing, as did my parents, the cities, leaving only rot and decay and creating new ghettos of hopelessness.

... Perhaps it will mean that my grandchildren will have to look "prejudice" up in the dictionary instead of seeing it in others' eyes.

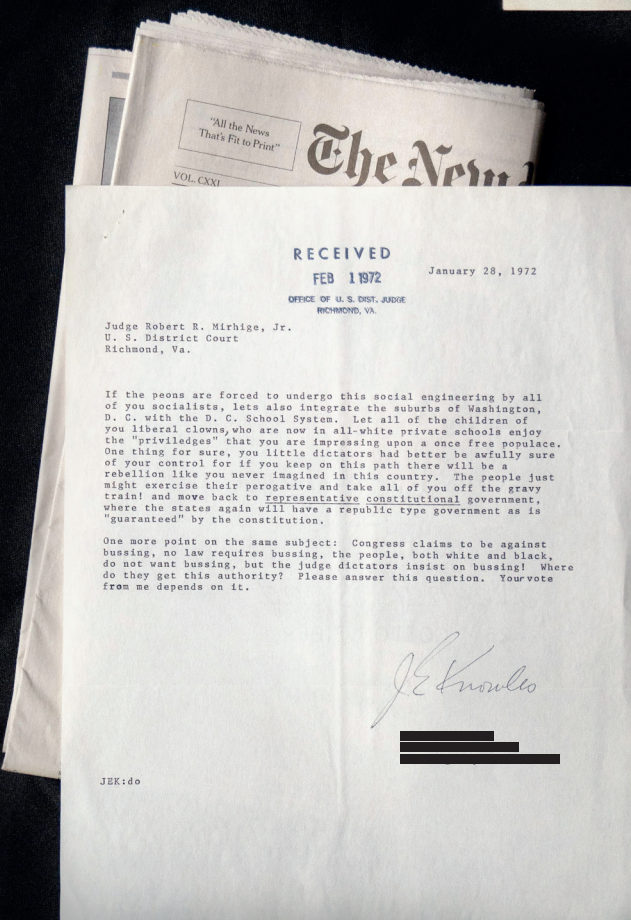


Merhige's ruling came after years of protests against segregation. Here, students from Peabody High School in Petersburg, Virginia, protested outside the public library in 1960.



If the peons are forced to undergo this social

engineering by all of you socialists, let's also integrate the suburbs of Washington, D.C. with the D.C. School System. Let all of the children of you liberal clowns, who are now in all-white private schools enjoy the "priviledges" that you are impressing upon a once free populace. One thing's for sure, you little dictators had better be awfully sure of your control for if you keep on this path there will be a rebellion like you never imagined in this country.



CX
2/18/72

RECEIVED
FEB 18 1972

OFFICE OF U. S. DIST. JUDGE
RICHMOND, VA.

Judge Robert Merhige
5 Kanawha Road
Richmond, Virginia 23229

Dear Judge Merhige:

You were far-sighted and we LIKE your decision.

We are a white family living in the city with our school-age daughters. Because we firmly believed in the neighborhood school system, we have remained in the city rather than move to the suburbs. This decision was made long before the busing situation. We saw the County children waiting at the corners early on cold winter days. We saw the County buses driving by late in the day. We preferred that our children walk to school and moved close to schools for this reason. For years, helpless and frustrated, we watched the "colored" children who lived a block or two from Westhampton school being BUSSED to the other end of the city. Finally this degradation was stopped.

Last year we opposed busing unless it accomplished its purpose. It's an old story now that busing of the city school children did not achieve racial balance.

Your latest decision is fair.

However, it is ironic indeed that the white county residents who oppose "busing" so vigorously now, did not oppose it last year when the city school children were first "bussed"; they did not oppose it all the years of their lives previously because white county school children have always been "bussed"; there are busses for this purpose, and the parents know this ---- whereas white city school children have nearly always walked to neighborhood schools. These county residents, whose children have always been bussed, suddenly oppose bussing their children.

Whatever the outcome, your decision was fair, forthright and brave.

