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# Richmond Law

**JUVENILE SENTENCING AND  
*THE POWER OF  
SECOND CHANCES***

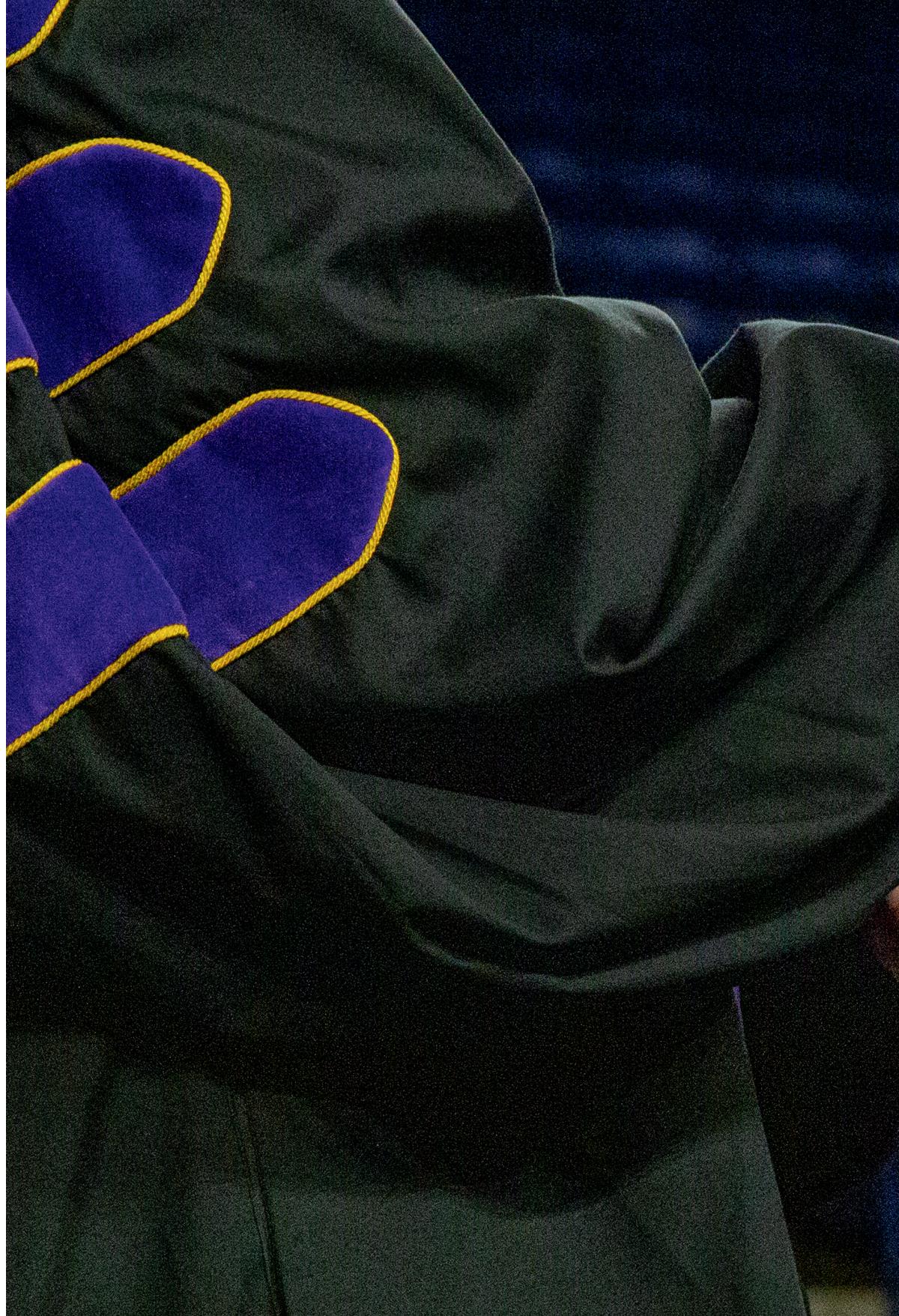


*Julie McConnell,  
Director of the Children's Defense Clinic*



## PERSONAL TOUCH

Commencement ceremonies returned to a greater sense of normality as Richmond Law celebrated the Class of 2022 in May. The law school awarded 124 J.D. degrees and one Master of Laws degree. More than 20% of the graduates earned the Carrico Center Pro Bono Certificate for completing 120 hours of service throughout their three years, collectively performing nearly 6,000 hours of service.



Photograph by Kim Schmidt







DEAN'S LETTER

## REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCES



Dear friends,

One hallmark of a Richmond Law education is the breadth of opportunities we provide for students to apply what they are learning while they are learning. Our in-house clinics, externship programs, and clinical practicum courses help students engage in the hands-on application of their coursework. These opportunities enrich more than the law school experience; data show that students who get these experiences are more likely to thrive personally and professionally throughout their careers.

In this issue of *Richmond Law*, we highlight the impact of students engaging in real-world experiences while in law school. Continuing to provide these opportunities proved particularly challenging during the initial phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, when courts and so many other institutions limited their operations. But you'll read about how the Children's Defense Clinic pivoted from representing juveniles in court to advocating in parole hearings on behalf of prisoners who were convicted as juveniles.

Bubba Flores, now an assistant U.S. attorney in the Northern Mariana Islands, notes that his approach to cases as a prosecutor has been shaped by his participation in the Children's Defense and Wrongful Convictions clinics.

Professor Andrew Spalding's book on the impact of megasports is also profiled. Spalding has always included students in his projects and arranged for some of them to travel with him to the World Cup in Brazil and the Olympics in South Korea. These students had a unique opportunity to provide critical assistance in interviewing officials and gathering first-hand information about the impact of these events on anti-corruption efforts.

These are just a few examples of our dedication to equipping students with the full range of critical skills they need to become great lawyers. We are committed to not only providing academic rigor, but also teaching students how to analyze, evaluate, and apply the information they are presented in the classroom long before they begin their careers.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy C. Perdue". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Wendy C. Perdue  
Dean and Professor of Law



## Richmond Law

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Photograph by Jamie Betts



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# For the Record



## Questions of ethics

The line between private choices and those where the public has a stake can be a blurry one, as Meredith Harbach, professor of law, explained in a panel discussion on campus in February.

Childrearing is one example: The U.S. typically sees it as a private endeavor where parents make decisions and care for children as they see fit, Harbach said, while in some other countries there's more of a collective sense of responsibility. While it has many positives, the U.S. approach isn't without consequences, such as a hesitation to intervene until a child is in immediate crisis, whether from abuse or poverty.

Harbach, speaking at the Ethics of Choice Conference, wondered if a shift in public opinion could lead to a more cooperative model, where all citizens feel a responsibility for ensuring that parents have the financial and social support they need. She proposed a variety of opportunities where the state could better partner with parents to protect child well-being, from expanding the definition of child harm to include poverty and systemic inequality, to legislation to better balance child care and work, and ensuring that parents have access to basic resources.

"I want to move from a model that focuses on parental power and state power that are constantly in tension," she said, "to one that prioritizes the responsibilities of the state to children, of the state to families, and of families to children."

The conference, organized by the Jepson School of Leadership Studies, brought together scholars and experts from across the university and 15 other institutions to debate a wide range of ethical issues. Harbach was one of several Richmond Law professors among the conference's 42 speakers.

Allison Tait, associate dean for faculty development and professor of law, chaired a panel discussion titled "Wealth Gains and Gaps" that explored how lending practices often undermine the economic stability of low-income families while providing benefits to high-wealth families. The discussion was moderated by Christopher Corts, professor of law and legal practice.

Families and individuals whose wages are too low and who have little job security often incur debt to meet basic needs, Tait said. But their borrowing choices often are limited to predatory lenders with high fees, such as payday loans and check-cashing services. On the flip side, high-wealth individuals can actually take advantage of debt, using it to generate income and assets and avoid taxes — a system wherein the rich get richer.

That tension, Tait said, raises questions about how to open up possibilities for everyone to thrive. "We talk about helping people make the correct choices to get to their own flourishing," she said, "and how their flourishing can be supported by communities and by the state."

—Kim Catley



ADVOCACY COMPETITION

# National champs

Richmond Law not only won this year's John L. Costello National Criminal Law Trial Advocacy Competition — it took second place as well. Twenty-three teams, including two from Richmond, took part in the annual event hosted by George Mason University. Both Richmond teams made it to the final round, along the way outscoring teams from Harvard, the University of Colorado, Texas A&M, and Case Western, among others.

Each year, law schools send three-person teams to prosecute or defend a fictitious criminal case. (This year's case centered on a defendant accused of robbing and murdering a taco truck driver.) Competition organizers often introduce unexpected developments between rounds, and teams must react. "For example, suddenly the prosecution is given exculpatory evidence," says Richmond

coach Shari Skipper, "and if they don't turn it over, they lose points."

A defense team made up of Daniel Lange, L'22, Chris Chavarría, L'22, and Anastasia Mitchell, L'22, took first place in the competition. They defeated their own classmates, a prosecution team consisting of Dylan McAuley, L'22, Danielle Taylor, L'22, and Chris Hale, L'23, in the finals.

Two adjunct professors — Skipper, chief deputy commonwealth's attorney in Hanover County, and Nael Abouzaki, senior assistant commonwealth's attorney for Henrico County — coach the Richmond teams. They teach Criminal Trial Advocacy in the fall semester, and students are chosen from that class for the competition.

Richmond also won the competition in 2018, but this is the first year that it took both first and second places.

AROUND THE SCHOOL

## MEDIA HITS

News media sought out Richmond Law faculty for their perspectives in recent months. Here's a sampling:

### The New York Times

*The New York Times* quoted **ASHLEY DOBBS**, director of the Intellectual Property and Transactional Law Clinic, in a story about Apple's aggressive efforts to protect its trademarks. Dobbs noted that the tech giant has started using the same language in multiple legal challenges, including one against Appleton Area School District in Wisconsin and another against a New York City cooking blog called Big Apple Curry. "There's a cost efficiency going after multiple people with the same argument," she said.

## POPULAR SCIENCE

Wind and solar power account for just 13% of energy production in the U.S., even though the costs of solar panels and other materials have decreased. That's because the soft costs, like permitting and installation, remain a barrier, according to **JOEL EISEN**, professor of law. "The challenge is that every locality in the nation does this differently," Eisen told *Popular Science* in May.



**HAYES HOLDERNESS**, associate professor of law, weighed in on a debate over the constitutionality of taxes on digital advertising. The U.S. Supreme Court issued a mixed ruling on two cases — one in Maryland and one in Ohio — leaving the issue still muddy. Holderness was quoted in an article at law360.com; at issue, in part, is whether digital ad taxes suppress free speech or are simply a form of business tax.

## THE CAP TIMES

**ANN HODGES**, professor emerita, published an opinion piece in a politics-focused newspaper based in Madison, Wisconsin, on an effort by nurses there to win recognition of their union representative and engage in collective bargaining with their employer, the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinic Authority.

COMMUNITY

# Warmth and comfort

Children are typically undergoing significant upheaval if they arrive at Elk Hill for the nonprofit's residential services. They've often just left a dangerous situation and are entering a safe but unfamiliar place. Earlier this year, the Carrico Center for Pro Bono and Public Service continued its tradition of donating blankets to make their transition more comforting.

Each of the 56 donated blankets had a personal touch. In January, as part of the commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the Carrico Center distributed blanket kits at Muse Law Library. Law student volunteers and students at Richmond Montessori School turned them into finished products.

"We provide a wide array of opportunities for our students, both one-time events and longer term commitments," said Tara Casey, Carrico's director. "Not all students have the



opportunity or capacity to volunteer off campus, but they still want to be of service to our community. We meet students where they are. That's the spirit behind our take-home projects."

The blankets were delivered to Elk Hill in February and added to the welcome boxes that help children successfully transition to their new environment, where they receive a variety of services.



## AROUND THE SCHOOL



### EXECUTIONERS' TOOLS

Earlier this year, *Time* magazine reported on an unusual renovation. The South Carolina Department of Corrections refurbished its death chamber to facilitate execution by firing squad. The project was prompted by the state's inability to procure the drugs necessary for carrying out lethal injections.

Will this return to an unquestionably violent execution method be acceptable with the public? Professor Corinna Lain, who has studied the death penalty for years, says it's a key question. "Maintaining the death penalty today comes with a critical proviso," she told *Time*. "Executions cannot offend the sensibilities of the people in whose name they're being conducted."

She pointed out that every new method of execution is proposed as a more humane alternative to what existed, even if subsequent experience doesn't bear this out. South Carolina's attempt to reach back to a previously discarded method may accelerate growing unease with the death penalty generally.

### RISKS OF AI

The emergence of artificial intelligence has raised a wide range of questions about privacy, justice, and ethics. Two CIA experts examined these questions in a law school discussion in March. Kristi Scott, the CIA's chief privacy and civil liberties officer, and Jacqueline Acker, deputy privacy and civil liberties officer at the agency, talked about the risks of AI — including privacy violations, bias, and threats to domestic and national security. The panel, moderated by visiting professor Anne Toomey McKenna, was hosted by Richmond Law's Technology & Innovation Society, Black Law Student Association, and Women's Law Society.

## COMMUNITY

# This dog's purpose

Sometimes small things matter in important ways. And sometimes they come in adorable packages.

Meet Joyce, an outgoing pup with a heart of gold who has become a regular at the law school. She started coming to campus to keep her owner Alex Sklut, associate dean of students, company at a time the building was largely empty due to COVID-19 protocols. As students, faculty, and staff started coming back, Joyce kept coming, too, charming everyone around her.

Her secret? "You don't need to impress her," Sklut says. She's extroverted and always happy to see everyone.

Sklut took note of the impression Joyce's friendly disposition consistently made on others. Sklut's responsibilities include developing programs to support student well-being, and she recognized that students enduring the pressures and stress of a rigorous law education got a welcome break whenever Joyce came their way.

The next step was obvious: "I should make it official," Sklut said. Joyce is now in formal training to become a certified therapy dog and another credentialed member of the law school team serving students.





Photograph by Jamitz Betts

# Strong arm of the law

**Q & A** Beau English, '21 and L'24, did double duty last fall, navigating his first year at Richmond Law while playing quarterback for the Spiders. He'll do it again this fall, thanks to extended scholarship eligibility because of the COVID-19 crisis.

**THE TIME-MANAGEMENT SKILLS REQUIRED TO JUGGLE LAW SCHOOL AND FOOTBALL ARE IMPRESSIVE. HOW DID YOU MANAGE EVERYTHING?**

Well, it was definitely a lot, but I just tried to get into a rhythm and establish a good schedule early in the semester. And then I tried to stick to it for the rest of the semester. I just made sure all my priorities were straight, then I kind of fell into a groove. Once I got into a good rhythm, it wasn't so bad.

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE A TYPICAL DAY FROM LAST FALL?**

I would wake up, have [football] meetings in the morning, then go to practice. We'd practice until 11, then I'd go straight to classes for most of the afternoon and try to get lunch

somewhere in between. If I was really busy, I had to go back for position meetings. Then after that, I would do my homework for a few hours and probably watch an hour or so of film. By that time, it'd be about 11 o'clock. And I'd go to bed and do pretty much the same thing the next day.

**YOU TRANSFERRED TO RICHMOND FROM THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY. DO YOU THINK THAT MILITARY BACKGROUND HELPED WITH ALL THIS?**

Absolutely. My father was a graduate of the Air Force Academy; he raised me on those principles, and so I've always tried to live my life in a disciplined manner.

When I was at the Academy, I was balancing the military aspect with academics and football — that was

great preparation for doing football and law school. I'm thankful for that experience because it prepared me well.

**WHAT AREAS OF LAW ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GOING INTO?**

I worked with a firm last summer that just does employment and labor, and I really liked that field. Or immigration law because I think it's such a huge issue in our country today, and I'd like to help any way that I can.

**DO YOU PLAN TO DO ANYTHING DIFFERENT THIS FALL?**

I think I had a pretty good rhythm going last year, so I don't want to play with that too much. But, you know, sometimes if I need to take a Saturday night or a Sunday morning off, I'll do that. Just to stay fresh.

—Interview by Glenn McDonald



◀ **BEAU KNOWS FOOTBALL**  
*In the Fall 2021 season, English played in five games, starting twice. His highlight-reel game came during Family Weekend against Elon, when he threw for a season-high 193 yards and one touchdown.*





# Paralegal. Law student. Mom.

You might say that current law student Mandy Truman started her legal career at the age of 14. That's when she got a job "pulling staples out of paper" at the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission.

The whole time, though, she thought to herself, "I'm never going to be a lawyer." Her dream was to become a police officer, but after a serious car accident, Truman reconsidered her options.

Several experiences helped cement her decision to pursue a legal career. Working in the clerk's office of the Supreme Court of Virginia, Truman learned about both the substantive and practical aspects of the justice system. She also spent time back at the Workers' Compensation Commission and at a workers' compensation defense firm in Richmond. Her job at the private firm proved especially fortuitous: It was there

that she met her future husband, Bryn Swartz, L'11. "I met him across

the table at a hearing for workers' compensation," said Truman, which she acknowledges as "the silliest meet-cute on the planet."

Later, the couple were headed in for a scheduled cesarean section to welcome their first son when, moments before delivery, Swartz received an email notification that he was being laid off by his firm. "He looked at me and said, 'Do you want to start a law firm?'" said Truman.

That same day — after the safe delivery of their son — they sat in her hospital room, formed an LLC, and started the hunt for office space. Pathfinder Injury Law was born.

Based in Glen Allen, a Richmond suburb, Pathfinder specializes in workplace injuries. Swartz is the primary attorney, while Truman — who has an associate degree in paralegal studies and is a certified paralegal — is the firm's administrator. She keeps the operations running, from human resources to research and writing to tax filings.

In addition to her work at the firm and being parent to an active toddler, Truman has taken on extra responsibilities in law school: She's president of the Animal Law Society, vice president of First Generation Law Students, and networking and alumni relations chair for the Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity.

Last November, *Virginia Lawyers Weekly* named Truman to its annual list of Unsung Legal Heroes, a program that recognizes some of the "most talented and dedicated legal support professionals." It was an unexpected but welcome honor for Truman. "It's really cool to be acknowledged by the legal community, especially for something that I wanted to do for so long," she said. "It means a lot to be respected and to be proud of where I came from."



PUBLIC SERVICE

# Public health law

This year's *Richmond Law Review* Symposium focused on public health law — and, in particular, how it has adapted in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Held virtually in late March, the all-day symposium included scholars from Georgetown University, the University of Denver, Emory University, the University of Houston, and other institutions.

One session explored why digital contact tracing — the use of Bluetooth and geolocation data to track the spread of COVID-19 — didn't take hold in the U.S.; another examined the effect of the pandemic in divert-

ing attention and funds from another key public health issue: tuberculosis control. (TB is one of the world's top infectious-disease killers and is becoming increasingly drug-resistant.) Other topics included Medicare and Medicaid reform, the role of law in advancing health equity, and wastewater surveillance as a form of public health monitoring. Participants in the symposium were eligible for CLE credits.

A number of the presentations are available in article format at [lawreview.richmond.edu/category/symposium-2022](http://lawreview.richmond.edu/category/symposium-2022).

STUDENT LIFE



# Good cause, good fun

Richmond Women's Law hosted its biannual trivia night at Three Notch'd Brewing Co. in Richmond in April. Students and faculty competed for the title of RWL Trivia Champion and, more importantly, raised more than \$2,000 for Safe Harbor, a Richmond-based nonprofit that provides critical support to survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.

Richmond Women's Law is one of 37 student organizations at Richmond

Law. They cover a variety of personal and professional affinity and interest areas.

The organization First Generation Law Students, for example, provides support for students who are navigating the launch of their legal careers without lawyers in their families to guide them. The Richmond Law Running Club encourages students to exercise outdoors for their physical and mental health and to connect with the broader community.

NOTEWORTHY



## 3L CLASS GIFT

Students, faculty, and staff celebrated a record-breaking student fundraising campaign with frozen custard. The Class of 2022 donated more than \$3,400 through the 3L class gift campaign. The annual campaign is designed to raise awareness of the impact of philanthropy on students' experiences and to build a spirit of giving among the class.

## STATE BAR MILESTONE

With her mid-June swearing in, Stephanie Grana, W'90 and L'93, became the first Latina to serve as president of the Virginia State Bar. She is also the seventh woman to lead the organization's 50,000 members. She began her term July 1.

Grana, a partner at Richmond-based Cantor Grana Buckner Bucci, told *Virginia Lawyers Weekly* that her long-term goals include promoting professionalism, increasing diversity among VSB leadership, and encouraging wellness and mindfulness.

## REAL ESTATE HONORS

Sometimes Spider excellence is recognized in pairs. Richard B. Chess, L'77, and Ronald D. Wiley Jr., L'83, were the recipients of the 2022 Traver Award from the Virginia State Bar Real Estate Property Section and Virginia CLE. The award honors "a lawyer who embodies the highest ideals and expertise in the practice of real estate law," according to the Virginia State Bar.

Chess, a former state legislator and sergeant in the Marine Corps Reserves, is managing partner of the Chess Law Firm. Wiley is underwriting counsel for Old Republic National Title Insurance Co.