Sincerely,

Sandra Sterling



The Associated Press captured this sweet moment in December 1963 between Black students and one of their four white classmates then enrolled in Prince Edward Free Schools in Richmond.

We the members of A.M. Davis

Elementary PTA hereby affirm that we will not relinquish our rights as parents to determine the health, education and welfare of our children.

We will not bus our children to any school other than our neighborhood school as designated by the 1971-1972 pupil placement procedures.

We not only deplore the arrogant actions of the 4th District Federal Court on this issue, but we refuse to cooperate with its consolidation order.

You were far-sighted and we LIKE your decision.

We are a white family living in the city with our school-age daughters. Because we firmly believe in the neighborhood school system, we have remained in the city rather than move to the suburbs. ... We preferred that our children walk to school and moved close to schools for this reason. ... This decision was made long before the busing situation.

... Last year we opposed busing unless it accomplished its purpose. It's an old story now that busing of the city school children did not achieve racial balance.

... However, it is indeed ironic that the white county residents who oppose "busing" so vigorously now, did not oppose it last year when the city children were first "bussed"; they did not oppose it all the years of their lives previously because white county school children have always been "bussed"; ... These county residents, whose children have always been bussed, suddenly oppose bussing their children.

Whatever the outcome, your decision was fair, forthright and brave.

JANUARY 24, 1972

RECEIVED
JAN 26 1972

OFFICE OF U. S. DIST. JUDGE
RICHMOND, VA.

Judge Robert R. Merhige Jr.
Post Office Building
Richmond, Virginia

We the members of A.M. Davis Elementary PTA hereby affirm that we will not relinquish our rights as parents to determine the health, education and welfare of our children.

We will not bus our children to any school other than our neighborhood schools as designated by the 1971-1972 pupil placement procedures.

We not only deplore the arrogant actions of the 4th District Federal Court on this issue, but we refuse to cooperate with its consolidation order.

We also feel there are tools with which to solve the problems of the cities of America other than our children. The quality of education is determined by the competence and dedication of teachers and administrators - not by the shape, size or color of the student body as contended.

Separation of parents from their children can only destroy a system of public education that has been 200 years in the making.

Very truly yours,
A.M. Davis Elementary PTA
Providence Road
Chesterfield County
Richmond, Va. 23235

RECEIVED

JAN 31 1972

OFFICE OF U. S. DIST. JUDGE
RICHMOND, VA.

January 26, 1972

Dear Judge Mehige,

I am a tenth grade student at a Chesterfield County High School. I'll be the first to admit I don't know all the facts about consolidation and busing, but I do know that your child attends Collegiate School. I completely agree that you as a parent have the right to send your child to the school where you feel he will get the best education. So why are you denying this right to other parents in America?

My parents feel I am getting a good education ~~possibly~~ at the school I now attend. I like my school and it's convenient for me to attend basketball games, dances, club meetings, and other school functions. I won't be able to do this if I attend a school in Richmond. My parents can easily afford to send me to a private school, and may be forced

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would
the education,

I'm sure if you were told your son must attend Mosby Middle School, you would feel as if your rights as a parent had been violated and the government had

If you do read it, I hope you'll sincerely consider what I've said.

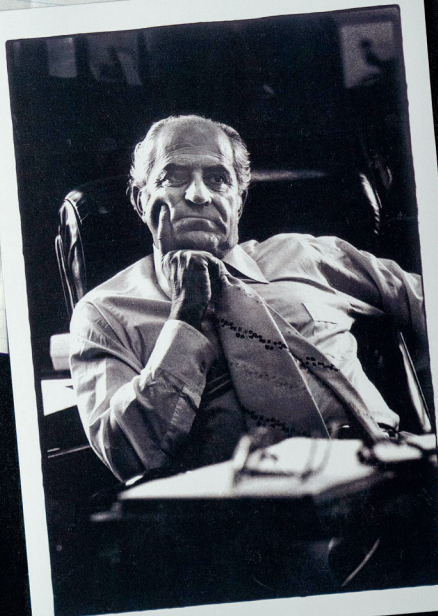
Sincerely,
Linda

I am a tenth grade student

at a Chesterfield County High School. I'll be the first to admit I don't know all the facts about consolidating and busing, but I do know that your child attends Collegiate School [a private school]. I completely agree that you as a parent have the right to send your child to the school where you feel he will get the best education. So why are you denying this right to other parents in America?