#### AROUND THE SCHOOL



### REPARATIONS FOR UKRAINE

Professor Chiara Giorgetti has been named to a working group that will advise the government of Ukraine on claims and reparations resulting from the 2022 Russian military invasion. Giorgetti is one of five senior fellows guiding the work of the International Claims and Reparations Project, established at the request of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and based at Columbia University in New York.

“Ukraine and its partners cannot wait for Russia to conclude its unlawful acts before envisaging possible reparations processes,” Giorgetti and two other members of the project wrote at justsecurity.org in May. “Rather, they should initiate diplomatic talks now, thereby taking advantage of current political support ... and signaling to Russia that it will pay for the harm it continues to cause.”

Giorgetti, who’s been on the Richmond Law faculty since 2012, specializes in international law and international courts and tribunals; she has practiced international arbitration in Washington and Geneva and has worked extensively with the United Nations. Earlier in her career, she clerked at the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

### WAR AND ENERGY POLICY

The Merhige Center for Environmental Studies and the Richmond Law and Business Forum co-hosted a webinar in April titled “European Energy Policy in the Wake of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine.”

Professor Joel Eisen hosted the discussion about the threat posed by Russia’s invasion to European energy security and the measures being taken by individual nations and across Europe to respond. The speakers were Catherine Banet from the University of Oslo and Michael Fehling from Bucerius Law School in Hamburg, Germany.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL LAW

## SCOTUS takes note

The Supreme Court again turned to scholarship by Richmond Law faculty to inform and explain one of its high-profile decisions released in late June.

Justice Clarence Thomas drew on research and analysis by Kurt Lash, E. Claiborne Robins Distinguished Chair in Law, for the majority opinion in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*. The decision struck down a New York law requiring an applicant for a license to carry a concealed handgun outside the home to show “proper cause.”

According to Thomas, one important consideration in the case — and

this is where Lash’s analysis played a role — is whether to examine the meaning of the Second Amendment as it was understood in 1791 or when it was applied to the states with the ratification of the 14th Amendment in 1868. Thomas calls the question “an ongoing scholarly debate” and quotes Lash. Thomas then writes that the debate is inconsequential to *Bruen* because public understanding of public carry “was, for all relevant purposes, the same” in 1791 and 1868.

Lash’s cited paper, “Re-speaking the Bill of Rights: A New Doctrine of Incorporation,” appeared on SSRN in January 2021.

#### PUBLIC POLICY



## Economics and housing

Margaret Rockwell, L’19, attorney and assistant vice president at McGuireWoods Consulting, was part of a team that recently examined ways to address housing inequality through zoning and planning laws.

In May, the firm published *Zoning and Segregation in Virginia, Part 2*, which documents the history of housing segregation in Virginia and makes recommendations to local and state governments for reducing inequities.

“We hope it starts a conversation about why we still have racial segregation in Virginia. Hopefully this encourages individuals to seek

solutions and to take steps to start fully integrating our society here in Virginia,” said Rockwell, who specializes in infrastructure and economic development.

“There is a clear dichotomy between Virginia’s poor record of housing integration and its vision for expanding economic growth. It’s time for government and the private sector to take direct, intentional action to address the lack of integrated communities in the commonwealth. This action will, in turn, increase Black wealth, which will ultimately increase the economic capabilities of the state.”





# Analyzing online wills

**IN BRIEF** Online tools for will-writing might not produce a legally binding document, says Allison Tait, professor and associate dean.

The promise of online wills is undeniable. They offer people an easy way to write their wills, with no office appointment and no indiscreet questions from a lawyer about who is getting what. You don't have to leave home and you don't even have to get dressed.

I have no doubt that online wills are the wave of the future. But, despite my enthusiasm (and hopefully successful investment), online wills aren't right for everyone, nor are they appropriate in all circumstances.

What's great about online wills is the increased ease, which makes will-writing more palatable. They are also important in terms of equity and opportunity: As many as 68% of Americans die without a will and, while the reasons vary, one factor is likely lack of access to legal services.

Online services such as LegalZoom, US Legal Wills, and Nolo's Quicken WillMaker & Trust

offer packages starting at around \$90. Other websites, such as Rocket Lawyer, advertise free will templates. Similar tools for medical directives and living wills make end-of-life preparations more accessible as well.

However, simply filling out an online form doesn't produce a legally binding will. Each state has specific rules about this; most often, they require that the will be in writing, signed, and witnessed by two people. This generally means that a person must print out the will and sign a hard copy, and the witnessing needs to be done in person. States have begun to move away from this physical witnessing requirement, spurred on by the physical distancing brought on by COVID-19, but most have yet to fully adopt electronic wills or remote witnessing. Something to check, then, is whether the program or template clearly explains the steps needed to validly execute the will in your state.

Something else worth investigating is what kind of questionnaire the program provides. Estate planning, as I tell my students, is about match-

ing up your things with the people you want to inherit them. It is also about imagining worst-case scenarios and writing contingency plans into the document. Who gets that ugly landscape painting if Aunt Bridget is already dead when you die? Does Cousin Jamal get any replacement value if the stock he was supposed to inherit was sold? Make sure that the online program offers a detailed questionnaire to guide you through the "what-if" scenarios.

Finally, online will templates are best for simple estates. If you have real property in more than one state, if you have a complicated family involving multiple marriages and sets of children, or if you have a business that will be passed down, consider consulting an estate planner.

Ultimately, then, you may need to get out of bed to have your will witnessed, and you may need to leave your house to consult a lawyer about complicated assets. But the good news is that you can do a lot of the groundwork at home, drinking coffee in your pajamas.



◀ **SOURCE**  
 Allison Tait teaches trusts and estates, family law, and estate planning, among other topics. A longer version of this article appears on the nonprofit website [TheConversation.com](http://TheConversation.com).





**THE POWER  
OF SECOND  
CHANCES**



# LAST YEAR, THE CHILDREN'S DEFENSE CLINIC BEGAN REPRESENTING A NEW KIND OF CLIENT: ADULTS APPLYING FOR PAROLE WHO ARE SERVING LONG SENTENCES FOR SERIOUS CRIMES THEY COMMITTED AS MINORS DECADES AGO.

By Matthew Dewald | Photograph by Jamie Betts

**W**hen she applied to be part of the Children's Defense Clinic, Kiana Gilcrist, L'23, did not expect clients like the one she met via Zoom early in the fall 2020 semester. Gilcrist had long enjoyed working with youth. Back home in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, she worked with children often as a volunteer for the YMCA and similar organizations in high school and between semesters in college. Richmond Law's CDC was a natural fit for her once she got to law school, a chance to deepen her legal knowledge and skills while being a helper and role model to children caught up in the legal system.

For starters, the client on the other end of the Zoom session was not a child. The person she saw was a middle-aged man, mid-40s or older, she guessed, and he had spent more than two decades in prison. He needed her expertise to help make his case for parole.

"It threw me for a loop, to be honest," Gilcrist said. "Obviously, given the clinic's name, you think you're going to be working with children. We did that, too." But with a case like this client's, "I had no idea what I was getting myself into. But as we learned more each week about what we're going to be doing and why we're doing it, I saw the benefit of it."

Gilcrist's adult client was serving a sentence for a crime that happened when he was a juvenile. A change in Virginia law in early 2020, called HB 35, meant that this client and others like him — people who had received very long

sentences for crimes they committed as children, some with no meaningful hope of ever being released — became newly eligible for parole hearings. To make their cases for parole effectively, they needed legal representation.

Just after the law changed, COVID-19 hit. The realities of the pandemic forced Julie McConnell, L'99, the CDC's director, to rethink how to run the clinic in a way that kept students safe but continued to provide them with meaningful experiences. Her students typically represent indigent children facing delinquency cases, serve as guardians ad litem, and, more recently, handle special immigrant juvenile status petitions. They also sometimes represent young adults making post-conviction challenges to sentences they received as children.

But much of that work happened in person, a no-go for the university in spring 2020 when it had moved classes to remote platforms and the future seemed unclear. The new parole hearings seemed like a possible fit. They were all happening virtually, and they involved mitigation arguments that the Supreme Court had identified in recent rulings as unique to juvenile cases. After taking a couple of clients herself to learn the process and ensure she was comfortable with it, McConnell began connecting Gilcrist and other clinic students with some of these clients to help them make their cases for parole.

"I know you signed up to represent kids," she told the law students at the beginning of the fall 2020 semester. "I think it will further strengthen your advocacy skills to see what happens on the back end."

The response from the law students? We're in.

As the semester progressed, the students got a broader

*Julie McConnell,  
director of the  
Children's Defense  
Clinic, left*



In 1997, Azeem Majeed, above, received sentences that condemned him to die in prison for crimes he committed as a 17-year-old. Changes in Virginia law allowed for the reconsideration of mitigating factors related to his age and circumstances at the time of the crime. He was released on parole in 2021 with the help of advocacy from the Children's Defense Clinic.

perspective on the factors that distinguish juvenile cases from other cases, the shifts in the legal landscape in Virginia, and how to address the legacy of past practices in light of the new law. They also developed the practical skills and self-confidence that come from working with real clients. These clients would not only receive the students' services; they would become an integral part of the students' education.

To understand the recent trajectory of juvenile justice in Virginia, a good place to start is the case of Azeem Majeed, one of the CDC's clients. In 1997, Majeed was convicted of capital murder for participating in a brutal and senseless killing of a man in a park in Norfolk, Virginia. He was 17 years old at the time.

Majeed and his codefendants committed their crime in the early hours of Jan. 1, 1995. On that very day, a new law took effect in Virginia that abolished parole and otherwise harshened the criminal legal system for individuals accused of committing serious crimes. This was the era of fears about so-called "superpredators," a new generation of juveniles said to be impulsive, ultraviolent, and irredeemable. The now-discredited myth played on racial fears and led to a wave of tough-on-crime legislation such as the 1994 federal crime bill and revisions to state laws across the country that disproportionately affected African Americans. In Virginia, new laws that took effect at the beginning of 1996 made adolescents more likely to be tried as adults, more likely to begin their sentences in adult correctional facilities, more likely to face significantly longer sentences, and unable to work toward parole.

Majeed, a Black teenager who committed an appalling homicide, met the retribution of mid-1990s America just as it turned to get-tough-and-then-tougher solutions to violent crime. "Every way that you could intersect with all the changes in the criminal justice system, his case intersects with all of them," McConnell said. He received

two life sentences without parole, including a mandatory life-without-parole sentence for the capital murder charge. His punishment was to live in prison until the day he died. When he was sentenced, he was 19 years old.

In the decades that followed, important new developments proceeded on parallel tracks that had enormous implications for Majeed. The first track had to do with changes in the legal landscape. The second had to do with Majeed himself.

In the legal landscape, courts increasingly began to recognize that juvenile punishment had gone beyond the bounds of the U.S. Constitution by failing to recognize important ways that children are different from adults in matters of criminal culpability and sentencing. As McConnell wrote in a 2022 article for *Richmond Public Interest Law Review*, this recognition culminated in two Supreme Court rulings — *Miller v. Alabama* and *Montgomery v. Louisiana*. The rulings banned mandatory life sentences for minors and gave individuals who received such sentences a meaningful opportunity for release.

In the *Miller* ruling, the court identified five factors that distinguish adolescents from adults for purposes of the legal system. First, juveniles are especially susceptible to impulsive and risky behavior because their brains are not fully developed. Second, adolescents can't remove themselves from negative environments and are vulnerable to the negative influences of adults around them. Third, adolescent brains are susceptible to peer pressure. Fourth, adolescents are less effective than adults in assisting in their defense and evaluating plea options. Fifth, adolescents have tremendous capacity for rehabilitation as their brains develop. With the recognition of these factors, youthfulness was transformed from an aggravating factor to a mitigating one that required special consideration.

Alongside these legal developments was another trajectory that had important implications for Majeed: He changed as he grew up. He underwent a transformation to greater maturity, deep remorse, and commitment to atonement as the years passed, just as the *Miller* factors recognize is possible. As he progressed through his adult years, he maintained a pristine prison record, pursued educational and employment opportunities, developed religious faith, and became a skilled community leader with a reputation for resolving conflicts within the prison system peacefully. He did all of this while serving two life sentences without hope of parole.

"I arrived at this point where I said, 'I'm going to stop spending my time trying to prove people wrong who don't believe in me,'" Majeed said. "I'm going to focus on proving right the people who do believe in me."

Those people included McConnell, who was part of the legal team that represented Majeed when the *Miller* ruling required his resentencing in 2017. He became the first defendant in Virginia resentenced under *Miller* and, because of McConnell's involvement, the first adult criminal case the clinic ever took on. The judge could have again sentenced him to life. However, when she considered the *Miller* factors



as they applied to Majeed, he received a new sentence that gave him a release date — something he had never had — that was just a few years away. He was no longer condemned to die in prison.

HB 35, the February 2020 revision to Virginia law, created the possibility of moving that timeline up further by making anyone who had served more than 20 years for a crime they committed as a minor eligible for a parole hearing. Majeed met the criteria, so McConnell and a new semester's students built a dossier of evidence to support his parole request.

Approximately eight students are selected for the clinic each semester. In the process of representing clients like Majeed, they learn a host of professional skills, such as safeguarding client confidentiality, finding and preparing witnesses, gathering supporting evidence, drafting extensive memos, and presenting that information persuasively in a 30-minute hearing. In the process, the clients become another source of expertise for students about how the law actually works. Majeed, for example, was immersed in his own study of the law as he tried to understand his options. Students who came to visit often found themselves in discussions with him that drew from case law, think tanks, and other sources. They, in turn, helped him endure the isolation of his situation. "They made me feel that there was a place for me out there," he said.

After Majeed's parole hearing and an agonizing, months-long wait, he got the news that he had only dreamed of. He would be released on parole in the coming months. He was now 43 years old.

"I was in my cell, and my counselor came to the door," he said. "He knocked and pressed the paper through the door and said, 'Congratulations.' I didn't know what he was talking about — I did and I didn't. I was scared to open the paper, and he walked off. I just stood there and didn't open it, and then when I opened it, I just started crying. I'm getting emotional now just thinking about it. That feeling was just so overwhelmingly joyful."

Majeed's story of making good on a second chance continues as he builds his new life — and, as he put it, continues to prove right the people who believed in him and worked for his parole. Since his release in September 2021, he has gotten married, become a homeowner, started a business, and begun working as a consultant for the Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth, a national nonprofit. He also recently earned certification as a peer recovery specialist, which positions him to be a personal resource for others with experiences similar to his.

"Life is so beautiful and 10 times better than I envisioned it," he said. "I'm not saying that I should not have gone to

***“WE DON'T HAVE  
TO CONDEMN  
SOMEONE WHO'S  
AN ADOLESCENT  
TO DIE IN PRISON  
TO GET JUSTICE.”***

prison, that I should not have gotten locked up. I just should not have received a sentence that took away hope. This is what I'm saying. We need more people like the Children's Defense Clinic to not be afraid to step out into that uncomfortable space" to represent clients like him.

McConnell, who has both worked as a prosecutor and counseled clients on death row, wants students to see the full complexity of these cases and of the *Miller* factors that

merit reexamining the cases in the interest of justice.

"We're making the argument that you, the parole board, now have the opportunity to right some wrongs, to address the fact that we sent 14-year-olds to adult prisons," McConnell said. "Yes, they need to be punished and held accountable, but the way we did it was very reckless and lacking in forethought because we really just never accepted the idea that they would grow out of this behavior, and now we know that they do. We don't have to condemn someone who's an adolescent to die in prison to get justice and further the cause of community safety."

She calls Majeed an extraordinary example of the arguments she and the CDC students make on behalf of their other parole clients, four of whom have now been released on parole. Gilcris, the law student, assisted a 3L student with the case of a client who bounced around the foster system as a child and eventually fell into the care of someone "who basically led him to a path of destruction," she said. He was convicted for a violent robbery he committed at age 16 and went into a supermax prison with adults at age 17. Gilcris and the team wrote a memo on the client's early life and background, the efforts he was making in prison to reform, and his post-release goals and reentry plan. They then presented the information to the parole board.

For Gilcris, the experience of working in the clinic sharpened her legal writing skills and helped her overcome the nervousness that's natural when arguing a real case in front of strangers for the first time. "One thing I said during my exit interview from the clinic is that it really helped me come out of my shell and feel more confident in my capabilities."

Gilcris's experience is echoed by other students during their exit interviews, McConnell said. "It's their first opportunity — other than internships, which are really wonderful, too — to apply in a deep and robust way what they're learning in the classroom and to find out that they actually might be good at this. 'I can make an argument that's effective and can change the trajectory of someone's case — or their life, even.' That's a powerful experience for students." ■





AFTER A DECORATED CAREER IN THE MARINES, *ALBERT "BUBBA" FLORES, L'16*, NOW SERVES HIS COUNTRY AS AN ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY IN THE REMOTE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.





# DISPATCHES FROM AFAR

By Kristin Baird Rattini | Photography courtesy Bubba Flores

## NO ONE ARRIVES AT THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS BY ACCIDENT.

A commonwealth of the United States, this group of small islands in the western North Pacific lies roughly 3,800 miles west of Hawaii, 1,600 miles east of the Philippines, and 1,500 miles south of Japan. It's 14 time zones from Virginia and takes more than a day's worth of travel to reach from Richmond.

When Albert "Bubba" Flores, L'16, became an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands in January 2021, it was a noteworthy destination for him in more than geographical terms. After serving as a criminal prosecutor for the city of Richmond for five years, Flores would now practice law at the federal level. The new role drew on — and yet was in stark contrast to — his four deployments with the Marine Corps in Iraq and Afghanistan over a decorated 19-year military career. And, after a recent 15-month deployment apart, it was an ideal opportunity for his young family of five to reconnect as they together explored their new home.



### ***Called to do something noble***

As a kid growing up in San Jose, California, Flores was intrigued by the military. When he was 6 or 7, he attended a county fair and visited each branch's recruitment booth. The Army booth impressed him with an actual tank and guns on display; the Navy recruiter offered bumper stickers and posters. "When I got to the Marines booth," Flores recalled, "there were only three Marines in dress uniform, a pull-up bar, and bumper stickers. I asked if I could have a sticker and the recruiter said, 'No. Nothing is free in the Marine Corps. You have to do two pull-ups to get a sticker.'"

Heartbroken, Flores figured he'd never be good enough to join the Marines. More than 10 years later, during his freshman orientation at Washington State University, a conversation with a Navy recruiter convinced him that becoming a Marine was not only attainable but appealing: He could expand his skills, serve his country, and do something "noble," as Flores puts it. He joined the ROTC on campus, completed Marine Corps Officer Candidates School in 2002, then started active service after graduating in 2003. In college, he met his wife of 17 years, Doemiko. "I had a shaved head and was very gung-ho," Flores said. "So she knew from the beginning that if she married me, she was marrying the Marines."

### ***A defining moment***

Flores is often asked — especially by younger service members — about his combat experiences during his deployments to Iraq (2005-06 and 2007-08) and Afghanistan (2009). He describes his first Iraq tour as "the Wild West — a chaotic time." Foreign fighters were pouring into Iraq to join loyalists and other Iraqi insurgents in fighting against American and coalition forces. Every day brought gunfights, roadside bombs, and airstrikes, he said, "each with tragic and violent results."

By his second tour, he was a platoon commander in charge of 23 Marines tasked with reconnaissance missions — a lot of responsibility for someone just 25 years old.

His 2009 deployment to Afghanistan was a year of tremendous loss and personal growth. It was an inflection point that marked a "before" and "after" in his life. On his first mission, an IED explosion hit a vehicle providing navigation for a convoy Flores commanded. The explosion killed two Marines in the vehicle, including Flores' best friend, Master Sgt. John E. Hayes. They had just served

together in Iraq. "John was the most highly revered and respected recon Marine in our company," said Flores, who still keeps in touch with the wife and three children Hayes left behind.

Yet it was another incident that Flores says "defined me as a person": when he led his reconnaissance company on a perilous nighttime raid in Taliban-contested Helmand province. It was the last mission of his deployment, with the goal of interdicting a Taliban cell. The mission was successful, but it took longer than expected to extract the captured Taliban members and sort through the drugs and weapons at the site. His company's position was revealed

with the rising sun, and for several hours, the Taliban barraged them with rockets and mortars.

American air support arrived to provide cover, and Flores was tempted to continue engaging the enemy forces. But the mission had already achieved its tactical objective, he said, "and surely, the longer we stayed on the ground, the more damage we would have caused to the town, and the more risk of civilian deaths. And the risk to our recon Marines increased every minute we

stayed." Flores made the decision to withdraw.

"I'm proud of that moment," he said. "It took maturity and wisdom to exercise that type of restraint" — to make decisions that are not about glory but about what's best for the mission and the personnel. And he's pretty sure where the wisdom came from: "I know John Hayes was whispering in my ear."

For his leadership in combat in Helmand province, Flores received the Bronze Star with Valor.

### ***A pivot into law***

That two-hour gunfight proved pivotal for Flores' career as well: It caused him to take a step back and think about the bigger picture. He could be of better service, he decided, if he could be a part of the policymaking decisions — the strategy for how, when, and where to use military force — rather than just being a part of the operations on the ground. He figured a political career might be better for him — and what better way to get into politics than to become a lawyer?