... I feel that any black parents who aren't satisfied with the education their child is getting should be allowed to pay tuition and send their child to school in the counties. ... I know that most black families couldn't afford this however, so why don't you have their tax money, that would go to the city schools sent to the counties. This would cover the cost of a city child's education, in the counties.

I'm sure if you were told your child must attend Mosby Middle School [a public school in Richmond], you would feel as if your rights as a parent had been violated and the government had taken over your child. Why can't you practice what you preach? Or should I say, dictate? ■



Faculty Notes



Her advice? Ask what's true

Assistant professor Da Lin has long been fascinated by the precise nature of mathematics, but these days she spends her time asking questions and interrogating truths — and encouraging her students to do the same.

“Law teaches us that it’s important to probe,” Lin said. “Whether it’s empirical data, the way legal structures are formed, or the validity of legal norms, it’s important for us to reject assumptions and ask, ‘Is this really true?’”

Lin earned a joint master’s and bachelor’s degree in applied mathematics at Harvard, and took a job at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York after graduation. Working in the aftermath of the 2008 banking crisis focused her teaching interests in corporate governance and financial regulation. She has always drawn heavily on this background in math while practicing and teaching law, understanding how data and statistical frameworks underpin and influence the legal system.

Lin always knew she wanted to attend law school, so she returned to Cambridge, Massachusetts to earn her J.D. After clerking for Judge R. Lanier Anderson III at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit and working at an Atlanta law firm, Lin returned to Harvard as a Climenko Fellow and Lecturer on Law. She once described academia as a place that offered “the freedom to go down

rabbit holes; you can chase whatever questions that come to mind.”

Lin, who joined the faculty in 2019, has found many kindred spirits at Richmond Law. “My students are incredibly, incredibly curious, but also warm and thoughtful in the way they seek knowledge,” said Lin. “This past semester, they’ve also been very tenacious. They transitioned to online learning and balanced unexpected circumstances, like having to worry about child care. They showed up and were actively engaged in class while being respectful of each other’s challenges.

“They were also very generous with me,” Lin said. “I had amazing mentors and teachers when I was in law school — people who supported and championed me. That’s why mentorship is important; I wouldn’t be a law professor — or a lawyer — without the help of others.”

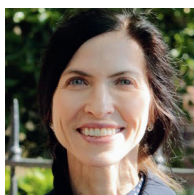
As Lin continues to guide her students through the complexities of 2020 and beyond, she encourages them to embrace an indisputable truth in a wildly uncertain world. “Lawyers come to law school for a reason — often because they see a problem that they want to fix. I remind them, ‘Don’t forget why you came to law school and what you want to achieve through the language of the law.’”

—Suzanne Hofmann



Justice Clarence Thomas cited **JUD CAMPBELL's** "Natural Rights and the First Amendment" (127 *Yale Law Journal*, 2017)

in a concurring opinion in *United States v. Sineneng-Smith*.



JANICE CRAFT joined the law faculty as assistant professor of legal practice and director of professional identity formation.

She comes to Richmond Law from the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, where she served as staff attorney and later as legal services director. Prior to her work with the Alliance, Craft served as policy director for a Virginia affiliate of a national reproductive rights organization and clerked for then-Chief Judge Walter S. Felton Jr. of the Court of Appeals of Virginia.

REBECCA CROOTOF was quoted in an Associated Press article about the Pentagon's new ethical principles for using artificial intelligence in war. "If the U.S. is seen to be taking AI ethical norms seriously, by default they become a more serious topic," she said. Crootof also authored a chapter on the subject, "Regulating New Weapons Technology," in *The Impact of Emerging Technologies on the Law of Armed Conflict*.