Flores returned to the States and remained on active duty for three more years, serving as a commander within a new intelligence initiative at the Marine Special Operations Command at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. During that time, he also earned a master's degree in polit-

**“JUST BECAUSE  
YOU CAN DO  
SOMETHING  
DOESN'T MEAN  
YOU SHOULD.”**



ical science from the online American Military University.

In 2012, he transitioned to the Marine Corps Reserve, and a year later, at the age of 32, he entered the University of Richmond School of Law.

Flores quickly made an impression on campus. He was one of 30 people chosen statewide for the Sorensen Institute’s Political Leaders Program at the University of Virginia; the program focuses on trust and civility in politics. “You learn how to navigate partisanship and how to approach Virginia’s problems,” Flores said. While he enjoyed learning how he could potentially make a difference, he found that he didn’t enjoy the politics — and decided to focus on a courtroom career instead.

Flores, who became a father during law school, also devoted his time to both the Children’s Defense Clinic and the Wrongful Convictions Clinic. “[The latter] was where I learned about court prosecution and the criminal justice system from a perspective I hadn’t previously considered,” he said. “As I approach every single one of my cases now, I look out for investigational pitfalls and recognize when a case should not be prosecuted.”

The campus cause nearest to Flores’ heart was the Veterans and Military Law Association, a support network for veterans and for students interested in becoming military lawyers. As its president, Flores transformed the association from primarily a social organization to one that

provides pro bono legal services to veterans seeking disability benefits. He helped build a partnership between the VMLA and the Carrico Center for Pro Bono and Public Service — a partnership that continues to this day.

“It remains one of our most consistently resourced programs,” said Tara Casey, director of the Carrico Center. Each week, student volunteers with the center identify *pro se* veteran claimants on the federal circuit docket. The volunteers draft a case summary that’s shared with the Federal Circuit Bar Association’s pro bono veterans appeal panel, which determines which cases may be appropriate for pro bono representation.

“Any space that he goes into, Bubba impresses everyone with his genuineness and authenticity,” Casey said. “He truly lives and walks his ethos.”

At graduation, Flores received the Charles T. Norman Award, given to the best all-around student, as voted by the faculty. “I was humbled,” he said. “Law school was hard for me as an older student and as a parent. I succeeded only because of my wife and my friends at the law school.”

### **Duty calls**

Flores continued to honor his commitment to the Marine Corps Reserve throughout law school and as he settled into his job as a criminal prosecutor for the city of Rich-

*Flores, second from right, in the mountains of Kandahar province, Afghanistan, during the 2009 U.S. troop surge. At the time of the photo, he was a captain and commander of a Marine reconnaissance company.*



# “I HOPE THAT ... I CAN IMPART WISDOM I GAINED THROUGH MY EXPERIENCES.”

mond. As he tried a wide range of cases — homicides to misdemeanors, firearms offenses to drug cases — he recognized parallels between his legal and military careers. “Military commanders and prosecutors both have so much discretion and so much power,” he said. “Just because you can do something doesn’t mean you should. I applied that principle to try to be the fairest prosecutor I can be.”

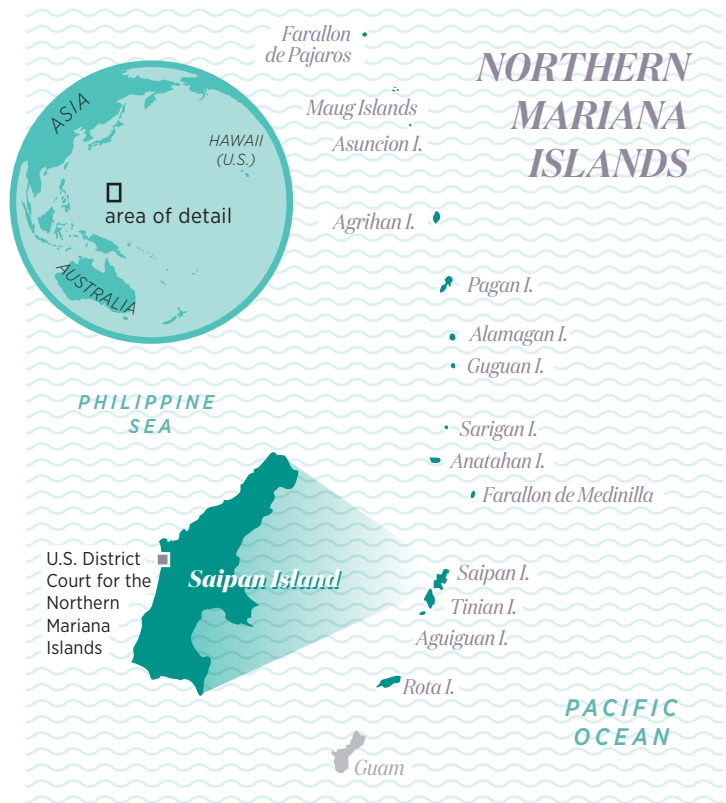
In the fall of 2019, three years into his prosecutor role and engrossed in a high-profile murder trial, Flores got a call from his reserve battalion commander. Because of his rank, his special operations intelligence expertise, and his combat experience, Flores would be deployed once again for several months of extensive training followed by a nine-month mission to Afghanistan. It was unexpected: “My wife and three kids were used to me being home all the time except for reserve training,” Flores said. The idea of him being away for more than a year — on two weeks’ notice — caught them off guard. Fortunately, the Richmond legal community rallied around Flores and his family during his deployment, checking in on Doemiko and the children and sending Flores care packages and letters of encouragement.

In Afghanistan, Flores advised Afghan army commanders and was part of a task force training the Afghan military and police for the transition to self-sufficiency. He was awarded a second Bronze Star for meritorious service during the deployment. “I may have gotten the Bronze Star,” he said, “but Doemiko deserves her own award for being married to a deployed Marine and being a mother with three kids at home with COVID going on.”

## ***Practicing federal law in paradise***

As his Afghan deployment was winding down in late 2020, Flores was looking ahead to his next chapter. He had decided to pursue a position as a federal prosecutor and found the posting for the Northern Mariana Islands opening. He interviewed for the job via videoconference at 3:30 a.m. Afghanistan time; he had to apologize for wearing his dirty military uniform rather than a business suit.

When he was offered the job, Flores and Doemiko accepted without hesitation, even though they’d have to move half a world away without first seeing their new



home on Saipan (the largest island in the Northern Mariana Islands). They knew the opportunity would give them a welcome change in lifestyle after Flores’ deployment. “We are adventurous people,” he said. “We love the ocean. We love boating, diving, and fishing, and that is what Saipan is all about. We sold our home and cars, got rid of as much as we needed to, and we just went all in.”

Flores started his new position in January 2021. He works with two other assistant U.S. attorneys in the new state-of-the-art Saipan branch office. The district’s headquarters are on Guam, about 130 miles to the south, where the U.S. attorney and seven additional assistant U.S. attorneys are based. Flores focuses on criminal cases that cover the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and provides support for Guam cases. He serves as the district’s coordinator for national security and Project Safe Neighborhoods, in which he works with local law and government officials on efforts to reduce violent crime.

Flores and the other two federal prosecutors in the CNMI handle a wide variety of cases, with an emphasis on public corruption, drugs, immigration fraud, and white-collar crime. Both Guam and the CNMI see significant cargo ship traffic, which can involve illicit narcotics trafficking. Immigration fraud cases are also prominent on the docket: The CNMI’s population includes thousands of foreign workers, some of whom are undocumented. The fact that the jurisdiction is geographically closer to countries in southeast Asia — most notably China — than to the mainland U.S. also complicates Flores’ work. Some of what he does has implications for national security, and much of that work is classified.





### *Fun and family time*

Meanwhile, Flores and his family are taking full advantage of Saipan's many natural treasures. Both avid scuba divers, he and Doemiko have explored the surrounding coral reefs and numerous shipwrecks from World War II. A passionate fisherman, Flores can fish for marlin and wahoo within a five-minute boat ride from shore. On days when it's too windy to fish, he and a colleague indulge in a new pursuit: kitesurfing. "My kids love to come to the kitesurfing beach and root for us," he said.

His family time on Saipan with Doemiko and their three children — Miriam, 7, Thomas, 5, and Scarlett, 4 — has been invaluable to Flores. He lives two minutes from his children's school and five minutes from work. He sometimes drives an ATV rather than a car place to place, including to the local VFW post. He attends his children's extracurricular activities and coaches Miriam's soccer team. He can swing home over his lunch break to check in on his family and have lunch with them.

The family is looking forward to exploring a whole new region of the world that's now at their doorstep — including Hawaii, where Flores (now a lieutenant colonel) reports twice a year for reserve duty.

"My motivation for being in the Marine Corps has evolved over my career," he said. "Initially, I wanted to see how hard I could push myself. A few years later, it became about brotherhood and love of the guys I was serving with. Then it became a devotion to service and making a difference. Now, I hope that with my current rank and position, I can impart wisdom I gained through my experiences and combat deployments to the newest generation of Marines."

After years of active duty, combat deployments, grad school, and job changes, Flores knows he has made the right move for his family and his career. And each day, as he looks out his office window at the blue expanse of the Pacific Ocean, he's fairly certain that no assistant U.S. attorney anywhere else has a better view. ■

*Kristin Baird Rattini is a freelance writer based in Missouri.*







SCRUTINY OF SPORTS  
EVENTS PLAYED ON A WORLD STAGE  
IS MAKING THEM A FORCE FOR CHANGE.





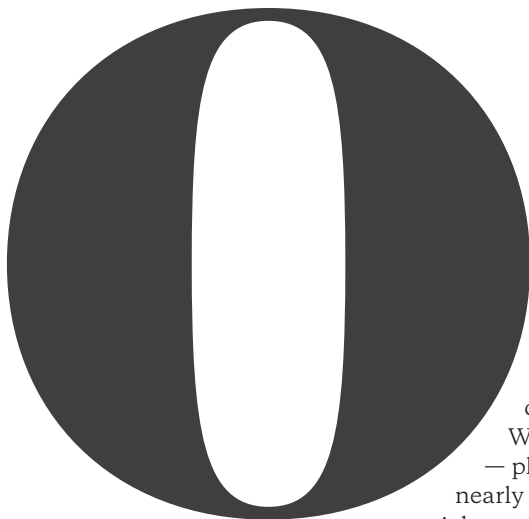
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# A NEW LEGACY?

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By Kim Catley | Illustrations by Katie McBride





**O****N SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2019,** the United States and the Netherlands national soccer teams took to the field to determine the winner of the Women's World Cup. The game — played before a sellout crowd of nearly 58,000 in Lyon, France — was a tight matchup without a single goal in the first half. But 62 minutes in, U.S. co-captain Megan Rapinoe scored on a penalty kick. Eight minutes later, midfielder Rose Lavelle expanded the lead to 2-0 and secured the U.S. Women's National Team's second consecutive title.

The victory solidified the USWNT's dominance on the pitch as it became the first women's soccer team to win four World Cup titles. The moment also put a white-hot spotlight on the team's ongoing push for equal pay compared to their male counterparts. Just four months earlier, 28 USWNT players filed a federal gender-discrimination lawsuit against the U.S. Soccer Federation, accusing the league of paying "only lip service to gender equality."

Soccer holds a unique position among U.S. sports: The USWNT is as popular as its male counterpart, if not more so. The USWNT is undoubtedly the best in the world, while the men didn't even qualify for the 2018 World Cup or the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. The women's team brings in more revenue, and the 2015 Women's World Cup final set a record for American viewership — for any soccer game in history.

Despite the team's success, the lawsuit argued, U.S. Soccer paid the women's team lower salaries and discriminated against the women in other ways, including medical care, travel, and quality of playing and practice facilities.

A federal judge dismissed some of the women's claims in 2020, but in February of this year, the two sides reached a multimillion-dollar settlement — and, in May, the U.S. Soccer Federation announced new labor agreements that will pay the men and women equally through 2028.

The USWNT's quest for equity is one of a number of interrelated sports issues studied by Richmond Law professor Andrew Spalding, chair of the Olympics Compliance Task Force and an expert on international anti-corruption law. His new book, *A New Megasport Legacy*, explores how major sports competitions can lead to bribery scandals and spotlight human rights violations, such as abuses against ethnic groups — yet they can also be leveraged to bring about legislative and cultural reforms that last well beyond the closing ceremonies. The book draws on Spalding's research in Brazil, South Korea, France, and Qatar and includes contributions from law students in his yearlong class *Corruption in International Sports*.

The 18 months encompassing the 2022 Beijing Olympics, the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, and the 2023 Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand are particularly notable. Collectively, they mark a shift: A decade ago, host countries primarily instituted new policies only when faced with scandal. Today, reforms are increasingly a proactive component of the effort to win the right to host a megasport event — a component as essential and long-lasting as building new roads, athletic facilities, and other infrastructure.

"Sports command attention," Spalding said. "People find them interesting and worth following in ways that they don't necessarily follow politics." As a result, sports often can be a catalyst for political and social change.

**“SPORTS COMMAND ATTENTION. PEOPLE FIND THEM INTERESTING AND WORTH FOLLOWING IN WAYS THAT THEY DON'T NECESSARILY FOLLOW POLITICS.”**



*Left, Spalding in the classroom. His research on major international sporting events focuses on how they can be a catalyst for political and social change in the places that host them.*

all talking about these issues in ways that we otherwise wouldn't."

Spalding also believes that China may mark a turning point in the relationship between global sporting events and anti-corruption reform, particularly when juxtaposed with Qatar's hosting of the World Cup later this year.

"We have to understand China as the end of an era in which megasports coincided with unaddressed systemic corruption and human rights violations," he said. "With Qatar, we see a transition into potentially a different era."

### **QATAR, 2022**

When Qatar was named the 2022 World Cup host more than a decade ago, allegations quickly emerged that representatives had bribed officials of FIFA, soccer's international governing body, to secure hosting rights for the country. But as the World Cup approaches and bribery chatter increases, Spalding said it's important to remember that many countries — including Japan, Germany, and others that rank among the least corrupt in the world — have all been embroiled in bribery scandals related to hosting international sporting events. Even the U.S. is not above reproach: Most notably, organizers of Salt Lake City's bid to host the 2002 Olympic Winter Games were indicted after offering more than \$1 million in cash, tuition payments, jobs, and other gifts to International Olympic Committee delegates.

"What the world doesn't understand is that Qatar is ranked about the same; it's not a systemically corrupt country," he said.

In reality, Qatar has actively used the World Cup as an opportunity to improve its record, particularly in the area of labor rights. The country has adopted reforms around worker safety, freedom, and self-expression; it has implemented a mandatory, nondiscriminatory minimum wage for all workers; and it has enhanced training for labor inspectors. These efforts, according to Spalding, represent an intentional, proactive effort to improve human rights — a stark contrast to countries that, in the past, either resisted change altogether or made reforms only after a scandal erupted.

Spalding sees Qatar's success as evidence of the power of the spotlight that major sporting events bring. He and the eight students in his class this coming fall will be researching universal reforms that could shape future megasporting events and how Qatar can serve as a model for host country reforms. Next spring, the class will travel to Europe to present its recommendations to the Interna-

### **CHINA, 2022**

As the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics opened in February, nongovernmental organizations and citizens around the world called for a diplomatic boycott of the Games. They cited various human rights violations, ranging from abuses against the Uyghurs, Tibetans, and other ethnic groups to infringing on the freedoms dictated by Hong Kong's separate governing and economic systems.

The violations, Spalding said, raise questions about whether megasporting events should tolerate preexisting human rights problems in a host country — and whether it's possible for the international attention surrounding these events to force changes.

Spalding has studied questions like these for years. Initially he focused on corruption and human rights violations directly linked to hosting the Olympics and other major sporting events; for instance, the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, Russia, were rife with allegations of bribery between government officials and construction companies, as well as accusations of embezzlement. That same year, Brazil spent more than \$11.5 billion to host the World Cup but faced allegations of price gouging and mismanagement, as well as criticism for slum-clearing projects that displaced low-income families to make way for soccer infrastructure.

The concerns about China in 2022, however, were not just about the Games themselves — instead, they represent systemic, long-lasting problems. And Spalding said the Olympics called attention to the country's human rights violations in a way that few other events could have.

"Will China's posture in relation to human rights be better or worse off because they hosted the Olympics?" Spalding asked. "I think probably better off, even if China makes no reforms. There's so much more awareness. We're





Above left, stadium construction in preparation for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar put a spotlight on foreign workers and human rights. Above right, U.S. Women's National Team player Abby Wambach discusses equal pay in 2016 during a forum sponsored by UN Women, the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women.

tional Olympic Committee and FIFA. These could include incorporating human rights and anti-corruption analysis and planning in the bidding process; adding specific provisions to contracts with host countries; establishing a compliance program; providing meaningful training to staff and volunteers; and identifying what measures are implemented and which to expand further after the athletes and spectators go home.

Ave Grosenheider, L'22, was enrolled in Spalding's class for the 2020-21 academic year. She also completed an independent research project comparing and contrasting female representation on the Chinese and U.S. Olympic teams, with guidance from Spalding. For the corruption class, Grosenheider delved into the Men's World Cup in Qatar and, she said, now has a more nuanced understanding of how corruption works in the megasports space.

"Sports are unique in that they bring people together and raise a lot of issues on human rights and corruption," she said. "It's a pretty natural place to stop and say, 'This is causing some issues. What are we doing about it? How can we fix it? How can this be a force for change?'"

Meanwhile, Kaylee Rabatin, L'23, will take Spalding's class starting this fall. Rabatin played soccer as an undergraduate at the University of Pittsburgh and sees the class as a way to find a place for sports in her life now that she's no longer a competitive athlete.

"I saw how, on an individual level, being involved in sports impacted me," she said. "But when you put them on a global stage — such as the Olympics or the World Cup — you can see the ripple effects in that country or that city. I'm excited to see how it gets amplified across countries."

Only time will tell if the Qatar World Cup marks a sea change in corruption and human rights reforms, but Spalding is hopeful that it will create momentum that subsequent hosts can build upon. And he says a collective bid from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico (known as the United Bid) to host the 2026 Men's World Cup suggests that the



tide is turning. Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. entered their bid with a preemptive promise to measure and document positive human rights and anti-corruption outcomes.

### AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, 2023

In the U.S. Women's National Team's February settlement with the U.S. Soccer Federation, U.S. Soccer agreed to pay the players \$24 million, including back pay, and committed to equally compensating men and women players in all competitions. In May, the men's and women's teams struck a collective bargaining agreement that equalizes pay and bonuses, including World Cup prizes. Under the agreement, the U.S. teams will combine the bonuses received from FIFA and split them equally — meaning the men's teams will receive a lower payout than in the past.

While current and former team members tout the historic agreements as a huge win, Spalding said the global debate over equal pay will likely continue at the Women's World Cup next summer in Australia and New Zealand. Those two host countries also have taken steps to achieve parity in pay and perks for their men's and women's teams, but the women are still at a disadvantage because FIFA awards far more World Cup prize money to men's teams than women's — something that the U.S. agreement takes into account but the one in Australia does not.

"The U.S. has clearly set an example and will become the bar by which other countries' payment schemes are judged," Spalding said. "The Women's World Cup is now a symbol in the public's consciousness of the importance — and the viability — of achieving equal pay."

## “THE WOMEN’S WORLD CUP IS NOW A SYMBOL IN THE PUBLIC’S CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE IMPORTANCE — AND THE VIABILITY — OF ACHIEVING EQUAL PAY.”

Spalding sees the Women’s World Cup as inherently a human rights event because it’s a symbol of progress in respecting women’s rights. Issues such as equal pay are global in scale and not limited to the host country. Yet the event is often overlooked when discussing megasports governance. Spalding argues that that should change.

In his new book, he also points to Australia and New Zealand’s efforts to conduct an independent human rights assessment to identify the potential adverse human rights impact of hosting the Women’s World Cup. The study identified three key areas of risk — safety, rights of athletes, and rights of local communities — and recommended mitigation strategies and necessary training. While Spalding said the proactive step sets an important precedent, the study was narrow in scope and focuses on short-term corrections rather than creating a long-term legacy.

Still, he said, the Women’s World Cup next year will serve as one of the latest chapters in an ongoing narrative about the ability of megasports to leave a legacy of improved anti-corruption and human rights norms and practices. He draws a line from Brazil to South Korea, host of the 2018 Winter Olympics, where scandals led to long-lasting reforms such as the historic Kim Young-ran Act — aka, the Anti-Corruption and Bribery Prohibition Act — that upended cultural norms and restricted gifts to public officials. Spalding continues

the line through Qatar, which deliberately set out to leave a human rights legacy and succeeded.