ALEXANDRA "ALI" FANNON joined the faculty as assistant professor of legal practice and director of the externship program. Prior to

coming to Richmond Law, Fannon served as executive director of the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation. She was also an assistant city attorney for the city of Richmond.



CHIARA GIORGETTI concluded her scholar-in-residence program at the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes,

where she worked on the draft Code of Ethics of Adjudicators. The draft code is now published by ICSID and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.



JOSHUA KUBICKI joined the law faculty as assistant professor of legal practice and director of legal innovation and entrepreneurship.

Kubicki is a former chief strategy officer for an AmLaw 100 law firm, worked in Verizon's general counsel office, and has served as an adviser to CEOs of leading alternative legal service providers and legal startups. He recently co-founded and built the first business design studio focused on the legal market.

In an op-ed for Law360, Richmond Law professor **DA LIN** and co-author Daniel Schwartz made the case for why and how states must act to cut auto insurance rates during the COVID-19 pandemic. "Auto insurers are experiencing a massive windfall as a result of the coronavirus, but they are not returning a fair portion of those gains to consumers," they wrote.



JULIE MCCONNELL helped plan the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law Juvenile Justice Initiative workshop for defense

counsel, a three-day conference on juvenile justice in a counterterrorism context in Malta. She also guest lectured at the University of New Mexico School of Law on "Understanding the Juvenile Justice System" and presented at a community panel for the Richmond Commonwealth's Attorney's Office on "Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline."



Visiting professor **LEIGH MELTON's** article "Observing the NOTICE Act" received the 2020 John J. Regan Writing Award from the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. Melton co-authored the article with Amanda Bird, L'17, and Lauren Ritter, L'17.

MARY TATE appears in the Netflix documentary series *The Innocence Files* as part of a panel she hosted featuring Thomas Haynesworth, a man who was wrongly convicted of rape in Richmond in 1984.



CARL TOBIAS spoke to numerous publications — including Huffington Post, Bloomberg, and *The Guardian* — on President Donald

Trump's judicial appointments. Regarding Justin Walker's nomination to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, Tobias told Huffington Post, "It's a thank you to Mitch McConnell for helping fill all the appeals court vacancies with extremely conservative young judges who will serve for decades on courts of last resort for 99% of cases in the federal system."



In his concurring opinion in *United States v. Sineneng-Smith*, Justice Clarence Thomas quoted an earlier opinion citing **KEVIN**

WALSH's Partial Unconstitutionality (85 *New York Law Journal*, 2010).

Class Notes

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; contact us by mail at Law Alumni, University of Richmond School of Law, University of Richmond, VA 23173; or call 804-289-8028.

1960s

GEORGE, B'55 AND L'63, and **JOYCE GARRETT TIDEY, W'57 AND G'77**, are planning a move to the Cedarfield retirement community in Richmond. They shared sad family news that their youngest son, Craig, 54, died of cancer Nov. 10 in Dallas.

VINCENT J. MASTRACCO JR., L'64, was named a “Heavy Hitter” in Law by *Virginia Business*. He is partner and co-chair of the Real Estate Strategies Group for Kaufman & Canoles in Norfolk, Virginia. *Virginia Business* recognized Vince's role as a community leader, including his involvement in the Hampton Roads Community Foundation and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership.

Marquis Who's Who presented its Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award to **EBB H. WILLIAMS, R'61 AND L'64**. Ebb has practiced for more than 55 years in civil and contract law and medical liability. Since 1973, he has worked in private practice in Martinsville, Virginia. He was an associate professor at Patrick Henry Community College from 1964 to 1973 and sat as a substitute judge in the general district, juvenile, and domestic relations courts for the city of Martinsville and Henry and Patrick counties. A former trustee of Averett University and a former member of the UR Board of Associates, he says he is “proud to have used his career to positively impact his clients' lives.”

1970s

BOB, L'77, and **MARILYN LIPSITZ-FLAX, W'69**, spent five weeks at Chautauqua Institution, a nonprofit educational center in southwestern New York. They heard Diana Ross and Judy Collins the first week.

F. ANDREW CARROLL, L'77, was inducted into the Virginia Law Foundation's Class of Fellows 2020. He is a founding partner of Land, Carroll & Blair in Alexandria, Virginia. Outside of his practice, he has coached numerous youth sports teams and is a board member and trustee of the Alexandria Law Library.

PAMELA HEFLIN SELLERS, W'75 AND L'77, is a senior assistant attorney general posted to the University of Virginia as associate legal counsel.

1980s

SALLY YATES WOOD, W'69, G'70, AND L'80, had about 20 class members gathered at her house to celebrate at Christmastime. On campus, she enjoys Osher classes and her involvement on the University of Richmond Alumni Association Board of Directors.

HENRY WARE JR., L'83, was inducted into the Virginia Law Foundation's Class of Fellows 2020. He practices with Spotts Fain in Richmond, specializing in products liability and toxic torts, asbestos litigation defense, and insurance coverage.

RICHARD C. MAXWELL, L'84, was inducted into the Virginia Law Foundation's Class of Fellows 2020. He is the chair of the business and corporate practice section of Woods Rogers' Roanoke, Virginia, office.

PAMELA BELLEMAN, L'86, was inducted into the Virginia Law Foundation's Class of Fellows 2020. She is a partner with Troutman Sanders in Richmond, specializing in real estate law.

ELIZABETH S. SKILLING, L'87, was named by *Virginia Lawyers Weekly* to the 2020 “Influential Women in Law” list. She is a partner at Harman Claytor Corrigan Wellman specializing in product liability and insurance coverage litigation.

BACK THEN



Richmond Law students in 1977

KATHLEEN LATHAM FARRELL, L'88, was named by *Virginia Lawyers Weekly* to the 2020 "Influential Women in Law" list. She is a partner with Latham Cross in Manassas, Virginia.

GLORIA FREYE, L'88, became the first woman chair of the Chesterfield, Virginia, Planning Commission. She spent 26 years in private practice and served as vice chair of the commission before her election as chair in January.

CHERYL WATSON SMITH, L'88, was named by *Virginia Lawyers Weekly* to the 2020 "Influential Women in Law" list. She is in private practice in Roanoke, Virginia, where she specializes in collaborative divorce and mediation.

SALLY HUNT MILAM, L'89, retired in 2019 from a career in state government as West Virginia's chief privacy officer. That same year, she began a new position with the Network for Public Health Law, which "promotes and supports the use of law to address public health threats and covers many topic areas, including legal issues around collection, use, sharing, and protection of data to improve the health of communities." She lives in Charleston, West Virginia, with her husband, Dave.

1990s

ROBIN MAYER, L'90, was appointed a general district court judge for the 25th Judicial District of Virginia. She previously served as managing attorney for the Blue Ridge Legal Services office in Lexington, Virginia.

VICTOR NARRO, L'91, published "The Role of Labor Research and Education in the Labor Movement of the Twenty-First Century: The UCLA Labor Center and the CLEAN Carwash Campaign" in *The Cambridge Handbook of U.S. Labor Law for the Twenty-First Century*.

MARY DANIEL, L'93, was appointed a general district court judge for the 26th Judicial District. She is a partner with Booth Strange & Daniel in Winchester, Virginia.

ABIGAIL MARSH, L'93, was appointed an associate judge in the District Court of Maryland. She previously served as executive director of the Life Crisis Center in Wicomico County, Maryland.

DAVID COX, L'95, joined the board of directors for the American Bankruptcy Institute. He practices bankruptcy law in Lynchburg, Virginia, and served as the education director of the ABI's consumer bankruptcy committee.

Virginia Lawyers Weekly selected **CARRIE HALLBERG O'MALLEY, B'91, L'96 AND GB'96**, to its 2019 "Influential Women in the Law" list. Carrie is a shareholder and co-chair of the commercial real estate finance and investment practice group at the Hirschler law firm.

MEGAN CONWAY RAHMAN, L'98, was named by *Virginia Lawyers Weekly* to the 2020 "Influential Women in Law" list. She is a partner with Troutman Sanders in Richmond.

2000s

COURTNEY MOATES PAULK, L'00, was named by *Virginia Lawyers Weekly* to the 2020 "Influential Women in Law" list. She is president of Hirschler.