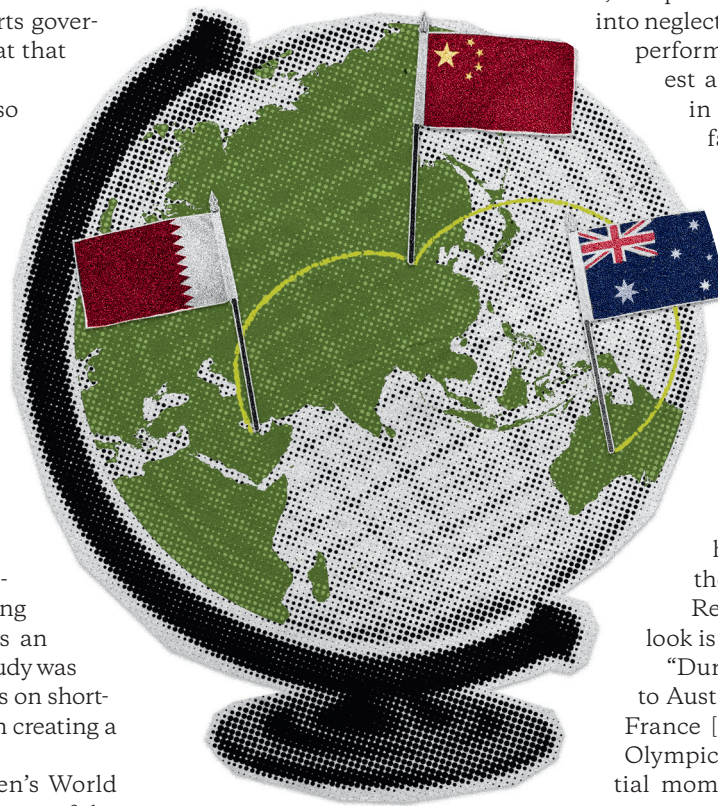
Hosting the Olympics is both an honor and a massive burden, but whether the moment holds a lasting legacy can’t be known for years to come. An expensive Olympic Village can be converted to residential housing, a resort, or a public sports complex — or fall into neglect and disarray. An athlete’s performance can draw new interest and increase participation

in a sport. Building wind farms, planting acres of forests, and using a fleet of electric vehicles can create environmental legacies but may not truly counteract a country’s reliance on fossil fuels. And placing attention on corruption and human rights issues can offer a chance for cultural shifts and influential reforms — but only if the host is willing to step into the light.

Regardless, Spalding’s outlook is hopeful.

“During this time from Qatar to Australia and New Zealand to France [site of the 2024 Summer Olympics], we can build substantial momentum for this idea that megasports not only should prevent corruption and human rights scandals,

but can deliberately build legacies in the country,” he said. “In the same way that megasports can hopefully leave economic legacies and infrastructural legacies and environmental legacies, I think we can now expect to leave anti-corruption and human rights legacies.” ■



*Kim Catley is a freelance writer in Richmond. She previously wrote about Spalding’s research on Brazil, which hosted the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.*



# Faculty Notes



## Environmental impact

At two different decision points in her life, assistant professor Danielle Stokes, '13, chose the University of Richmond as the right place for her to be.

The first came in high school as she decided where to go to college. She picked Richmond and majored in PPEL (philosophy, politics, economics, and law). Her academic success propelled her to law school at the University of Virginia and then a position with McGuireWoods working in land use and real estate law.

But a life in academia beckoned the self-described “people person.” She reasoned that it would offer a fitting balance between independent work, which she got in abundance in corporate practice, and a collaborative, people-focused environment, which she wanted more of.

“Not to mention, I think the level of impact is just very different,” she said.

Stokes took a position as a faculty fellow at Syracuse University School of Law to experience academia firsthand and then made an unforeseen but familiar move — back to Richmond, this time as a member of the Richmond Law faculty. She teaches and writes about property, environmental law, and environmental justice with a focus on sustainability and equity in land use planning.

“When we think about things like climate change and climate adaptation, it’s very important that part of the conversation is an acknowledgement of historical policies

and injustices that led to certain groups and areas being marginalized,” she said. Examples include discriminatory lending practices that led to underdeveloped neighborhoods and unequal distribution of landfills and other locally unwanted land uses. “It may not have been targeted and purposeful in the language, but that was the effect.”

Renewable energy projects are key to mitigating climate change, but their details are complicated. The patchwork of overlapping local, state, and federal jurisdictions makes it difficult to develop large-scale projects, such as wind and solar farms. In a forthcoming article, Stokes recommends the creation of a centralized federal agency to streamline the regulatory process or to identify strategies and promising locations for projects and assist developers with the regulatory process at the various levels of government. She also considers the equity question — ensuring that local communities have meaningful input into what gets put in their backyards.

“I know there’s a tension there, and that’s what the proposal is balancing,” she said. “But we should also recognize that with climate change, we may not be here to have this debate if we don’t make changes very quickly. So many states have reduction goals by 2030, 2040, or 2050, but if it takes five to seven years for a project from start to finish, how do we hit those targets and ensure that the costs and benefits are balanced equitably within communities?”

*Yale Law Journal* published **JUD CAMPBELL**'s article "The Emergence of Neutrality." The paper examines the development of the principle of neutrality as part of modern free speech and press doctrine.

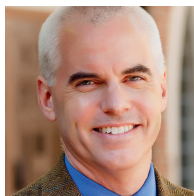


In "Law's Ability to Further the 'Menstrual Movement,'" an article published by *Columbia Journal of Gender and Law*,

**CHRIS COTROPIA**

discusses the extent to which two specific legislative proposals forwarded by advocates further the movement's broader goal of "menstrual equity."

**REBECCA CROOTOF** argues for "developing an international 'war torts' regime to hold states strictly liable for all civilian harms" in her article "War Torts," published by *New York University Law Review*. "The creation of war crimes was a first step towards greater accountability for civilian harms in armed conflict; it's time to take the next one," she writes.



Reuters interviewed **JIM GIBSON** for its report "How to Catch a Streaming Pirate," which examines piracy of intellectual property affecting the entertainment industry.

**HAYES HOLDERNESS'** article "Crack Taxes and the Dangers of Insidious Regulatory Taxes" is forthcoming in *Southern California Law Review*. The article examines how controlled substance taxes can allow state officials to sanction individuals without providing the individuals the protections of criminal law.



**DA LIN** examined the Federal Reserve's little-used power to remove bankers from office in her article "The Banker Removal

Power," published by *Virginia Law Review*. She shows that the Fed rarely uses the power to hold executives accountable and

uses it "mostly to prevent already-terminated, low-level employees who committed crimes from working at other banks."

**JULIE MCCONNELL** co-edited a new edition of *Juvenile Law and Practice in Virginia*. Updates include a new chapter on serving as a guardian ad litem for children.

**LUKE NORRIS** argued that neoliberal logic drives the current era of U.S. civil procedure in his article "Neoliberal Procedure," published by *U.C. Irvine Law Review*. "The Supreme Court has over the past few decades reinterpreted the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in ways that have made it more difficult for citizens to bring and maintain civil claims," he writes.



**KRISTEN JAKOBSEN**

**OSEGA** published the article "'Efficient' Infringement and Other Lies" in *Seton Hall Law*

*Review*. In it, she examines how a 2006 Supreme Court decision making injunctive relief less common incentivizes companies and other actors to violate patent holders' rights in certain circumstances.

**NOAH SACHS** spoke to a reporter from *The Nation* about the environmental risks posed by landfills as seas rise. "There are maybe 100,000 landfills across the U.S., half of them along the coasts. ... When the water comes in, it will uncover and release all that waste," he said.



*University of Cincinnati Law Review* published **DANIEL SCHAFFA**'s article "The Intergenerational Equity Case for a Wealth Tax."

In it, he argues that a largely unrecognized rationale for wealth taxes is their potential role in counteracting generational imbalances in tax policy.

**ALLISON TAIT**'s "Debt Governance, Wealth Management, and the Uneven Burdens of Child Support" is forthcoming in *Northwestern University Law Review*.

**MARY KELLY TATE** discussed the phenomenon of false confession in depth on the podcast *How We Got Here* produced by the Virginia Museum of History and Culture. The episode highlighted the case of the Norfolk Four.



**KEVIN WOODSON**

examined the underrepresentation of Black law students in his article "Entrenched Racial Hierarchy: Educa-

tional Inequality from the Cradle to the LSAT," published by *Minnesota Law Review*. "The resultant struggle to secure sufficient numbers of academically well-prepared Black law students who are likely to thrive will persist indefinitely in the absence of more far-reaching, holistic interventions," he wrote.

## NEW FACULTY



**DANIELLE WINGFIELD-SMITH**

will join the faculty in fall 2022 as an assistant professor of law. She comes to

Richmond Law from Gonzaga University School of Law, where she served as a visiting assistant professor with the Center for Civil and Human Rights. Wingfield-Smith's primary areas of scholarship are legal history, race and the law, constitutional law, education law and policy, and family law. She earned her J.D. from Richmond Law.

**MARISSA JACKSON SOW** will join the Richmond Law faculty in fall 2022 as an assistant professor of law. She is an expert on human rights implications of contracts and property rights, focusing particularly on race, gender, religion, and the environment. Jackson Sow comes to the University of Richmond from St. John's University School of Law.



# Class Notes

## *We want to hear from you.*

Send us your note via the “Submit a Class Note” link at [lawmagazine.richmond.edu](http://lawmagazine.richmond.edu); email us at [lawalumni@richmond.edu](mailto: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

**ANDY WOOD, R'64 AND L'67**, was the subject of an article in the autumn 2021 issue of *University of Richmond Magazine* about arguing a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. “Good read,” writes his two-time classmate, Archie Yeatts, R'64 and L'67.

### 1970s

**BILL STRICKLAND, B'64 AND L'70**, is living down in “rivah country” outside of Richmond and is spending a lot of time with not-for-profits. He is president of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science Foundation. “Bill is a fraternity brother and isn't telling the whole story,” Archie Yeatts, R'64 and L'67, writes. “After graduation, he served three years in the Marine Corps,

including time in Vietnam, and then graduated from UR law school in 1970. He spent his entire career with McGuireWoods, including managing its office in Belgium and using his B-School training as managing partner for more than 20 years.”

Patty Stringfellow Garbee says she and **MITCH GARBEE, B'72 AND L'75**, have stayed hunkered down during these turbulent times and are very much looking forward to life getting back to normal.

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin selected **RICHARD CULLEN, L'77**, as counselor to the governor. A former Virginia attorney general and senior partner and former chairman of McGuireWoods, Richard left the firm Jan. 14, the day before Youngkin was sworn in. He served as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia and, from 1997 to 1998, as Virginia's attorney general.

### 1980s

**SALLY YATES WOOD, W'69, G'70, AND L'80** writes, “I moved to Cedarfield, a continuing care facility. I have an apartment in the independent living area. I love it here. It is like being on a cruise ship or in camp. Still am on the UR Alumni Association board of directors. I know we all welcome our new UR president.”

**SARAH HOPKINS FINLEY, W'74 AND L'82**, and husband Don Finley, B'61 and G'67, welcomed son-in-law Tommy Robertson into their family when he and daughter Catie married in September 2021. Tommy is the son of classmate Fran Chalkley Robertson and John. The wedding was outdoors by the water in Kilmarnock, Virginia, with a beautiful service, wonderful food and drink, and great music. Things went smoothly in large part due to Susan Lindler Stephenson and husband Ned Stephenson, R'76, stepping in as wedding coordinators when the “day of” coordinator canceled four days before the wedding. “What life savers!” With all guests fully vaccinated, the entire weekend could not have gone better. The Robertsons hosted a rehearsal dinner at a nearby winery, followed by a welcome party and a casual party on Sunday made special by tons of great shrimp salad prepared by Carolyn Ridgway Cook.