Virginia Lawyers Weekly named **JULIE A.C. SEYFARTH, L'01**, to its 2020 "Influential Women in Law" list. She serves as a deputy county attorney for Chesterfield County, Virginia.

In November, voters in Chesterfield County, Virginia, elected **STACEY THARP DAVENPORT, L'02**, to a four-year term as the county's commonwealth's attorney. She is the first woman to be elected to the position. Stacey previously served as an assistant commonwealth's attorney in Henrico and Essex County, Virginia.

BRANDY RAPP, L'05, was named to the American Bankruptcy Institute's "40 Under 40" list of emerging leaders in insolvency practice. She practices with Whiteford Taylor Preston in Roanoke, Virginia.

ALUMNI PROFILE



Photograph by Shawn J. Soper/Maryland Coast Dispatch

A SEAMLESS TRANSITION

Circumstances have changed since the Hon. **MARY MARGARET KENT, W'77 AND L'80**, first began hearing cases in 1996. An administrative judge had just appointed her the first family law magistrate in Worcester County, Maryland. The newly created position's workload was one thing on paper but something else in practice.

"At that time, it was contractual. We were at-will employees, and there were no benefits whatsoever," she said. "We were getting paid part time, but we were not working part time."

Still, she recognized it as an opportunity to establish the new position in the county, set policy, and take an important career step, moving from practitioner to judge. The judge who appointed her had recognized her skill arguing family law cases, often as a court-appointed attorney, and now, she'd be the one hearing them.

She's been adjudicating cases ever since. Today, she is an associate judge with the Worcester County Circuit Court and the first woman to sit on that bench. Her 2018 transition from magistrate to circuit court judge was largely seamless, given her experience. Juvenile delinquency cases, for example, have a lot in common with criminal law generally, and she had years of practical knowledge of court procedure.

Perhaps surprisingly, two types of family law cases required more preparation: termination of parental rights hearings, often a step in the adoption process, and guardianship cases, which have increased during the current pandemic as hospitals, assisted living facilities, and other health care providers manage limited capacity.

"Quite a few facilities have petitioned the courts for a change in domicile, sometimes because of COVID and other times because the facility's full," she said. "It's been a dramatic increase in cases."

Hearing cases for decades also meant getting a firsthand look at the attorneys arguing them. For Richmond Law students today, Kent offers three words of advice: "Prepare. Prepare. Prepare." Read the rules and the annotations that follow, and understand why those cases are cited. She tells her law clerks the same thing.

"Don't give me this write-up unless you know exactly what these cases in the back stand for," she said, "and why, when they're quoted to me from counsel, I may consider them or may not."

—Matthew Dewald

ALUMNI PROFILE



SHE BUILDS 'BRIGHTER TOMORROWS'

If anyone recognizes the impact social resources have on a law student's future success, it's **VERONICA BROWN-MOSELEY, L'14**.

A consumer bankruptcy attorney at Boleman Law in Richmond, Brown-Moseley got her start with the firm through an internship as a rising 2L after meeting the CEO at a roundtable hosted by Richmond Law's career development office. She continued the internship as a 3L; by the third year, she was a valued employee.

Things weren't always easy for Brown-Moseley.

"When I started law school, I was so far behind the curve because I lacked social resources and connections," she said. "I felt like there were so many things I didn't know, and I didn't have a lot of resources in terms of where to get information outside of the school itself."

Those obstacles prompted Brown-Moseley — who was pursuing a career in law to "save the world, one person at a time" — and classmate Avnel Coates, L'14, to co-found Brighter Tomorrows Begin Today. The nonprofit helps individuals achieve their academic and professional goals through educational, professional development, and networking opportunities.

"The organization acts as a liaison between people who want to enter into a particular profession and those already in it," Brown-Moseley said. "We wanted to create an opportunity for individuals to make connections and build relationships with others so they don't have to re-create the wheel."

Since its incorporation in 2012, Brighter Tomorrows Begin Today has helped more than a dozen individuals from a variety of professional backgrounds. The work it does is the same as the advice she offers incoming Richmond Law students: "Network, network, network."

"There's no way to overstate the power of building connections and relationships with people," she said. "Knowledge is power. Reach out to people who are doing what it is you think you want to do and learn from them. Those social resources really do make a difference."

—Cheryl Spain

ROBERT WORSTER, L'05, was inducted into the Virginia Law Foundation's Class of Fellows 2020. He is in private practice in Fairfax, Virginia.

2010s

SEAN HICKS, L'11, was named Young Lawyer of the Year by the Richmond Bar Association. He is a senior associate with Williams Mullen. Sean has served as a member of the Richmond Bar Association's real estate section executive committee. Prior to entering private practice, he was a law clerk to the Hon. Harry L. Carrico, senior justice of the Supreme Court of

Virginia. Outside of work, he serves on a pro bono basis to local community providers, including a historic church and child care center in Richmond's Fan District.

CASEY ARIAL, L'14, and wife Megan welcomed daughter Georgia Reese, born July 14, 2019. She joins big brother James Henry (2). Casey practices with ReidGoodwin in Richmond.

AMANDA BIRD, L'17, and **LAUREN RITTER, L'17**, were recognized with the 2020 National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys John J. Regan Writing Award. They co-authored "Observing the NOTICE Act" with visiting professor Leigh Melton.

In Memoriam

ALAN COURTNEY "CHIEF" GUILD, L'50, of Louisville, Kentucky
April 10, 2020

JACK O'NEILL KINGSLEY, L'52, of Virginia Beach, Virginia
March 6, 2020

STEPHEN C. BARNARD, L'62, of Princess Anne, Maryland
Jan. 22, 2020

ULYSSES "PETE" JOYNER JR., R'59 AND L'62, of Gordonsville, Virginia
Dec. 7, 2019

CLIFFORD E. "GENE" WHITE, L'62, of Mechanicsville, Virginia
Nov. 15, 2019

ROBERT FRANKLIN BROOKS, L'64, of Richmond
March 19, 2020

EDWARD W. TAYLOR, L'64 AND R'08, of Midlothian, Virginia
Jan. 5, 2020

ELTON A. "BUCK" MOSKALSKI, L'65, of Fort Collins, Colorado
Oct. 20, 2019

JAMES W. "PAT" PATTERSON, R'65 AND L'68, of Vienna, Virginia
Nov. 17, 2019

ALBERT L. FARY JR., L'69, of Portsmouth, Virginia
Oct. 10, 2019

RUPERT RIEVES WINFREE, L'70, of Richmond
Feb. 18, 2020

WILLIAM BENJAMIN "BEN" SNEAD SR., L'74, of Roanoke, Virginia
Feb. 18, 2020

MARK W. ROSSI, L'77, of New Bern, North Carolina
Aug. 30, 2016

THE HON. HENRY ALAN VANOVER, L'77, of Clintwood, Virginia
April 16, 2020

SUSAN MARKOWITZ SPIELBERG, L'84, of Richmond
Jan. 15, 2020

TRACY LEE TALIAFERRO, L'96, of Prince George, Virginia
April 18, 2020

ROBERT HENRY BURGER, L'99, of Richmond
Feb. 9, 2020

CLASS OF 2020



The lack of a traditional commencement ceremony didn't stop the Richmond Law Class of 2020 from celebrating. Clockwise, from top left: Alexis George, Robin Nagel, Joanna Steele, Marina Batalias, Lauren Early, Mariah Bayless Davis, Annie Mullican, and Camilla Gollbo.

ALUMNI PROFILE



Photograph by Bob Brown/Richmond Times-Dispatch

A CONCERN FOR LAWYER WELLNESS

The Supreme Court of Virginia can be an imposing and impersonal institution, from its origins as part of the 17th-century House of Burgesses to the significant and controversial role it played in civil rights cases that shaped our nation.

But **JUSTICE STEPHEN MCCULLOUGH, L'97**, who was appointed to the Commonwealth's highest court in 2016, hopes to be remembered for having bettered the lives of everyday people — and the lawyers who serve them.