## Together again

Right, members of the 1870 Society — which honors leadership support to Richmond Law — at an event in April. From left to right: Laura Lee Chandler, W'74, Theodore “Ted” Chandler, L'77, Meredith Sanderlin Thrower, W'94 and L'03, and Elaine Sanderlin Ryan, L'09. Page 31, Richmond Law alumni also gathered for Reunion Weekend in April. From left to right: James Gibbs, Kimberly Brown-Gibbs, L'07, and Patricia “Trish” Minson, L'07



**BEN EMERSON, R'73 AND L'84**, and Nancy Emerson, W'73, have missed being able to visit their grandchildren because of the pandemic.

The College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers inducted **JIMES L.**

**PENDERGRAFT SHERRILL, L'87**, as part of its Class of 2021. The CWCL honors attorneys and judges with more than 20 years of experience who have distinguished themselves in the field of workers' compensation and demonstrated the highest professional qualifications and ethical standards. Jimese is a deputy commissioner and certified mediator and mediator mentor with the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission.

## 1990s

**DARREN J. DUZYK, B'89 AND L'92**, was inducted into the National Academy of Distinguished Neutrals. He is an arbitrator and mediator and a panel member of the American Arbitration Association (Large Complex Panel), specializing in construction and commercial arbitration and dispute resolution. He practices in the southeastern and midwestern regions of the United States.

**TRAVIS R. WILLIAMS, R'91 AND L'94**, was elected juvenile and domestic relations district court judge for the 12th Judicial

District, sitting in Chesterfield County, Virginia, and the city of Colonial Heights, Virginia. He was sworn in Oct. 1, 2021, after being in private practice 21 years. He says, "I look forward to serving my community."

**SEAN BYRNE, '93 AND L'97**, and friends Robb Moore, '94; Mark Guarino, R'84; Brian Betz, '95; Rob Loscalzo, '94; and Mark Holtkamp, B'93, cheered on the Spiders at Capital One Arena in Washington, D.C., as they defeated the Davidson Wildcats in the Atlantic 10 championship game. At the game, the group took the opportunity to snap a photo with University of Richmond President Kevin Hallock and his wife, Tina. Being there for the win and watching the Spiders advance to the NCAA men's basketball tournament was "one of the top three Spider experiences of my life," his friend Moore wrote.

## 2000s

**RITA DAVIS, L'00**, left her position as top legal counsel for former Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam to become legal counsel for the Secretary of Defense. Rita led Northam's administration through several high-profile cases, including the removal of the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee on Monument Avenue in Richmond. She also was a key legal adviser as the administration crafted its COVID-19 response.

## ALUMNI PROFILE



## LAW OF THE SEA

**KRISTINE DALAKER's** career as a lawyer, author, and research fellow is as vast and protean as the oceans she protects. But that wasn't always the plan.

Dalaker, '92 and L'97, started on a traditional path, earning a bachelor's degree in economics and political science and then heading to law school, where she threw herself into the work. "Law review, moot court, you name it," she said.

She briefly practiced business law in Richmond, but the first wave of professional change soon crashed. "My partner at the time asked me to move to Japan — so I did," she said with a laugh. She took a role as a legal assistant in Tokyo and then moved to Singapore to work for the international law firm White & Case. Later she lived in China and then Belgium, eventually ending up back in Singapore.

Soon after, she met Robert Beckman, founding director of the Centre for International Law at the National University of Singapore, who hired her as associate director. There, she met Satya Nandan, a prominent Fijian diplomat who had overseen the drafting of the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea. He entrusted her to co-author his book, *Reflections on the Making of the Modern Law of the Sea*, an exercise she calls "a wonderful gift."

In 2017, Dalaker entered a doctoral program at the Norwegian Centre for the Law of the Sea in Tromsø, Norway — where she coincidentally has family. In April, she defended her dissertation. In the photo above, taken at the doctoral-defense celebration, she's wearing a traditional Norwegian dress, called a bunad, as well as a brooch that belonged to her Norwegian great-grandmother.

Currently, she's working to encourage the U.N. to ratify a treaty on marine biodiversity. She also plans to continue to address issues such as marine pollution, overfishing, the expansion of global maritime trade, deep seabed mining, ocean warming, and ocean acidification, especially in the Arctic region. She points out that the high seas — areas beyond national jurisdiction — cover 64% of the ocean's surface. "The work we're doing is incredibly complex and absolutely necessary."

—Sue Hofmann





## ALUMNI PROFILE



### AN ADVOCATE FOR INTERIOR DESIGNERS

**BRYAN SOUKUP, L'13**, enrolled in law school for the same reasons he later went to work as a Capitol Hill lobbyist. "I always had an interest in law and public policy — why things are the way they are in this country and in the states and in our society," Soukup said.

After graduating *cum laude*, Soukup found his way to Washington, D.C., where he became vice president of government and public affairs for the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID). In other words, he was the chief lobbyist for interior designers across the United States.

Why do interior designers need a lobbyist? Soukup says the answer requires a basic understanding of the complex work that designers perform. While some may simply focus on furnishings and aesthetics, others, Soukup said, are "really more like building scientists." These designers might remodel abandoned factories into luxury apartments or determine the form and function of interior spaces in airports and hotels. And with the recent federal infrastructure law expected to provide funding to renovate existing buildings while making them more energy-efficient, Soukup says the work of interior designers is about to take on added importance.

The problem, he says, is that only 28 states regulate interior designers, and even fewer allow them to perform work that would impact occupant health, safety, and welfare independently, without requiring an architect or engineer's oversight. So Soukup led ASID's efforts to establish state-level registration standards for interior designers whose work affects public health, safety, and welfare.

His office scored a major victory last summer. A four-year effort by the society culminated in a voluntary system of regulation for interior designers in North Carolina. Fittingly, the campaign invoked Soukup's twin passions for law and public policy, and he describes the resulting legislation as "the crowning achievement for design advocacy and my department."

Earlier this year, Soukup made a career move when he became the first director of policy and legislative affairs at Origin Materials, leading the government affairs function for the company. Origin has developed a platform for turning the carbon found in non-food biomass into useful materials while capturing carbon in the process.

—Christopher Hann

**HARRIS DAGUE, L'02**, was appointed an assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of New York. He works in the civil bureau doing defensive and civil rights work.

**CARL ELDRED, L'03**, joined Stearns Weaver Miller's Tallahassee, Florida, office as a shareholder in the land development, zoning, and environmental group. He has nearly 20 years of experience counseling clients on solid and hazardous waste management and compliance, waste recycling and cleanup, alternative fuels, and hazardous substance and pollutant release issues.

**JUSTIN PAGET, L'08 AND GB'08**, was promoted to partner at Hunton Andrews Kurth and works in its Richmond office.

## 2010s

**BRIAN VIETH, '12 AND L'15**, and Hannah Ramsey Vieth, '12, welcomed their son, Weston Vieth, in May 2021. The happy parents say Weston "loved tailgating and attending Spider football games and is looking forward to cheering on the basketball team this winter."

## In Memoriam

**T. WILSON HOTZE JR., L'59**, of Richmond, Virginia, March 22, 2022

**ROBERT O. GOFF, L'61**, of Luray, Virginia, June 6, 2021

**AUBREY "TOM" WITHERINGTON, L'62**, of Richmond, Virginia, June 10, 2021

**CHARLES C. "CHAMP" BOWLES JR., R'60 AND L'64**, of Richmond, Virginia, Nov. 25, 2021

**JAMES F. MORANO JR., R'64 AND L'67**, of Richmond, Virginia, Aug. 5, 2021

**RICHARD E. LEWIS JR., L'68**, of Dinwiddie, Virginia, June 17, 2021

**MICHAEL L. RIGSBY, L'69**, of Richmond, Virginia, June 13, 2021

**ROBERT D. LANEY, B'68 AND L'71**, of Chester, Virginia, Dec. 15, 2021

**JOHN P. "JACK" DRISCOLL, L'73**, of Richmond, Virginia, Jan. 16, 2021

**ROBERT B. BROWN, R'70 AND L'77**, of Richmond, Virginia, July 13, 2021

**RICHARD A. CLAYBROOK JR., L'77**, of Harrisonburg, Virginia, Nov. 16, 2021

**NEIL "RANDY" BRYANT, R'77 AND L'80**, of Winchester, Virginia, Aug. 21, 2021

**JOHN F. MCGARVEY, L'81**, of Richmond, Virginia, September 2021

**FORD C. LADD, L'83**, of Alexandria, Virginia, Nov. 24, 2021

**REGINA M. DASKUS, L'87**, of Etters, Pennsylvania, Jan. 6, 2022

**JEFFREY L. GALSTON, L'87**, of Henrico, Virginia, Nov. 14, 2021

**JAMES M. PICKRELL JR., L'89**, of Norfolk, Virginia, Nov. 11, 2021

**ROBERT D. "JAY" FINCH JR., L'92**, of Roanoke, Virginia, Dec. 15, 2021

**JOSEPH A. BURNETT, L'95**, of Henrico, Virginia, Aug. 15, 2021

**JASON R. CASPER, L'06**, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, Dec. 2, 2020

**WILLIAM C. SANDEL III, L'11**, of Richmond, Virginia, June 24, 2021

**JENNIFER M. COLEMAN, L'16**, of Richmond, Virginia, Aug. 30, 2021

*“I always wanted to go to law school because it meant that I am on my way to making a difference in this world. But I was intimidated by the hurdles of getting into law school and adding large sums of debt, especially coming from a place where I wasn’t especially well off financially. Your generosity allows me to be confident and strive to achieve dreams.”*

— Nelson Benitez, L’24  
Dean’s Opportunity Scholar



## OPENING THE DOOR TO OPPORTUNITY

Our students graduate with an average debt approaching \$100,000. The new **DEAN’S OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUND** puts a Richmond Law education in reach for even more students with significant need — and significant potential. Your gift will help future lawyers who demonstrate financial need in addition to academic excellence, perseverance in the face of adversity, and potential for leadership in the profession.

Thank you for being a part of this community. [uronline.net/givetourlaw](http://uronline.net/givetourlaw)







The podium party for the Class of 2022's commencement was all smiles as circumstances returned largely to normal. They include UR President Kevin F. Hallock (fourth from left), commencement speaker Colette Wallace McEachin (fifth from right), Dean Wendy Perdue (third from right), and student speaker Christina Dimeo, L'22 (far right).

*Photograph by Kim Schmidt*