"I'm very blessed to work with exceptionally bright, hard-working colleagues who believe, in addition to fairly resolving the cases before us, in advancing broader goals," McCullough said. "We're focused on two areas: to 'close the justice gap' [by raising] standards and awareness for the legal profession to live up to its ideals of equal justice, especially for those who cannot afford a lawyer, and to advance lawyer wellness."

"Law is a high-stress profession, and there are alarming statistics about mental health and substance abuse among young lawyers. I'm proud that Virginia has taken a prominent role in promoting the need for life balance."

McCullough's own wellness journey began in an unlikely place. Born in Marseille, France, McCullough intended to become a diplomat after graduating from the University of Virginia. He interned at the U.S. Department of State, but when budget cuts waylaid his plans, he enrolled at Richmond Law. After graduation, he served as a law clerk to Justice Leroy R. Hassell Sr., Virginia's first African American chief justice.

"I was sort of haphazard about fitness, and here was Justice Hassell — who was twice my age — regularly putting me to shame," he said. "So, I started working out, being more active in my church, and volunteering."

"In addition to making me think about physical, mental, and spiritual health, Justice Hassell certainly opened my eyes to deficiencies in how minorities were sometimes treated by the legal system."

McCullough is similarly committed to inspiring the next generation of judicial leaders. He volunteers his time in a variety of ways, including at the Fredericksburg Boys and Girls Club.

"At the club, they just call me Mr. Steve; many don't understand what I do," he said. "These kids are very bright and capable, but they don't see a path to a legal career. I'm devoted to helping them see that path."

—Suzanne Hofmann

Then & NOW

One hundred years ago, “law school consisted of learning the content of law and little else,” said Jack Preis, associate dean of academics. For first-year students at Richmond Law, that meant a curriculum without the skills-building courses — like legal analysis, writing, and research — that gained in popularity throughout the 20th century.

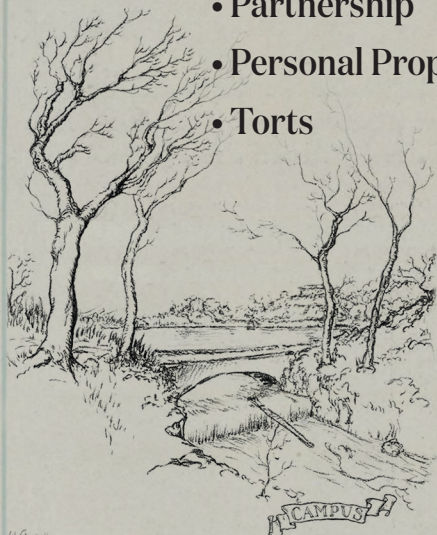


It might look like students were excused from learning civil procedure in 1920 as well, but that’s far from the case. “Not only was ‘civ pro’ taught back in 1920, it tended to be even more complex,” Preis said. “For most of Anglo-American history, there was no formal category of law called ‘procedure,’ but there were innumerable rules that we would recognize as procedural.”

FIRST-YEAR CURRICULUM IN

1920

- Agency
- Bailments and Carriers
- Contracts
- Criminal Law
- Domestic Relations
- Insurance
- Partnership
- Personal Property
- Torts



FIRST-YEAR CURRICULUM IN

2020

- Civil Procedure
- Constitutional Law
- Contracts
- Criminal Law
- Legal Analysis and Writing
- Legal Research
- Legislation and Regulation
- Property
- Torts





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Thank you.

DURING TIMES OF CRISIS, the Richmond Law community shows up, big time. Never has that been clearer than in 2020.

You helped establish the Student Emergency Fund in the immediate wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. When students' summer jobs fell through, we turned to our alumni to identify new summer opportunities across Virginia and beyond. And on our Day of Giving, you stepped up to the plate. Thanks to a generous giving challenge from Janice Moore, L'81, 227 donors contributed more than \$350,000 to support our students.

We're proud — but not surprised — to see our Spider Law alumni and friends support one another when it matters most.

Thank you for being a part of this community. uronline.net/givetourlaw



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